

“THE GOD WHO HASTENS TO DELIVER HIS OWN”

PSALM 70:1-5

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INTRODUCTION

Where is God when I need Him most?

Why does God take so long, if ever, to answer me when I call on Him?

Such is the issue with which the psalmist (David, acc. to the title) deals here in Psalm 70.

The psalmist sends this psalm in three directions:

- Toward those **seeking** his harm (vv. 2-3).
- Toward others who **seek** God (v. 4)
- Toward himself and his need of speedy **help** and **deliverance** (vv. 1, 5; **seek** not mentioned).

GOD IS NEVER SLOW IN COMING TO THE AID OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

There is a question as to why this psalm exists separately from Psalm 40; after all it is practically a repetition of vv. 13-17 of that psalm [**read vv. 13-17**]. However, there are **13 differences** between the two, and these differences are hardly accidental. Many commentators believe either that this psalm was either accidentally or mistakenly separated from psalm 40; if so, why was it left intact in the Psalter? Surely a careless action! Most commentators seem to assume that David cannot be the author, except in the sense that he was the original author of Psalm 40 from which this one is mostly derived. **However, far more likely is the position that David himself separated this portion and formed it into the psalm we have currently—for a specific purpose: in order to place emphasis upon the need for haste in delivering him, or any needy believer.** Psalm 40 focuses primarily upon the past help that the psalmist has already received from God (vv. 1-12); vv. 13-17 that have become the basis for psalm 70 describe a fresh appeal for Yahweh’s [the primary name used in Psalm 40, along with a few references to God and one Lord] help and deliverance.

- I. FOCUS ON THOSE SEEKING TO HARM HIM (vv. 2-3)
 - A. Their Actions against David
 1. They delight in David’s hurt (2b)
 2. They **seek** David’s life/soul (2a)
 3. They mock David: “Aha, aha!”
 - B. God’s action against them
 1. Let them be turned back (2b; 3a)
 2. Let them be ashamed (2a, 3a) and humiliated (2a)
- II. FOCUS ON OTHERS WHO SEEK GOD (v. 4)
 - A. Their Character
 1. They **seek** God.
 2. They love God’s salvation
 - B. Their Proposed activity
 1. Let them rejoice and be glad in God
 2. Let them continually say, “The Lord be magnified.”
- III. FOCUS ON HIMSELF AND HIS NEED FOR SPEEDY HELP AND DELIVERANCE (vv. 1, 5)
 - A. His condition
 1. “I am afflicted [humbled by circumstances and in heart] (5a)
 2. I am needy” (5).
 - B. His Request
 1. “Help” me (1b, 5—“You are my help”).

2. “Deliver” me (1a; 5c—“You are my deliverer).
3. “Hasten”; be speedy in your response (1, 5)
4. “Do not delay O Yahweh” (5d).

By the substituting in the second clause of v. 5 the same verb found in v. 1—“hasten,” instead of using the verb “take thought/be mindful” of Psalm 40:17, David places the emphasis in this psalm on **the need for a quick response from God**—beginning with the need for God to “hasten”, ending with the same need, and then adding one more verb with a similar meaning “do not tarry.” **There is not a moment to lose; or so at least it appears at ground-level.** However, when we compare other passages of Scripture we can gain a wider perspective from the Lord’s viewpoint:

- a) Daniel 10:2-3 with 12-13: Daniel was fasting and mourning, while seeking divine help to understand a vision that had been given to him, for a period of “three entire weeks”—yet he had received no response from the Lord. However, when the angelic messenger finally arrived he explained to Daniel that he had been sent from God to Daniel, and that “from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and of humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.” However he explains, another angelic ‘prince’, a wicked one who was clearly a fallen angel, “was withstanding me for twenty-one days.” Michael came to his assistance and now he was present in order to assist Daniel with the explanation. Note that the messenger referred to Daniel as a “man of high esteem”; likely Daniel did not feel that way while waiting for 3 weeks!
- b) John 11:5-6. When Jesus heard the news about the deadly illness that His good friend, Lazarus had, and when He realized the urgency of the matter, yet He “stayed then two days *longer* in the place where He was.” Such behavior seems so inconsistent with a God who loves someone so much! Verse 5 states that “Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.” Rarely does Scripture use such a vivid description of Jesus’ “love” for individuals. Yet, Jesus clearly waited until Lazarus was dead before He departed to go visit. Of course, we know “the rest of the story” and how Jesus went there, finding Lazarus already dead for 4 days, and proceeded to perform one of His most amazing miracles—raising Lazarus from the dead! Who are we to question God’s timing?
- c) In Isaiah 60:22b we find an amazing statement of God to His suffering and longing people: “I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.” The time frame in Isaiah is a prophetic preview of the restoration of Israel following its total defeat, devastation, and captivity. God promises some amazing blessings upon His humbled and miserable and suffering people such as the following:
 - The LORD will “rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you” (v. 2).
 - “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising’ (v. 3).
 - “The wealth of the nations will come to you” (v. 5).
 - “All those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet” (v. 14)
 - “I will make you an everlasting pride, a joy from generation to generation” (v. 15).
 - “Violence will not be heard again in your land...but you will call your walls salvation” (v. 18).
 - The LORD will be “for an everlasting light” (v. 19).
 - “All your people will be righteous” (v. 21).

Yet, how long must they wait? It has already been well over 2,700 years since Isaiah spoke these words, and yet Israel still awaits their fulfillment once their Messiah and our Savior returns to earth again to give Israel victory and begins to reign on Earth. But His promise is sure: “I, the LORD [Yahweh, the faithful God of the covenant], will hasten it in its time.” Only God Himself knows when that exact time is, but His servants must remain faithful and must continue to trust Him.

CONCLUSION

GOD IS NEVER SLOW IN COMING TO THE AID OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

You must patiently wait for Him, trust Him, and faithfully live for Him.