

There will be times in the life of every believer when we will need help from God and we will need it quick. Typically these will be pressured moments of distress when time seems to have run out. Most of the time when we cry out to God for help it is because we have real trouble. There will be times in our lives when the only person who will be able to help us will be God, and in those times we do need to cry out to God.

We may observe that two specific times in this short Psalm the word “hasten” occurs (v. 1, 5). The Hebrew word actually means to make haste in the sense of asking God to run or move fast and do something with great speed and acceleration (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, pp. 267-268).

So this Psalm is all about asking God to move fast and put the “pedal to the metal” and accelerate to a great speed so that in a fast way God comes to help. It is clear that this is a Psalm about needing God’s help and needing it fast and now.

We may notice from the superscription that this Psalm is written for the choir director, which means it was written for public communication. It is a Psalm written by David and it was written for a memorial.

Now by virtue of the fact that the Psalm is a memorial, we may assume that this Psalm was written by David and he wrote it so God’s people would bring it to their minds. They would memorialize it. In other words, David wrote this Psalm so that people would bring it to their minds often. He did not want them to forget the point of it, which is this:

WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF SURROUNDED BY CIRCUMSTANCES AND PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR YOU BY MOCKING YOU, HUMILIATING YOU AND TRYING TO DESTROY YOU, ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU MAY GO TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ASK FOR HIS QUICK HELP AND INTERVENTION.

The obvious assumption is if you are right with God, there will be people who will mock you, seek to humiliate you and will try to destroy you. In those times you and I need to be running to God. God has a special listening ear to His faithful servants who are under fire. When people pray, while under the fire of some imminent threat, they can experience God’s swift delivering help.

This is a simple Psalm to analyze; there are four main parts that comprise it:

PART #1 – David prays to God for His quick deliverance and help. **70:1**

We may notice from this verse that the same Person is prayed to, but there are two different nouns used to address this Person. David aims his prayer at one Person whom he identifies as “God” and as “LORD.”

The first noun “God” is Elohim, and it is the plural noun for God. This particular noun speaks of the plurality of God and the sovereign power of God in creation. This plural noun certainly lends itself to a Trinitarian perspective of God, One God and three distinct persons and it also may be viewed as a plural of excellence or majesty, which refers to the sovereign majesty of God.

The second noun “LORD” is Jehovah, which refers to the self-existing, Sovereign I AM covenant God of Israel who does whatever it is He wants to do in and of Himself.

Now here is a grammatical point in Hebrew worth pointing out. The verb “make haste” is an imperfect tense masculine singular verb. Now the imperfect tense means that David is asking God to immediately start the process of help and continue it until it is finished (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Grammar*, p. 125).

But here is something powerful to see; the masculine singular verb indicates there is only One God. Even if there are three Persons, David is addressing only One God. This God may have many different names, but there is only One True God and David is asking this one true Sovereign God to help Him.

Now there are two specific things that David asks God to do for him in a very fast way:

Request #1 - David asks God to give him swift deliverance. **70:1a**

The Hebrew root meaning of the word “deliverance” is one that means to take away or snatch one away from and preserve from danger (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 563). David was in real danger and he needed God’s help right now.

Request #2 - David asks God to give him swift help. **70:1b**

The word “help” means to help and aid someone by going to them and surrounding them to give them strength and defense (*Ibid.*, p. 619).

David is asking the sovereign, majestic God to quickly take him out of the dangerous situation and help him. He realizes that his strength and his ability to survive totally depend on God, not on himself.

PART #2 – David prays to God and asks God to take specific actions against his enemies.
70:2-3

Don’t kid yourself, when you are right with God, there are certain people that would love to see your demise. David’s enemies literally sought for his life to end. There were people who wanted to hurt David and kill David.

David was not one to shy away from praying about enemies and when he prayed, he prayed very specifically.

If you were David's enemy, you might think this is a light matter and who cares if he prays about me. Well, an enemy of David would be very wise to realize that if David starts praying about the enemy, God's ear is open to his prayers and the enemy he is praying about is in serious trouble. There are three main requests David made concerning his enemies in asking God to move fast:

(Request #1) - David asks God to shame and humiliate his enemies. **70:2a**

The word "shame" is one that literally means to cause something to be dry and fruitless (*Ibid.*, p. 328). The word "humiliate" is one that means to be dishonored to the point of blushing (*Ibid.*, p. 297).

David is asking God to dry up his enemies to the point that they have no productive life whatsoever. He wants them humiliated to the point that they are left blushing because they are so dishonored. David wants God to do this quickly.

This is an amazing prayer. David is up against enemies who want him gone and he so believes in the power of prayer that may actually humiliate his enemies.

(Request #2) - David asks God to turn back and dishonor enemies trying to hurt him. **70:2b**

This is a remarkable request; David is asking God to swiftly reverse things and turn things around and confuse the enemies and move them in a backward direction.

(Request #3) - David asks God to turn back those mocking him. **70:3**

The word "aha," which is twice repeated, is actually a word that means to gloat in joy over an enemy's misfortune. The repetition of the word is for emphasis. So what these people were doing was emphatically gloating over hurts and hardships David was experiencing (*Ibid.*, p. 214). They were joyous about the fact that he was so under attack.

There are those people who do rejoice when they inflict greater pain and malice on others. Nero, Caligula, Domitian, and Hitler, just to name a few, are the types who gloat and get joy over people who suffer.

What David is doing is asking God to bring his mocking enemies to shame so that they turn completely away from their attacks. They are praying that they will be brought back to the point where they respect him and honor him (*Ibid.*, p. 808).

He prays that God will quickly turn them around.

PART #3 – David prays to God and asks God to permit certain things to happen to the righteous. **70:4**

The assumption of this verse is that all who seek God and all who love God will have a right attitude toward David. The truth is those who did not have a right attitude toward David were not in a right relationship with God. One cannot ever separate one's attitude toward leaders who are right with God from their real relationship with God. Godly people love leaders who are right with God. There are two specific requests David makes:

Request #1 - David requested that all who seek God have joy and gladness. **70:4a**

If people do not seek God, they will not have joy and gladness. People do not have to be ashamed. People can be happy, joyful and glad. But in order for that to happen, people must seek God.

Request #2 - David requested that all who love God's salvation continually worship God. **70:4b**

Again, the assumption is that one who is right with God can worship God and one who is not right with God cannot possibly magnify God.

It is impossible for one who does not love God and His Word to magnify God. They may be religious, but they cannot magnify God.

PART #4 – David prays to God and acknowledges his own condition. **70:5**

David was afflicted and needed help so again he asks God to quickly come to his rescue. He knew he needed God's help and God was the only one who could deliver him.

Practical Lessons:

- 1) If you are where God wants you to be, there will be those who will mock you, humiliate you and try to destroy you for no reason.**
- 2) We can always pray and ask God to help us.**
- 3) God gives special grace to His people when they are under fire.**
- 4) Only people who love God and His Word can magnify God.**