

“I AM AFFLICTED AND IN PAIN”

PSALM 69:16-36

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INTRODUCTION

The title reflects the reality of David’s situation over against two other realities:

- 1) David’s adversaries are doing too well; they need to be punished! (vv. 22-28).
- 2) David’s God is so good; David may rely on Him for deliverance and security.

As often in these psalms, God will turn his distress into a song of praise (v. 30). Even the darkest night and the deepest pit of despair are no match for the Loyal Love of God (16). Before David is finished, his praise will spread to the entire universe (v. 34) and his vision of hope will see his entire nation renewed and built up (35). Future generations will benefit from the goodness of David’s God (36).

I. THE CRIES FOR HELP

- A. Answer me and turn to me [look at], O Yahweh, quickly (16a, c; 17b).
- B. Do not hide your face (17).
- C. Draw near to my soul (18a).
- D. Redeem me[like the kinsman]/ransom me [pay the price, buy me back] (18).

II. THE CONDITION OF THE AFFLICTED ONE

- A. I am in distress (17b).
- B. I have enemies (18c; 19b).
- C. My heart is broken (20a).
- D. I am so sick (20b).
- E. I am afflicted and in pain (29a).

III. THE CAUSTIC TREATMENT BY HIS ENEMIES

- A. They bring me “reproach” [see vv. 7, 9, 10, 20], shame, and dishonor (19).
- B. I look for but find no sympathy (20c).
- C. I look for comforters but I found none (20d).
- D. Instead of food I am given gall/poison; instead of drink sour vinegar (21)—Messianic verse
- E. They persecute me—the one God has smitten (v. 26a). [likely Messianic allusion—Is. 53]
- F. They mockingly speak of my pain, though I suffer wounds from God (26b).

IV. THE CALL FOR JUSTICE UPON THE WICKED (22-28)

- A. May their provisions and security be turned against them (22) [cf. fulfillment in Israel, Rom. 11:9-10].
 1. Their table becomes a snare.
 2. Their peace becomes a trap.
- B. May their physical faculties deteriorate (23).
 1. Their eyes become dim.
 2. Their loins continually shake.
- C. May they experience the justice of God (24).
 1. Indignation poured out
 2. Burning anger overtaking them
- D. May they lose their place of lodging (25)—another Messianic reference—Acts 1:20 of Judas.
 1. Desolation of their encampment
 2. Emptiness of their tents
- E. May they never be forgiven (27)
 1. Iniquity upon iniquity or punishment for iniquity

2. Not come into God's righteousness
- F. May they have no memorial from God (28).
 1. Blotted out of the book of living ones—killed and no blessed future.
 2. No positive record along with the righteous ones.

V. THE CAUSE FOR HIS HOPE IN GOD

- A. His Loyal-love is Good (16b).
- B. His Compassion is great (16c). [**childhood prayer at dinner time: "God is great and God is good, and we..."**]
- C. All his adversaries are "before God" (19).
- D. His salvation will set me securely on high (29b).
- E. The LORD hears those in need (33).
- F. The LORD does not despise His prisoners (33b).

VI. THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE HUMBLE IN THE FUTURE (30-36)

- A. Songs of praise and thanksgiving (30)
 1. For His "name"
 2. To His magnification
 3. For His pleasing (31)
 - More than an ox
 - More than a young bull with horns and hoofs'
 - What does God need with such?
- B. Blessings for the humble ones and God-seekers (32)
 1. Gladness
 2. Revived hearts
- C. Universal praise for God (34)
 1. Heaven
 2. Earth
 3. The seas and everything in them
- D. Salvation of Zion—Jerusalem and the building up of the cities of Judah (35-36)
 1. People will dwell there.
 2. People will possess it.
 3. Future descendants will inherit it.
 4. The lovers of His name will dwell in it.

CONCLUSION

I am afflicted and in pain.

Reproach has broken my heart.

I am so sick.

Yet, I will praise the name of God, and one day all creation will do so!

God has a glorious future for me and for all of his servants.

The wicked will go down! God will be exalted, and I in Him!

The Smitten One will save the day, for this is a Messianic psalm (v. 26).