

## Psalm 69

The connection with the Exodus 36-36 reading is verse 9: "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me." Jesus' cleansing of the Temple marks a spiritual "re-making" of the Tabernacle, whose "making" is described in the Torah reading.

The superscription has : "To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, A Psalm of David."

Shoshannim = *shuwshan* - a lily or similar flower.

Rashi - Concerning Israel, who are like a rose (שושנה) among the thorns, pricked by the thorns, and he prayed for them.

- **Song of Solomon 2:1** - "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily (*shuwshan*) of the valleys.

Also, the pillars in the Temple were shaped like lillies, and the brim of the Laver was decorated with lillies.

- **Hosea 14:5** - "I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily (*shuwshan*), and cast forth his roots as Lebanon."

**Psalm 69:1-2** - "Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me."

Like Jeremiah:

- **Jeremiah 38:6** - "Now in the cistern there was no water but only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud."

- **Lamentations 3:53** - "They have silenced me in the pit And have placed a stone on me."

- **Lamentations 3:55** - "I called on your name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon."

And like Jonah:

- **Jonah 2:5** - "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head."

"This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah" (**Luke 11:30**).

This Messianic Psalm reflects the deep distress of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane

and later on the cross, where He experienced the full weight of the wrath of God against our sin, which he bore, and the physical extremes of death by crucifixion. At the same time, Satan and his principalities and powers came in like a flood upon his soul, to swallow him up.

The Targum interprets it of "the camp of sinners" that pressed him on every side, like water.

**Psalm 69:3-4** - "I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away."

"mine eyes fail" - Compare the "curse of the Law" expressed in **Leviticus 26:16**: "I, in turn, will do this to you: I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away..."

- **Galatians 3:13** - "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"

**Psalm 69:4** - "They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head: they that would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away."

"then I restored that which I took not away" - Possibly a proverbial saying to express harsh and unjust treatment. He was compelled to give up what he had not taken away from others. He made satisfaction for sins he never committed. He suffered wrongfully, and was counted among criminals.

**Psalm 69:5** - "O God, you know my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from you."

"foolishness" - foolishness, impiety. This is the cry of Christ's humanity in repentance.

**Psalm 69:6-7** - "Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face."

Even more clearly Christ on the cross.

**Psalm 69:8** - "I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children."

He was "despised and rejected of men" (**Isaiah 53:3**)

Compare **Psalms 22:6** - "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people."

- **Luke 17:25** - "But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation."

The family of Jesus considered him deranged; his own disciple Judas betrayed him; Peter denied him three times; the other disciples deserted him; the religious and judicial authorities of Israel turned him over to the Romans to be crucified; the crowd demanded the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus.

**Psalm 69:9** - "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me."

Quoted about Jesus' cleansing of the Temple -

- **John 2:17** - "And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

**Psalm 69:10** - "When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach."

The Targum renders it, "when I wept in the fasting of my soul"

Christ fasted 40 days in the wilderness, and appears to have been fasting as He went to the cross, and thus fulfilling the type of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement when all were to fast and afflict their soul.

"Reproach" - Christ was accused of being a glutton and a winebibber, as deranged or having a demon.

**Psalm 69:11-12** - "I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them. They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards."

Jesus is nowhere said to literally wear sackcloth, but he was clothed in the character of humility. Sackcloth represented grief, sorrow, repentance and humility before God.

**Psalm 69:13** - "But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation."

"in an acceptable time" - in a time of good favor, when I become acceptable to you, or in the case of Christ, once my mission has been accomplished, the sin atoned for and my death accomplished, I hope for resurrection.

**Psalm 69:14-15** - "Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters. Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me."

"pit" = *ě'er* - sometimes a well, but in this context means the "pit of destruction" like **Psalm 55:23**. The grave, death.

The Targum: -“ the pit of hell,” gehenna

**Psalm 69:17** - "And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily."

The positive version of this would be "lift up your countenance upon me" as in the priestly blessing.

**Psalm 69:20** - "Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none."

In the Garden of Gethsemane -

- **Matthew 26:38** - "Then He said to them, "My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me."

**Psalm 69:21** - "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

The Targum renders it, "the gall of the heads of serpents:"

- **Matthew 27:34** - "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink."

See also **Psalm 22:15**

**Psalm 69:22-23** - "Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare (shalom - peace), let it become a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake."

The Targum says: "let their table, which they prepared before me, that I might eat before them, be for a snare; let their sacrifices (i.e. peace offerings) be for a trap, or stumbling block;"

...meaning a "table" spread with vinegar and gall.

Paul quotes this regarding the nation of Israel who rejected Christ -

- **Romans 11:8-9** - "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."

**Psalm 69:24-25** - "Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them. Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents."

Fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem

- **Matthew 23:38** - "Look, your house is left to you desolate."

- **Luke 19:44** - "And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

**Psalm 69:26** - "For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded."

Persecuted by men, although smitten (for our sins) by God.

- **Isaiah 53:4** - "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."

**Psalm 69:27** - "Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."

The Targum is, "and let them not be worthy to come into the congregation of shy righteous ones. let them be blotted out of the book of the memory of the living." Aben Ezra interprets this as "book of the heavens," the Book of Life.

- **Luke 10:20** - "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

- **Philippians 4:3** - "...my fellow laborers, whose names are in the book of life."

### **Praise and Hope (Psalm 69:29-36)**

**Psalm 69:29** - But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high.

- **Philippians 2:7-8** - "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name"

**Psalm 69:31** - "This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs."

"This" - The Targum has it, "my prayers"

**Psalm 69:33** - "For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners."

- **Isaiah 49:9** - "...That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves."

**Psalm 69:35-36** - "For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession. The seed also of his servants shall inherit it: and they that love his name shall dwell therein."

- **Zechariah 1:17** - "Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem."

Aben Ezra's note on this is, "they shall inherit it, they and their children, in the days of David, or in the days of the Messiah."

In the city of the New Jerusalem, where will be the tabernacle of God among men, and he shall dwell among them, and they with him. - *John Gill's Exposition*