

Save Me, O God

- Psa 69:1** To the choirmaster: according to Lilies. Of David. Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.
- Psa 69:2** I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.
- Psa 69:3** I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.
- Psa 69:4** More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause; mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies. What I did not steal must I now restore?
- Psa 69:5** O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.
- Psa 69:6** Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel.
- Psa 69:7** For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.
- Psa 69:8** I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.
- Psa 69:9** For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.
- Psa 69:10** When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.
- Psa 69:11** When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.
- Psa 69:12** I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.
- Psa 69:13** But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.
- Psa 69:14** Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.
- Psa 69:15** Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.
- Psa 69:16** Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
- Psa 69:17** Hide not your face from your servant, for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.
- Psa 69:18** Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!
- Psa 69:19** You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.
- Psa 69:20** Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.
- Psa 69:21** They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.
- Psa 69:22** Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.
- Psa 69:23** Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make their loins tremble continually.
- Psa 69:24** Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them.
- Psa 69:25** May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.
- Psa 69:26** For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.
- Psa 69:27** Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.
- Psa 69:28** Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.
- Psa 69:29** But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!
- Psa 69:30** I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
- Psa 69:31** This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.
- Psa 69:32** When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.
- Psa 69:33** For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.
- Psa 69:34** Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.
- Psa 69:35** For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it;
- Psa 69:36** the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.

There are two structures of this poem that both exemplify the work of Messiah making our redemption possible. The first is a parallel that uses the image of flood waters to demonstrate the depth of David's distress. The second highlights the work of Messiah in our redemption through repentance – specifically, His death makes it possible for us to draw near YHWH despite our sin.

Structural Analysis

This psalm is structured as a parallel. The themes in verses 1-13 repeat in the same order in verses 14-29 highlighting David's repentance and YHWH's justice.

- 1-14 Consequences for actions fall on the wrong people
- 1-2 Flood waters,
- 3 Wait for YHWH
- 4 My enemies hate me
- 5 My guilt is not hidden from You
- 6 Let NOT those who seek You be ashamed
- 7 I have borne reproach
- 8 I am a stranger, foreigner (I am treated badly)
- 9 Reproach of others falls on me
- 10 I wept, fasted
- 11 I became a proverb to them (They think they are better than me)
- 12 Others talk about me
- 13 My prayer is to You - Answer me, Deliver me

- 14-29 YHWH will sort it out, mete out justice
- 14-15 Flood waters
- 16 Loving-commitment, compassion is good
- 17 I am in distress
- 18 Redeem me, ransom me
- 19 I am ashamed
- 20 Reproach has broken my heart
- 21 They gave me gall and vinegar (I am treated badly)
- 22 Let their reproach fall on them
- 23 Eyes darkened (wept) loins shake continually (fasting)
- 24-25 You are displeased with them (They are not better)
- 26-28 They talk about Your vengeance
- 29 Deliver me

- 30-36 Praise, Thanksgiving for Past/Future Promises (Hope/Trust)

In the second structure, we see a blueprint for repentance/forgiveness and vocabulary that points to Messiah as our ransom. He took on our sins upon Himself so that we can be cleaned and restored to YHWH.

The narrative of this poem hinges on David's repentance. Before his repentance he is distraught, he feels abandoned, there is chaos: he is suffering for the actions of others, the righteous (might) suffer for his actions. After David repents, he sees the wrongs being righted, justice being done, and ultimately, he is delivered, he is forgiven. At this point, he praises YHWH and gives thanks for His mercy. Interestingly, the language that points to Messiah in this psalm centers around Yashua's death on the cross foreshadowing the death of Messiah as the assurance of our deliverance.

Psalm 69

1-4	I am in deep waters	Distress	<u>Crucifixion</u> Matt 27-31	Thorns, cross, beatings
5-8	Shame covered my face	Confession	Matt 27:43	I am Elohim
9-12	I wept in my fasting Reproach has fallen on me	Repentance	Mk 15:28 Lk 23:41	Reckoned w/lawlessness He had done no wrong
13-18	Let me be rescued	Crying Out	Matt 27:46	Forsaken
19-29	Let them not enter Deliver me	Judgment/ Deliverance	Lk 23:34 Lk 23:43	Forgive them We will be in paradise
30-36	I praise YHWH Thanksgiving	Praise/ Thanksgiving	Lk 23: 46	Into Your hands

The vocabulary of this psalm foreshadows Yashua as the way for our salvation and lays out a blueprint for our repentance.

1. David's Repentance/Blueprint for Repentance

1. David is distressed/ Our sin should distress us
2. David acknowledges his sin/ We should confess our sin
3. David is broken-hearted, his heart is turned/ We should turn from our sin
4. David cries out for mercy/ We should cry out for mercy
5. David cries out for judgement and deliverance/ We should cry out for deliverance
6. David offers praise and thanksgiving for YHWH's steadfast love/ We should offer praise, thanks

2. Messianic Vocabulary

1. vs 7 – I have borne reproach for Your Names's sake
2. vs 8 - I have become a stranger to my brothers
3. vs 9 - The reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me } Matt 27:21-50
4. vs 17 - Do not hide Your face from me
5. vs 21 - For my thirst they gave me vinegar
6. vs 29 - Let Your deliverance set me up on high

There is a break in the comparison between David's repentance and Yashua's experience on the cross. These breaks are used to teach us some lesson or point to something important. When David calls out for his deliverance, he also cries out for vengeance - "Do not let their name be written in the book of life." When Yashua calls out for deliverance, He cries out for mercy - "Forgive them, they know not what they do." (Lk23:34) We should desire mercy, not justice.

By examining the mirroring structure of this psalm, we see that Yashua takes on our sin and bears our reproach so that we can be made clean.

An interesting thought:

Many people read through the psalms during Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. They divide the Psalms into 3 divisions: 1-50, 51-100, 101-150 and read one psalm from each division in order so 1, 51, 101 on day 1; 2, 52, and 102 on day 2, etc. Following this pattern, Psalm 69 would correlate with Ps 19 and Ps 119. Is there a connection between this psalm and its correlated parts, Ps 19 and Ps 119? Psalm 19 is a song about the perfection of Torah. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm, and also a song about the perfection of Torah. And psalm 69, is right in the middle. What do we see? Our way of Salvation – Yasha/Yahshua – surrounded by Torah, the word of YHWH. Once we realize we have sinned, and that we are separate from The Father, how do we find our way back? Through repentance. We turn to His way – Torah.

Some Notes:

vs 1 – Save me (yasha – salvation)

vs 2-3 – Contrast: waters/flood (chaos, distress) and dry (without blessing, separate from YHWH)

In Conclusion

When we are separated from YHWH, we should be overcome by our distress. But through His mercy, YHWH can draw us near again. This idea is reinforced by the connection between the flood and Pesach that Ben has explored. Although we are overcome, YHWH has a way for us to find our way back. All we have to do is walk through the door.

I pray that you cry out to YHWH. He will hear you and answer you and I pray you hear the voice of YHWH calling you to His plan, His purpose, His kingdom.

Summary:

Psalms are traditionally read on Pesach. I have stepped outside our order of study to examine this beautiful psalm about ransom, repentance, and prophesy of Yashua's death. Perfect for Pesach.

We first look at the parallel structure of the psalm. Themes such as floods, ransom, and repentance of the first half repeat in the second, in the same order. It ends with David offering his praise and thanksgiving for the fulfillment of past and future promises. This shows David's trust in YHWH to do all that He has said.

Secondly, the psalm is heavy with Messianic prophesy, especially the crucifixion. We compare David's words in his time of distress with Yashua's words on the stake. In this comparison, we find a break in the pattern that reveals a deeper truth about our walk with YHWH – do we want justice or mercy?

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