

**SBC – May 18, 2025**  
**Psalm 70 (NKJV)**  
**“Make Haste O God”**

**To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. To Bring to Remembrance.**

***To the Chief Musician*** indicates that David intended for this Psalm to be used in corporate worship. Evidently, the Chief Musician was a leader of choirs or musicians.

This is yet another Psalm penned by David!

***“To Bring to Remembrance”*** is also translated as ***“For a Memorial”***.

Is this an emphasis on we needing to remember or a reminder that God remembers – or some combination of the two.

When the Bible says ***“God remembers”*** people it doesn’t mean He had somehow forgets about His people through a lapse of memory and then suddenly remembers them (cf. Gen. 8:1).

The name Zechariah means ***“Yahweh remembers”***. The name of Yahweh is the personal covenant name of God that emphasizes His faithfulness (Ex. 3:14). The name Zechariah is a great reminder that God will not forget His commitment to Israel but will bring about restoration as promised.

When the repentant thief on the cross said to Jesus, “Lord, ***remember*** me when You come into your kingdom” (Lk. 23:43), he wasn’t simply saying, “Remember we shared this time of misery together in history.”

No, rather, he was saying, “Remember me and act for my good in bringing me into your kingdom”.

So, when David writes over Psalm 70, ***“To Bring to Remembrance,”*** it may serve as a reminder that although we may have to wait on God, we need to remember that God acts in accordance with His promises and He will not forget His own.

We need to remember that God ultimately always acts in faithfulness in keeping with His Word and His character.

This Psalm serves as a reminder of that reality.

God never forgets but we often need to be reminded!

With only a few differences, this Psalm is essentially identical to what David wrote in Psalm 40:13-17. David thought it of such importance that was selected as a poem that would stand on its own.

### **Slide # 1**

#### ***Psalm 70***

#### ***“Make Haste O God”***

- v. 1 - A Plea for Rapid Help
- vv. 2-3 - A Prayer Against Adversaries
- v. 4 - Praise added to Plea
- v. 5 - Repetition of Plea for Rapid Help

Psalm 70 is a very short Psalm. When one prays with urgency, often they are very short prayers. That is what we have represented here.

### **Slide # 2**

#### **Nehemiah 2:2–4 (NKJV)**

**2** Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.” **So I became dreadfully afraid,**

**3** and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?”

**4** Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” **So I prayed to the God of heaven.**

This was a silent and very quick prayer! It was urgent! He desperately shot up a quick prayer before he opened his mouth to answer the king!

When Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water, but then took his eyes off the Lord, being overcome by the fear of the waves, he suddenly started to sink and cried out to the Lord.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **Matthew 14:30 (NKJV)**

**30** But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, **“Lord, save me!”**

It was not a long prayer – but an urgent one! Desperate moments are often reflected in short prayers. We have that reflected in the very short Psalm of Psalm 70.

**1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O LORD!**

Twice in this very verse David calls on God to “Make haste” which is to say to HURRY! The repetition makes a strong EMPHASIS!

He needs help and he needs it NOW! There is no time to lose. His situation is dangerous and desperate. The situation is URGENT!

Some have accused David of bad theology at this point and praying inaccurately since God is never late. God is always on time.

That is true, but in our humanness – in our human experience, we often feel the pressure of URGENCY! David is expressing his human experience at this point and not dealing with the fine points of theology. All he knows is that he is in greater danger and needs HELP IMMEDIATELY!

He calls on God as Elohim meaning the Higher Power or Supreme Being. He calls on Him as LORD which is YHWH – the faithful covenant-keeping God of Israel. He needs power and he needs faithfulness as represented in God to DELIVER him at once! THIS CAN'T WAIT!

And then David has this very specific request...

**2 Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt.**

These people were out to kill David! They wanted him dead! They desired to hurt him in any way that they could. They were savages. They had no fear of God in that David was God's anointed. David asks specifically that God intervene in delivering him by causing these enemies to be put to shame or disgraced.

He asks that they be confounded or humiliated. He asks that they be turned back and not be allowed to advance any further in their murderous scheming. And then that they would be confused or dishonored.

David doesn't say HOW God might do this, but only that God would intervene in such a way that they are soundly thwarted in a humiliating fashion.

**3 Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, "Aha, aha!"**

**Shame**, confusion, and confounding are three means by which God dissuades the enemy. – *David Jeremiah*

It was shameful how they were treating David saying "Aha, aha!" Aha is an expression of malicious joy or a celebration of David's troubles. It signifies rejoicing in his misery!

"Aha" denotes scornful mocking or supreme contempt! It is the idea of sinful gloating over others and is especially damning when applied against God's people and in this case against God's anointed.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### **Ezekiel 25:3 (NKJV)**

**3** Say to the Ammonites, 'Hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD: "**Because you said, 'Aha!'** against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into captivity,

God pronounced judgment on the Ammonites for their gloating over Israel's misfortunes. The expression "Aha" signifies malicious delight in Israel's suffering, which calls for divine wrath.

#### **Slide # 5**

##### **Ezekiel 26:2 (NKJV)**

**2** "Son of man, **because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, 'Aha!'** She is broken who was the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste.'

In this text, Tyre is condemned for sinful joy over the prospect of Jerusalem's destruction. Such sinful gloating over God's people or God's place is really an arrogant celebration over the misfortunes of others. And that is really sinful when it comes to that which belongs to God. It really is an arrogant affront against God.

**Slide # 6****Proverbs 24:17–18 (NKJV)****17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;****18** Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.

The joy of malicious gloating is completely contrary to the character and ways of God. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11). If this is sin in regard to an enemy how much more so when it comes to God's people – as in the case of David?

These people wanted to hurt David, they wanted to kill him, and they gloated over any trouble that he had. They were savages meaning brutal or vicious people.

**Slide # 7**

The kindest thing we can pray for people who do wrong is that their plans will fail, for it may be that in their frustration they will see the folly and true end of evil and be reached for God.

**– James Montgomery Boice**

**4 Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; And let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!”**

This verse draws a contrast between those who seek God and those who seek David's life as seen in verse 2. Those who seek God stand together and those who are not with God stand together in the sinful ways.

Even though David is in desperate straights he still maintains his FOCUS on God calling on all those who stand with him in seeking God to rejoice and be glad in God!

Even in the hardest of times, we need to remember that our joy is found in the Lord and nowhere else. We often need to refocus from focusing on our circumstances to focusing on God.

Paul writing from prison wrote:

**Slide # 8**

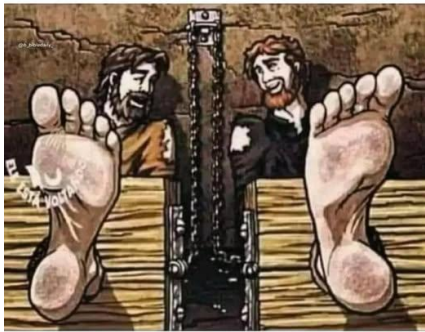
### **Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)**

**4 Rejoice** in the Lord always. Again I will say, **rejoice!**

David's enemies were sinfully celebrating his desperate trouble, but David focuses on celebrating his God. As Nehemiah 8:10 says, "the joy of the LORD is your strength." KEEP THE FOCUS ON GOD!

### **Slide # 9**

**Paul and Silas were in jail but they still worshipped God.**



**Worship isn't about  
your circumstances,  
it's about who God is!**

There is joy in SEEKING God – in looking to God – in casting all our cares upon and Him and resting in Him! There is a supernatural reality related to prayer.

### **Slide # 10**

### **Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)**

**6 Be anxious for nothing**, but **in everything by prayer** and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

**7** and **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

In spite of the desperate situation David found himself in, he could still focus on God and experience joy and gladness in His God – just because of WHO He is.

And then David says, “***And let those who love Your salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified!”***”

In verse 1 he pleads for deliverance but here in verse 4 he calls on all those who love God's salvation to say continually, "***Let God be magnified!***"

God's people delight in seeing Him bring deliverance time and time again in all sorts of ways all along life's journey.

### **Slide # 11**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:9–11 (NKJV)**

**9** Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

**10** who **delivered** us from so great a death, and **does deliver** us; in whom we trust that He **will still deliver** us,

**11** you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

God is a God of deliverance. Our ultimate deliverance is from the condemnation of sin through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, as Paul notes here, God is in the delivering business. Time and time again, we get into desperate situations, and time and time again, our God comes to the rescue.

And as God brings deliverance, we love it and it causes us to SING HIS PRAISES. And our desire is that God would be magnified in how He delivers us.

David thought that to praise God was to *magnify* Him – that is, to make Him larger in one's perception. Magnification does not actually make an object bigger, and we can't make God bigger. Still, to magnify something or someone is to *perceive* it as bigger, and we must do that regarding God. – **David Guzik**

More and more, we should exalt our great Savior! Let God be magnified as our great Savior! David knew this very well! His theology was solid!

However, in the moment he was under tremendous pressure, and in his humanness he felt that reality as well, and so he concludes the Psalm with the repetition of this plea...

**5 But I am poor and needy; Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.**

“Poor and needy” doesn’t necessarily refer to his financial condition. It denotes being vulnerable and not having the resources to deliver himself.

This denotes the “underdog” position where David is at a tremendous disadvantage. Often in the Bible we find God being on the side of the “poor and needy” which is often a reference to His people who are often in a position of weakness and vulnerability. God has largely chosen the foolish, weak, base, despised, nothings of this world so that no flesh should glory in His presence (1 Cor. 1:26). God keeps His people dependent upon Him!

God puts His people in that position so that they might depend upon Him ALONE! Our humanness is such that unless we are put in that position, we tend not to look to God in trust as we should! So God often knocks out all the props so we might depend upon Him alone.

David was in that position! He had nothing but God to depend on! In that sense he was poor and needy!

And so he again cries out to God, “***Make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.***”

David both begins and ends the Psalm with this plea!

David appealed to God on the grounds that he had no other help or source of deliverance! He loved the reality that God is a Savior and desired that God would once again be magnified in his deliverance. At the same time he felt the pressure of the desperate situation and that immediate action was needed!

Four times in 5 verses, David pleads with God to make haste.

### **Slide # 12**

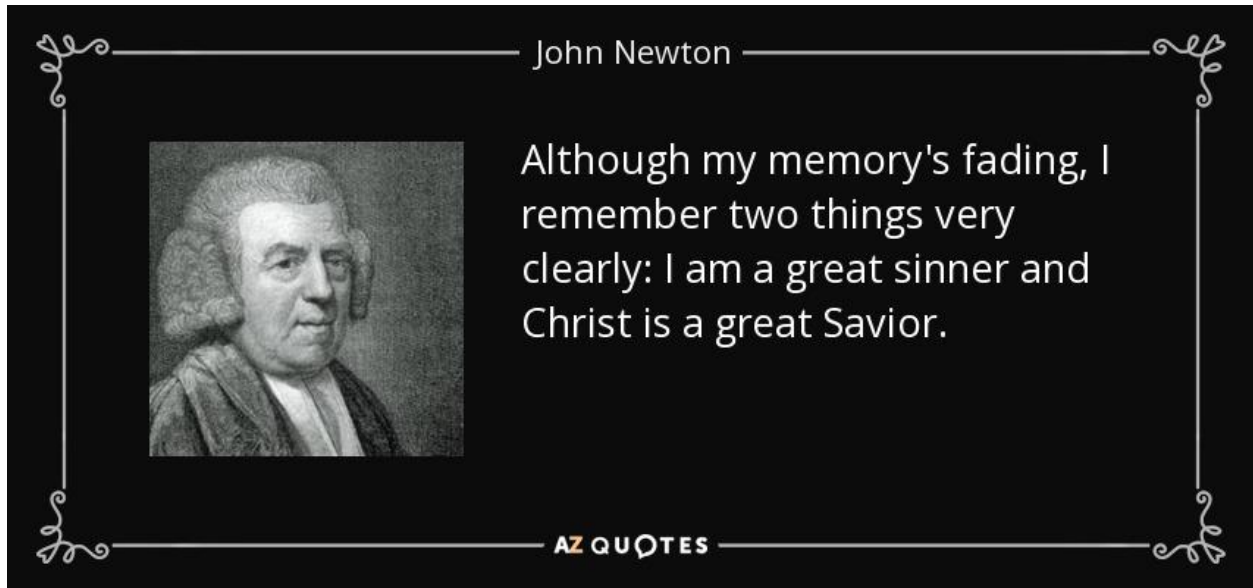
- v. 1 Make haste...
- v. 1 Make haste...
- v. 5 Make haste...
- v. 5 O Lord, do not delay.




When we feel overwhelmed and the pressure is severe, just like David, we know where to go! Call on the Lord in desperation. It's okay to express yourself in human terms in terms of the urgency of the situation.

But then we want to REMEMBER that our God is a great Savior! Our help and deliverance is found in Him.

### **Slide # 13**



John Newton



Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.

AZ QUOTES

God help us to never lose sight that we serve a GREAT SAVIOR!

And so let us who love God's salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" Come what may, "Let God be magnified!"