

Evening Sermon Outline – August 30, 2020
“The Microwave Prayer” Psalm 70

Recently, I found myself sorting through mom’s cookbooks. I already have enough cookbooks myself, but why not add a real good one or two to my collection? One I did not add was “The Microwave Cookbook.” It was written when microwave ovens were still a new invention and though they are remarkable for speed and reheating, they are not the tool the best cooks use to make their best meals. They have one advantage, speed!

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. To Bring to Remembrance. ¹ Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O LORD! ² Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt. ³ Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, “Aha, aha!” ⁴ Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!” ⁵ But I *am* poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You *are* my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay. Psalm 70 (NKJV)

This is a lot like the ending of Psalm 40, I mean it is almost exactly the same -

¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me! ¹⁴ Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who seek to destroy my life; Let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor Who wish me evil. ¹⁵ Let them be confounded because of their shame, Who say to me, “Aha, aha!” ¹⁶ Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, “The LORD be magnified!” ¹⁷ But I *am* poor and needy; Yet the LORD thinks upon me. You *are* my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God. Psalm 40:13–17 (NKJV)

Of course, Psalm 70, is just a part of Psalm 40, Why Did David? Why Did God, Who inspired all Scripture, decide we needed this portion repeated?

It is not the only passage of Scripture that is Repeated, David’s son Solomon did it –

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

²⁵ There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)

In fact, there are other portions of Psalms repeated, ...

I. One reason that things are repeated in Scripture is for emphasis –

⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

Holy, holy, holy – means God is extremely HOLY!

II. Yet, this repeating is just one short part of Psalm 40, I believe it is a speed prayer... Why? God is called to speeding, to Make haste, in fact one of the few differences between Psalm 40 & 70 is in 70 Make haste is mentioned twice in verse :1 of Psalm 70, where it is only used once in the comparable part of Psalm 40 and again, at the end of Psalm 70 Make haste appears in Psalm 70 while it is not at the end of Psalm 40!

III. Since “make haste” means something like “stat” or “speed it up” or go FAST! We can conclude, Psalm 70; is a speed prayer!

IV. **Make haste** is because David needs help immediately and such prayers are practical ... if you are driving and about to crash, “Help LORD!” Maybe all you need!

V. Speedily answered prayers should be a fearful thing to those who threaten God’s people –

² Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt. ³ Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, “Aha, aha!”

They say “aha, aha!” because they think they have God’s people trapped but if as soon as they say “aha” they see God’s hand about the smash them like bugs, they will be ashamed and confounded - :2 they will be turned back and confused - :3

VI. Note this Psalm / Prayer is not the norm –

Psalm 69 which we considered last week was 33 verses and was a prayer for deliverance from enemies too! Psalms are many different lengths, Psalm 119 has 176 verses, and is VERY LONG! It also is full of PRAYER and we learn from this all our prayers should not be short!

Prayer is about a relationship with God, which means TIME!

When we have a great relationship with someone, because we have spent A LOT of time with them, they are more likely to help us speedily when we NEED them in an emergency!

However, if the essence of a relationship is “HELP me NOW!!!!!!” and never anything more, is that a quality relationship??? The same applies to the God of the Universe, He desires our TIME!

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

VII. God’s people who SEEK HIM, can be glad –

⁴ Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!” Psalm 70:4

1. God has positive, plans of peace for a future and a hope, not evil plans, for those who PRAY. Who seek Him with their whole heart

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11–13 (NKJV)

2. There is no benefit promised in Christianity to the half-hearted, the careless, the twice-a-year-church-attender –

³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. Matthew 10:37

²² If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! 1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)

VIII. How King David saw himself -

⁵ But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay. Psalm 70 (NKJV)

1. David was a king –
 - A. He had riches
 - B. He had an army

2. Despite this he knew he was “poor and needy” without God’s help –

⁷ Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7 (NKJV)

3. Oh, how horrible to ignore God, when calamity comes can you call on HIM?

²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³² For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.” Proverbs 1:20–33 (NKJV)

You desire God to speedily help you, don’t dilly-dally with Him – 2 Corinthians 6:2

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