

Psalm 69 A Psalm of David (A song familiar to the people¹)

My enemies threaten me with death

¹ O LORD, save me because I'm in trouble up to my neck, and my enemies threaten to kill me. ² I am bogged down in those troubles, and I have no sound footing. I am surrounded by troubles, and they come upon me one after another like a waterfall with no end in sight. ³ I have cried until I am worn out, my throat is dry and scratchy, and my eyes have become bloodshot and blurry from all of my crying while I wait for You to come to my rescue. ⁴ My tormentors hate me unjustly, and there are more of them than the hairs on my head. These are powerful people, and they attack me with all kinds of lies. They claim that I have stolen from them, but I have taken nothing. Nonetheless, I am required to restore what they claim I took even though it seems so unfair.

My enemies spurn my service to You

⁵ O LORD, You know all of the foolish and sinful things I have done in my life. ⁶ I pray that those who know and wait for You will not be ashamed of You or dishonored as a result of my reputation. ⁷⁻⁸ I ask this because I love You and have endured all of this disapproval, disgrace², and shame for the sake of Your name. My family treats me as if they don't even know me. In fact, they think of me as someone to look down upon as if I were from another planet. As a result, I'm almost afraid to show my face in public. All of this has taken place because of my love for You and the fact that I have used all of my energies for the sake of Your name and Your church. ⁹ My enthusiastic desire to serve the LORD and His church has completely consumed me, and the curses of those who despise me have become what people think of me when they see me. ¹⁰ When I wept and fasted they cursed me for that. ¹¹ When I sat in sackcloth and ashes they cursed me for that too. ¹² Those who govern the city sit around talking about me wrongfully, and drunkards sing perverted songs about me.

LORD, I really need Your help

¹³ Regardless of what they do and say, I will cry out in prayer to You, O LORD, because now is the right time to do it. Please answer me in keeping with Your tender love and kindness and according to Your faithfulness. ¹⁴ Please rescue me from evil men and from the overwhelming troubles I am enduring because of them. Don't let those troubles destroy me. ¹⁵ Don't let my troubles swallow me up and bury me. ¹⁶ LORD, please have mercy upon me, and answer my prayer. Rescue me according to Your tender love and kindness. ¹⁷ Answer me quickly and don't hide from me because I am in trouble. ¹⁸ Draw near to me, and redeem me. My enemies are wicked, so because of them, please buy me back from these troubles.

LORD, no one will help me

¹⁹ LORD, You know the bad rap I am getting, how bad I look to others, and how my reputation has been trashed. You have also seen and know all of my opponents in this

conflict³. ²⁰ All of their rebukes and accusations have broken my heart, and I am in complete despair. I looked for someone to show some sympathy, but there was no one. I tried to find someone who would comfort me in my distress, but I couldn't find anyone. ²¹ They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. What does this mean? For Christ, it prophesied about what would take place on the cross when He was dying. For me, it was the unfair treatment that my opponents poured out upon me.

LORD, wipe out my enemies

²² LORD, cause these evil men's prosperity to become a trap, and when they are at ease, cause this to be a trap for them also. ²³ Cause their eyes to grow dim so they cannot see to afflict me, and make their bodies so weak that they shake all day long. ²⁴ Show Your disapproval of them by pouring out Your fierce anger, and don't let a single one of them escape. ²⁵ Cause their homes to become completely desolate so that no one can live in them. ²⁶ It is only right that You should do this, because they have persecuted me even though You had already struck me down. They also sit around recounting the hard life of those upon whom You have inflicted pain and suffering. ²⁷ Punish them with the punishment their sin deserves, and do not grant them leniency. ²⁸ Remove their names from the book of life so they are not recorded along with those who have been made righteous by the blood of Jesus Christ⁴.

LORD, if you save me I will praise You publicly

²⁹ They deserve what they get, but I am suffering and in pain. LORD, please rescue me, and place me safely back in my place of authority. ³⁰ When You do, I will magnify You by singing songs of praise and thanksgiving to Your holy name. ³¹ I know that this will please You more than any sacrifice of service I could offer You. ³² Those who have humbled themselves enough to accept Christ as personal savior and seek to know Him in a personal, intimate way will see me praising You and be encouraged. Then they will join me in singing songs of praise. ³³ We should rejoice because the LORD hears the cry of those in need, and He does not look down with disgust upon those of His who are prisoners. ³⁴ Because He is good, let heaven, the earth, the seas, and everything that moves in them praise Him. ³⁵ It is only right that these should do so because God loves Israel, and He will save her. Then He will see that her cities are rebuilt and that the people of Israel live there. ³⁶ Their offspring will inherit the land, and those of them who love the LORD will live there in peace.

¹ Shoshannim according to Peter A. Steveson, Psalms, © BJU Press, Greenville, SC, pg. 261

² Definition of "Reproach", www.dictionary.com/browse/reproach

³ Definition of "Adversaries", *Ibid*.

⁴ In John 14:6 Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used.