

Psalms 142:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.

Analysis

Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. The imperative haqshivah (הַקְשִׁיבָה), "attend," is an urgent plea for God's attention—literally "prick up your ears." David needs immediate divine intervention, not eventual relief. His "cry" (rinnah, רִנָּה) can mean joyful singing but here denotes an urgent shout for help, showing how the same voice that praises must also plead.

"I am brought very low" translates dallothi me'od (דַּלּוֹתִי מְאֹד)—David is utterly weakened, impoverished, reduced to nothing. The verb dalal means to be thin, weak, or brought low. Combined with me'od (exceedingly), this expresses extremity. Yet in this weakness, David turns to God rather than despair. Paul's thorn taught him the same truth: "when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

"They are stronger than I" acknowledges realistic assessment of the threat. David doesn't pretend courage he doesn't feel or strength he doesn't possess. Instead, he appeals to God's strength to overcome superior human force. This models spiritual warfare: our enemies (sin, Satan, death) are stronger than us, but not stronger than God. Victory comes through dependence, not self-sufficiency.

Historical Context

Saul commanded Israel's army and had resources David lacked as a fugitive. The power differential was vast—king versus outlaw, army versus small band, established authority versus disenfranchised rebel. Yet this psalm demonstrates that earthly power hierarchies mean nothing when God intervenes. Israel's history repeatedly showed God delivering the weak from the strong (Gideon, David vs. Goliath, etc.), teaching that divine favor matters more than human advantage. This theme culminates in Christ's kingdom—advanced not by political power but through weakness, suffering, and the cross.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when adversaries are 'stronger than you'—with despair, self-reliance, or dependence on God?
2. What is the relationship between honest acknowledgment of weakness and genuine faith?
3. How does this verse challenge contemporary Christianity's emphasis on strength, success, and self-confidence?

Interlinear Text

פָּאֵל נִי מְאָד דָּל וֹתִי כִּי רָבָתִי אֶל פְּקַשׁ יְהָהָה

Attend unto my cry for I am brought very deliver
H413 H3588 H1809 H3966 H5337

מִרְדָּפָה כִּי אָמָּצָה מִמְּנִי
me from my persecutors for they are stronger H4480
H7291 H553

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 79:8 (Parallel theme): O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

Psalms 116:6 (Parallel theme): The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

Psalms 17:1 (Parallel theme): Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

Psalms 136:23 (Parallel theme): Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:

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