

Psalm 70

Just as the **Exodus 37-38** readings are a repetition of a previous list of Tabernacle objects, so this psalm is a repeat. It is copied almost word for word from the last five verses of **Psalm 40**.

Also, see **verse 4** - "let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified." The Tabernacle as a picture of Christ "magnified" God by exponentially expanding the description of His grace in every detail.

- **Psalm 40** was paired with the Torah reading of **Genesis 49**, describing Joseph revisiting the pit he was thrown into by his brothers. Joseph's coat of many colors was a symbol of God's grace that was later also reflected in the coverings and colors of the Tabernacle, and so as the Tabernacle is "made" in our current reading, a recollection is made of this experience of Joseph. The gift of his coat was one reason his brothers hated him.

The superscript reads: "A Psalm of David, to bring to remembrance." Or "to make mention" as in the Jewish translation.

This psalm brings to remembrance the full message of Psalm 40.

Psalm 70:1 - "Make haste, O God (*'elohiym*), to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD (*Yahweh*)."

- **Psalm 40:13** begins with "Make haste." But this is omitted here in the Hebrew (although supplied in the King James Version).

The psalm in the Hebrew begins abruptly - "O God, to deliver me," - leaving the impression that this is a hurried fragment.

Psalm 70:2 - "Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt."

"confounded" - recall that on Rosh Hashanah, Satan would be "confused" by the sound of the shofar and on Yom Kippur have no power at all.

Psalm 70:3 - "Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha."

(**Psalm 40** has "let them be desolate.")

"Aha!" is against the Tabernacle/Temple sanctuary, and the land, and the house of Judah.

- **Ezekiel 25:3-4** - "And say unto the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus

saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, 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; Behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk."

Psalm 70:4 - "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified."

"Let God be magnified" - The Targum has: "let the glory of the Lord be increased"

Even in urgent distress, David adds reassurance for the people of God and a call to rejoice.

"let such as love thy salvation" - salvation= *yěshuw`ah* (similar to the name of Jesus in Aramaic)

In effect, the Tabernacle *WAS* Israel's salvation. It was the place of God's dwelling with them, and the vehicle for sacrifice, which atoned for sin. Finally it was a remarkable foreshadowing of Christ himself in every detail, as we've seen.

Psalm 70:5 - "But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God (*'elohiym*): thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD (*Yahweh*), make no tarrying."

" am poor and needy" - Humility is essential for those who seek God's blessing.

Rashi - Every expression of poor and needy in Psalms refers only to Israel.

"Poor and needy" - when apparently deserted by his Father, forsaken by his disciples, and surrounded by his enemies; and had the sins of his people, the curse of the law, and the wrath of God upon him.

- *John Gill Exposition on Psalm 40*

- **2 Corinthians 8:9** - "...though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

"make no tarrying" - God can't be hurried, and delay doesn't mean denial. But He understands the cry of those in tribulation and urgent need.

- **Isaiah 46:13** - "I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory."

Remember:

- **Isaiah 54:17** - "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."