

Psalms 140:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.

Analysis

I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD. This verse transitions from description of enemies (v.1-5) to declaration of covenant relationship and petition for divine hearing. David establishes the foundation for his prayer—not his own worthiness but his covenant relationship with Yahweh as his personal God.

"I said unto the LORD" (אָמַרְתִּי לַיהוָה/amarti laYahweh) indicates definite, decisive declaration. The perfect tense suggests completed action—David has already made this confession, established this relationship. This isn't tentative hope but settled conviction expressed directly to Yahweh. Prayer begins with confident assertion of relationship with God.

"Thou art my God" (אֱלֹהֵי אֶתָּה/Eli atah) is profoundly personal. Eli means "my God"—not just acknowledgment that God exists or even that He is powerful, but personal appropriation: "MY God." This echoes covenant language throughout Scripture. God said to Abraham: "I am thy God" (Genesis 17:7). The covenant formula repeated throughout Scripture is: "I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

The possessive pronoun transforms everything. Many acknowledge God generally; few truly appropriate Him personally. Thomas's post-resurrection declaration exemplifies this: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). This isn't theoretical theology but personal relationship—God belongs to the believer, and the believer

belongs to God.

"Hear the voice of my supplications" (שְׁמָע יְהוָה קוֹל תַּחֲנוּנַי/shim'ah Yahweh gol tachanunai) builds on the established relationship. Having declared covenant relationship, David now appeals for God to hear. Shama means to hear, listen, pay attention, respond. This is more than auditory awareness—it's hearing that leads to action, attention that results in response.

"Supplications" (תַּחֲנוּנַי/tachanunai) from techinnah means earnest pleas, petitions for grace, cries for help. The plural form emphasizes repeated, ongoing appeals. David isn't making casual requests but urgent, repeated pleas for divine intervention. The covenant relationship permits bold, persistent prayer.

Historical Context

The declaration "Thou art my God" follows a pattern established throughout Israel's history. After the exodus, Moses and Israel sang: "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation" (Exodus 15:2). This became Israel's covenant confession—Yahweh is OUR God.

Psalm 118:28 declares: "Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee." This personal appropriation of covenant relationship distinguishes biblical faith from pagan religion. Pagan worshipers sought to manipulate distant, capricious deities through ritual and sacrifice. Biblical faith rests on covenant relationship initiated by God's grace—He chooses to be our God, and we respond by claiming Him as our God.

The appeal for God to "hear" reflects Israel's fundamental confidence that Yahweh, unlike pagan idols, actually hears and responds to prayer. Psalm 115:4-7 mocks idols: "They have ears, but they hear not." In contrast, Yahweh hears His people's cries. Exodus 3:7 declares: "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry."

For David, this wasn't mere theological theory but lived experience. God had heard

his cry when facing Goliath (1 Samuel 17). God heard when he fled from Saul (1 Samuel 23:1-5). God heard when Absalom rebelled (2 Samuel 15-18). Repeated experiences of answered prayer built confidence that God hears His people.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9), emphasizing personal relationship with God. He promised: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). The foundation for confident prayer isn't our worthiness but our relationship with God through Christ. As John 16:23 promises: "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between acknowledging that God exists versus personally declaring 'Thou art MY God'?
2. How does established covenant relationship with God transform the nature and confidence of prayer?
3. What does it mean for God to 'hear' prayer—mere awareness or active response?
4. How can believers cultivate the kind of personal relationship with God that permits bold, honest supplication?
5. In what ways does your prayer life reflect confidence in God as 'my God' versus uncertain hope that He might hear?

Interlinear Text

אָמַרְתִּי הָהוּא ! אֵל לִי הָאֵל יְהוָה הָאֵל יְהוָה הָאֵל יְהוָה
I said O LORD Thou art my God H859 hear O LORD the voice
H559 H3068 H410 H238 H3068 H6963
תְּחִנּוּתִי:
of my supplications
H8469

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 16:2 (References Lord): O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;

Psalms 31:14 (References God): But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.

Psalms 142:5 (References Lord): I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

Psalms 119:57 (References Lord): Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.

Zechariah 13:9 (References God): And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Psalms 143:1 (References Lord): Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

Psalms 64:1 (References God): Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

Psalms 91:2 (References God): I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Psalms 130:2 (References Lord): Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

Psalms 116:1 (References Lord): I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.

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