

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 ▫ Read Psalm 70

Questions from the Scripture text: Into whose hands was this Psalm committed (superscript)? Who wrote it? What does the Psalm aim to do? What basic request is made twice in v1a, b? What two things is he asking God to make haste to do? By what two Names does he call Him? What three things are the enemy in vv2-3 doing? What five things does David ask God to do to them? By what two activities are the people in v4 identified? What three things does he ask these godly ones to be enabled to do? Among the godly what is his own condition (v5a)? What request does he repeat in v5b? In what form will the two requests from v1 be fulfilled (v5c, cf. v1a, b)? What final request does he make in v5d?

What can 'helpless' believers under attack pray? Psalm 70 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **for believers, who know Who God is and what He will do for them, the right way to pray is often "make haste!"**

The Spirit has titled this a Psalm of "causing remembrance." In it, David is crying out for God to remember—to act in a manner consistent with His character and His promises. Since we know that God is true to Himself and to His Word, praying for His remembrance of us in our distress is actually a means by which He reminds us of His character and promises. Specifically, David is asking God to take action with regard to himself, with regard to his enemies, and with regard to believers.

David's request that God take action with regard to himself is the main request of the Psalm. David needs deliverance and help (v1), and the Lord Himself is that deliverance and help (v5). This, David already knows. So, the form of the request isn't so much "deliver me and help me" as, "Make haste!" This plea actually appears only once, at the end of v1: "God, to deliver me—Yahweh, to help me—make haste!" Then v5 concludes the Psalm with another request to "make haste" with the added plea, "O Yahweh, do not delay."

We might have thought it irreverent to ask God to hurry, and if we did so by venting our own spirit it would be. But God has given us His own Word by which to ask Him to hurry. He has put that into our heart and into our mouth, which enables us to make holy cries for divine hastening.

In vv2-3, David requests that God take action with regard to his enemies. They are seeking his life, desiring his hurt, and ridiculing him. David asks that they be ashamed, confounded, thwarted in confusion, and returned to their place in shame. All of these things will indeed happen. The Lord is patiently restraining His hand from wrath for many good reasons (cf. Rom 9:22-23). The wicked think themselves safe, but they shall be suddenly and devastatingly proved wrong. The believer knows this, but it is a helpful reminder to him, when he calls upon God to remember and act.

In v4, David requests that God take action with regard to other believers, those who seek God and love His salvation. It is God's plan and promise that these will have fullness of joy in God's presence and pleasures at God's right hand forevermore (v4a, cf. Ps 16:11). It is their destiny to magnify and praise God forever (v4b-c, cf. 73:26-28). Those who rejoice over God and love to praise His salvation are much strengthened and gladdened by new occasions to praise that salvation. As David prays that God would give them occasions for praise, he remembers that God indeed will do so.

The Psalm ends with David still asking God to hurry. The situation has not changed, and David is still "poor and needy." But the Psalm itself has not just given him words by which to ask God to remember. This Spirit-given prayer and song has brought God's remembering to David's remembrance. And we may hope that the Spirit would use it to do so in us and for us as well.

What situation has you needing to remember that God remembers? What do you hope the lovers of God will end up doing in response to your situation? How is that shaping the way you pray?

Sample prayer: Lord, You are our Help and our Deliverer. By Your grace, we seek You; help us to seek You more. Make us to rejoice and be glad in You. By Your grace, we love Your salvation; make us to love Your salvation more. Today, and forever, make us to say continually, "Let God be magnified!" In Jesus's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP70 "Hasten, God, My Rescue" or TPH559 "The Lord's Prayer"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalm 70 let us worship God. Together and hearing us, right? Since These are the words of God, to the chief musician, the Psalm of David to bring to remembrance. Make haste. Oh God, deliver me. Make haste to help me. Oh, Yahweh. Let them be ashamed and confounded to seek my life.

Let them be turned back and confuse who desire. My hurt. Let them be turned back because of their shame who say, haha, little those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. And let those who love your salvation say, continually let God be magnified but I am poor and needy.

Make haste to me. Oh God. You are my help and my deliverer. Oh, you all I do not delay.

So far the reading of God's inspired and and they're into word as the Holy Spirit has titled to for us. He helps us know what to look for in the Psalm. When he says, it's a Psalm for causing to remember, and it's a salmon, which we ask God to remember, but it's a salmon, which by giving us to ask him to remember, God makes us to remember.

And so we are asking God to remember us and to remember the wicked. And to remember the righteous, Of course, God does not forget when we use the word. Remember when we talk about God, we mean asking God to act upon truth and asked certain true aspects of his character.

True promises true words. He is spoken promises, he has given and says God remembered Noah doesn't mean God. Had been forgetting Noah. And oh yeah, there's Noah. No, it means, God acts according to the relationship that he's established with the promises that he's made to Noah. So this is a salmon, which we are asking

God to remember.

And the psalm basically can be summarized in one request or the request of the Psalm anyway, can be summarized in one request That is hurry the request to deliver. And the requests for help in verse 1 are actually summarized under the one request, make haste to deliver me. O God to help me.

Owe Yahweh. Make haste. That is literally how verse 1 reads with my haste, at the conclusion of the verse. And then at the end I am poor and needy. Make haste. Oh god, you are my help and my delivery. Oh y'all. I do not delay. So make haste, or do not delay, is basically a request that God would hurry.

And so it is right and proper for us to cry out to God. To remember to act consistently with this character to act, consistently with his promises to act consistently with the relationship into which he has brought us with himself. And that of then, of course he's asking for God to remember, first of all him to deliver him and help him.

And notice the difference between him asking for deliverance and help. In verse 1 to the recognition in verse 5, that God is his help and God is His deliverer. And so if you have God, then you have help and deliverance It may be in the future but it is no less your possession.

It is no less certain just because it's in the future because God is in the future already, he exists outside of time, He is eternal And so you see how God gives us to ask him to remember to cry out to him. Help me deliver me. Hurry, Lord. And so that's a Psalm to for causing to remember in that it's a prayer that he gives us to ask God to remember and a song that he gives us to ask God to remember.

But it's also a Psalm for causing to remember, because this particular prayer and this particular song that he's given us makes us to remember that deliverance and help do come eventually as an action. But they are not primarily in action. They are a person. They are the deliverer the helper.

And so we are much delivered and much helped just by singing and praying because faith perceives things. Not the way that site does, site, perceives things by collecting data from our experience, Faith perceives things by collecting 100% reliable truth from God's words. And so, the certainty of faith is even greater than the certainty of sight Don't ever fall for this view of faith.

That says it's a leap over against knowledge. No, it's recognition. That. What God says is more certain knowledge than what I see. And so that's one of the things that, or maybe that's a great thing that the Lord does for us in the Psalm as he makes us to remember that deliverance and help are not just actions that will come to us in the future.

They're a person that we already have with us present to us in the present. You are my help and my deliverer. So the first one he asks God to remember is himself to act upon himself. He also asked God to act upon his enemies or the evil ones. The evil ones of course, are those who are his enemies?

There are two different kinds of seekers here. The wicked are those who seek his life first to the righteous. Are those who seek the Lord Verse 4. And so you have the wicked who are seeking his life desiring his hurt and saying. Aha which is a declaration of their confidence that they will have and their victory over him and they're enjoyment of the victory that they are sure to have over him.

They're delight is not in the Lord let those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. They're delight is in themselves and even more. Hostilely in themselves over against and by the destruction of the David. And so there's confidence and pleasure and scorn and hatred all bound up in this aha at the end of verse 3.

And yet, what happens when someone who was very confident, is unable to produce that of which he was confident, He is humiliated, He is confounded. You can imagine an illusionist who thinks they're going to do, you know what, we would call a magic trick and they get up and they do their and it completely doesn't work and how they could feel the burning in their face into the tips of their ears.

And everybody is, it thinks they're ridiculous. And the more confident they were and arrogant the arrogantly. They approached it to the worst. The embarrassment is Well that's what David is praying. Would happen to the wicked, Let them be ashamed and confounded. Turned back with the turned back in verse 2 is from a verb.

That means repulsed and turned back in. Verse 3 is from a verb that means set back in their place or returned to their place. So one is more like reverse to the other one is returned but let them be ashamed and confused turned back and confused turned back because of their shame.

Let all of this hostility and confidence in themselves and arrogance, be completely reversed upon them. So that the intensity with which they hated and David and delighted in the hate will be returned upon them. It's a request that God would remember his justice and his wrath upon the wicked?

The Lord also or sorry, David also wants God to remember, not just himself in verse 1 and the wicked in verse two and three but the righteous in verse 4. Let all those who seek you Rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say, continually let God be magnified.

He's asking God to act for the sake of the godly and what do the godly love. The godly love the Lord. And so, and someone they see the Lord Bear has all the arm and act. According to his character and according to his promises, they rejoice, in our glad they say, ah, that is my Lord.

I love him more than anything else. I love it when he makes displays of himself. And so, one of the things that David is asking for, in this situation is not just to be delivered from enemies, but so that the righteous would have opportunity to rejoice in the one who delivered him from his enemies.

And then, they don't just love the Lord himself, let all those who seek you rejoice. But they love, especially seeing the Lord's salvation. Let those who love your salvation say, continually let God be magnified. Give Those who love to see that. You are the deliverer Another opportunity to praise you for your deliverance.

And you can see how this is turning things because he realizes, although he's poor and needy right now. He's one of those who seeks the Lord and wants to have gladness and joy in him. He's one of those who loves the Lord's salvation and wants to praise God for.

Praise the deliverer for the deliverance and that's the mechanism, by which the spirit turns him from make haste to deliver me, and to help me to realize and he already has the deliverer. He already has to help our. And so the making haste and the not delaying is still there, but the making haste and not delaying are there.

Not so much because he wants to get out of what the wicked are doing. But because he wants to get into this rejoicing and being glad and saying continually let God be magnified. When the help comes and the deliverance comes, it'll be another proper occasion for him to rejoice over God and for him to magnify God and he's excited to do that.

And in his being excited to do that, is he not already rejoicing over? God and magnifying God and so much of the deliverance and help have already come even though the situation hasn't changed because the spirit has caused him to remember, even by putting in his mouth, the request that God would remember.

And so you and I when we are in situations in life and we're crying out to God that he would remember us even from our own sin. We can look for the spirit to do the same sort of work on us that just by causing us to cry out to God.

To remember us, God is making us to remember him, and he's already doing the work of delivering us, and he's already doing the work of delivering us out of every adversity and then let's pray. And then, Let's sing this again, Our Father in heaven. We praise you for your wisdom.

We are poor and we are needy, but you do remember us and you give us prayers and songs to ask you to remember us and you use these prayers and songs to cause us to remember you. So that we may enjoy already deliverance and help in you and then we may have occasion to magnify you and rejoice and be glad all the more when you bring the moment of deliverance deliver a help us and take us out of the double.

And so we pray. Oh God, that you would be doing this sort of work in us by your spirit for. We ask it in Jesus name, amen.