

Psalms 34:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Analysis

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. David returns to personal testimony with universal application. He's the poor man, but his experience exemplifies God's consistent response to needy criers. This encourages all who are poor (humble, afflicted) to cry out, expecting divine deliverance.

This poor man identifies David self-referentially. Poor ('ani) means afflicted, humble, needy—not merely economically poor but existentially dependent. In Gath, David was utterly vulnerable, reduced to feigning madness for survival. Poor acknowledges complete dependence, no resources, no recourse except God. This poverty (recognizing need) positions one for grace. Proud self-sufficient people don't cry out; poor do.

Cried (qara) means called out, proclaimed, summoned. This is desperate, earnest appeal—not casual request but urgent plea. The poor man's cry is bold (calling on God despite unworthiness) and humble (acknowledging need). And the LORD heard him (shama') testifies to divine response. God hears poor people's cries specifically and responds purposefully (Psalm 10:17, 34:17, 69:33). Hearing leads to saving action.

And saved him out of all his troubles completes deliverance. Saved (yasha') means delivered, rescued, brought to safety. Out of all his troubles emphasizes comprehensive salvation. Troubles (tsarah—distress, adversity, affliction) were

multiple and overwhelming. Yet God saved from all—not some, not partially, but comprehensively. No trouble too great, no affliction too complex for divine deliverance.

This verse encapsulates gospel. We are poor (spiritually bankrupt, unable to save ourselves). We cry out (prayer of repentance and faith). LORD hears (electing grace responds to effectual call). He saves from all troubles (justification, sanctification, glorification—comprehensive salvation from sin, wrath, death). David's testimony prefigures every believer's experience of sovereign grace.

Historical Context

Poor/'anawim became technical term in Old Testament for God's faithful people. Psalms repeatedly reference poor whom God defends (Psalms 9:18, 10:12,17, 12:5, 14:6, 22:26). Poor aren't morally superior but recognize dependence on God. Beatitudes continue this: Blessed are poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3). Jesus proclaimed good news to poor (Luke 4:18). God has chosen poor of this world rich in faith (James 2:5).

God hearing cries of afflicted runs throughout redemptive history. He heard Israel's groan in Egypt (Exodus 3:7). He heard Hannah's cry (1 Samuel 1:11,20). He heard Hezekiah's prayer (2 Kings 20:5). Pattern holds: God hears humble cries and acts. This distinguishes Him from pagan gods who don't hear or don't care. Our God hears and saves.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing yourself as poor man (afflicted, needy, dependent) position you to receive God's grace?

2. What is difference between casual prayer requests and desperate crying out to God?
3. How does God's pattern of hearing poor people's cries and saving from all troubles encourage you in current afflictions?
4. Why must we acknowledge poverty (spiritual bankruptcy) before experiencing God's salvation?
5. In what ways does David's testimony as poor man prefigure gospel message of grace to needy sinners?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	עָנֵי י	קָרָא	וַיְהִי ה	שָׁמָּה ע	וּמָכַל
H2088	This poor man	cried	and the LORD	heard	H3605
	H6041	H7121	H3068	H8085	
	צָרוֹתָיו	הוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ:			
	him out of all his troubles	him and saved			
	H6869	H3467			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 3:4 (References Lord): I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

Psalms 10:17 (References Lord): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

2 Samuel 22:1 (References Lord): And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

Psalms 40:17 (References Lord): But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

Genesis 48:16 (Parallel theme): The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

