

Psalm 70:1-5

Introduction

David often found himself in times of trial and difficulty. We see this in many of the psalms of David in book 2 of the Psalms as well as in his other psalms in the rest of the Psalter. He often had to appeal to God for deliverance from danger and trouble or pray to the Lord to judge those who were doing him harm. Like Psalm 53, which repeats almost word for word Psalm 14, Psalm 70 repeats the final section of Psalm 40 (vv. 13-17), with only minor variations.

Summary

Psalm 70 is an urgent appeal to God for His aid and serves as a model prayer for all those who see their pressing need of the Lord's salvation.

1. Immediate Personal Need vs. 1

Those in distress should call on God in prayer.

The ability to pray and the peace that comes through prayer mark the difference between the believer and the person who does not know God.

Under normal circumstances, we ought to pray according to the patterns and spiritual priorities set out in the Scriptures. Normally our prayers should start with praise and adoration before coming to intercession and even then we should be concerned in our petitions with the spiritual matters that are of primary concern to the Lord.

There are exceptions to this general model for prayer, however, as we see here in the life of David. Given the extremity of his circumstances, he does not offer a long, comprehensive prayer but raises only an immediate plea for help: "Make haste, O God, to deliver me" (**Psalm 70:1**). From this and other similar examples in David's life, we see how important and valuable such urgent prayers are. We should not hesitate to cry out to God for immediate help in desperate and fearful moments.

2. Thwarted Enemies vv. 2-3

Having prayed for his own deliverance, David then prays about his enemies (**70:2-3**).

He begins with a request for God to thwart their evil designs (**Psalm 70:2**).

We ought also to pray for God's intervention for the sake of the wicked when we ask God to confuse their plan (**Matt. 5:44**).

David notes the particular wickedness of his enemies in their mocking scorn (**70:3**). Seeing how Jesus bore such taunts in order to obey the Father's will in saving sinners, like us, we should be willing to bear insults for His sake and for others sake as we follow him in this world.

3. Other Believers vs. 4

David now turns back to the concerns of God's kingdom and the spiritual blessing of his people (**Psalm 70:4**).

We need to realize that other Christians are seeking and serving the Lord, many of them often in more difficult situations than we are facing. Otherwise, we tend to become discouraged, thinking that we are the only righteous ones left in the world (**1 Kings 19:10**).

In his prayer for God's people, David provides a good summary of believers: they are those who seek the Lord and love his salvation.

As David prays for other believers, his prayer again highlights the Bible's priority on spiritual blessings and graces (**Psalm 70:4**). He prays that fellow believers would rejoice in God and offer themselves for his praise.

When trouble comes, our highest calling is, as David prayed, to rejoice in God and declare that "God is great" (**Psalm 70:4**).

4. Biblical Faith vs. 5

David concludes his prayer with a summary of biblical faith (**Psalm 70:5**).

He acknowledges that he has no right in and of himself to make any demands of God.

David's confession of poverty and weakness also refutes the commonly held idea that we are able to handle most of our problems with our own resources.

The first step toward the salvation that God offers to us through Jesus is to humble ourselves using David's confession

The second step of faith consists of calling on God as Savior.

The last statement of Psalm 70 connects with David's opening plea for God to come quickly, and also with our urgent need of the salvation that comes only through Christ.

When David prays, "You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!" (Ps. 70:5), Christians should especially think of the soon return of Jesus Christ from heaven and pray to God for Jesus to return quickly to save his church.

In the final book of the Bible, The Book of the Revelation, Jesus gives two answers to the church's prayer for him to make haste in coming to save.

He says, "Surely I am coming soon," and adds his final invitation: "'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price" (**Rev. 22:17-20**).