

Psalms 118:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee,
send now prosperity.

Analysis

Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD (אָנָּא יְהוָה הוֹשִׁיעָה נָּא, anna YHWH hoshi'ah na) —Anna means please, I pray; yasha means save, deliver. **O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity** (אָנָּא יְהוָה הַצְלִיחָה נָּא, anna YHWH hatzlichah na)—Tzalach means prosper, succeed, make prosperous.

"Hoshi'ah na" became "Hosanna" in Greek/English. The crowds shouted this when Jesus entered Jerusalem (Matthew 21:9, Mark 11:9-10), recognizing him as the Davidic king who brings salvation. Psalm 118 is messianic throughout, quoted more in the NT than any other psalm except Psalm 110. The double petition (save/prosper) reflects liturgical usage—probably a antiphonal responsive reading during temple festivals.

Historical Context

Psalm 118 was sung during Passover and Tabernacles. The phrase "Hoshi'ah na" gave rise to the Hosanna liturgy, where pilgrims processing to the temple would wave palm branches and cry out for salvation. Jesus's triumphal entry deliberately fulfilled this imagery, claiming messianic identity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding "Hosanna" as a prayer ("Save now!") rather than mere praise transform Palm Sunday?
2. What does it mean to pray for both salvation (rescue) and prosperity (flourishing) together?
3. How does Jesus fulfill the ultimate meaning of this verse as the one who saves and brings abundant life?

Interlinear Text

אֶפְשָׁה	יְהוָה	! הַהוֹשִׁיעַ	נָא	אֶפְשָׁה	יְהוָה	! הַהוֹשִׁיעַ
I beseech	O LORD	Save	H4994	I beseech	O LORD	
H577	H3068	H3467		H577	H3068	
הַצִּלְנוּ יְהוָה		נָא:				
thee send now prosperity		H4994				
H6743						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 90:17 (References Lord): And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Psalms 20:9 (Salvation): Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.

Psalms 69:13 (Salvation): 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.

Psalms 22:21 (Salvation): Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

Psalms 69:1 (Salvation): Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.

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