

Psalm 69:1-18

King David was a “type” or “pattern” of **Christ**. Since "all the promises of God find their Yes in him" (**2 Cor. 1:20**), “... then the wide-ranging prayers and praise offered in the book of Psalms are all consummated in God's Son.”

Summary

Psalm 69 begins with the cry of the **One who bore His people’s sins in His own body and who suffered for their sake, and ends with the glorious results of His atoning work.**

1. Distressed Individual vv. 1-4

In the original historical context of Psalm 69, David prays as one who is greatly distressed because of the persecution he has suffered as a faithful servant of the Lord. Beset with opposition, he cries out to God for help (**Psalm 69:1**).

He describes himself as a drowning man or one stuck in constraining mire, crying out at what seems to be the end of his endurance (**Psalm 69:2**).

David was dismayed not because he had failed to pray but rather because his prayers seemed not to make any difference (**Psalm 69:3**). Nevertheless, he continued to pray even as he spoke of his weary and broken spirit.

David was surrounded by opponents who maliciously assailed him without a legitimate cause (**Psalm 69:4**). Throughout history, it has pained Christians to be hated and accused without a just reason.

Jesus quotes Psalm 69:4 in reference to those who wanted to kill him. He lamented that he had done only good among them. He then adds "But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: “They hated me without a cause”” (**John 15:25**),

Jesus had to undergo this kind of suffering in His humanity in order to fit himself for the role of being our Savior.

Christians should realize that our suffering is part and parcel of being united to Jesus by faith (**John 15:18-19**).

2. Sanctified Lament vv. 5-8

David's cry leads to a sanctified lament that displays his true motives.

He proceeds to confess his sins before the Lord (**Psalm 69:5**). He is also concerned that the accusations against him may serve to discourage other believers (**Psalm 69:6**).

Instead of fretting over our own reputations, David shows us that we should be more interested in how our conduct will influence other Christians.

In the midst of his sorrow, David was blessed to be able to claim that his sufferings were caused by his faithful commitment to God (**Psalm 69:7**).

Similar words should comfort and encourage everyone who suffers persecution for faith in Christ (**Phil. 1:29; 2 Cor. 12:10**).

David's spirit was nearly broken, however, by rejection and criticism from fellow believers (**Ps. 69:8**). We should do our best to make sure that this does not happen to fellow believers who are suffering today for faithfulness to God and his Word.

3. Bitter Indictment vv. 9-12

Early in his ministry, Jesus responded in outrage to the shopkeepers who had taken over the temple courts, physically driving them from God's house of prayer. Reflecting on this incident later, the apostles saw this situation as fulfilling (**Psalm 69:9; John 2:17**). Since Jesus was motivated by concern for God, the reproach he received indicted his enemies as the opponents of God (**Psalm 69:9**).

David's statement concerning his zeal for God's house may indicate that his detractors were opposed to his zealous labors to prepare for the construction of the Lord's temple and the religion enshrined there. The salvation taught in the Bible and displayed at the temple is one not of self-boasting but of self-humiliation before the glory of God's holiness, along with a penitent appeal for mercy through the sacrificial blood of Christ.

In light of the world's spiritual rebellion against God, David reminds believers in of the universal public scorn that we can expect (**Psalm 69:12**).

4. Prayer for Help vv. 13-15

What can believers do when rejected by the world and unfairly mocked for Christ's sake? We can trust in God and rely on him in prayer, even as we lay into his hands the miseries that we can barely stand any longer (**Psalm 69:13-15**).

Jesus took his crushing burdens to his Father in prayer.

This pattern of surrender to God's will and reliance on God's sources of strength has always empowered God's faithful servants.

5. Reasons for Hope vv. 13-18

David provides three great reasons for us to endure in faith.

First, the steadfast love and faithfulness of God: "in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness" (**Psalm 69:13; 16**).

Secondly, despairing Christians may endure while relying on the perfect timing of an all-wise God. "At an acceptable time, O God," David prays for deliverance (**69:13**).

Thirdly, our greatest hope in prayer is the finished work of Christ as Savior and Redeemer (**Psalm 69:17-18**).

Therefore, in our darkest hours, at what seems the end of our strength, when the waters seem to be flooding over our heads and our eyes are weary from waiting on God, we can yet call on him in a faith that endures by believing in Christ.