

Psalms 38:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

Analysis

Make haste to help me (חֲשֵׁה לְעֶזְרָתִי, chushah le-ezrati)—Chush means hurry, hasten; ezrah is help, aid. The imperative expresses desperate urgency. **O Lord my salvation** (אֲדֹנָי תִּשְׁׁוּ׳אַתִּי, Adonai teshu'ati)—Adonai (Lord, Master) with teshu'ah (salvation) in possessive form: "my salvation" is not abstract but a Person.

This moves from pleading ("forsake not," v. 21) to confident confession. Despite feeling forsaken, David knows God's character. The urgency reflects human desperation; the title reflects theological conviction. This tension characterizes biblical lament—honest emotion submitted to revealed truth. For Christians, "Lord my salvation" points to Christ himself (Luke 2:30, Acts 4:12).

Historical Context

Israelite worship welcomed lament as legitimate prayer. Unlike pagan religions demanding stoic acceptance, YHWH invites the afflicted to cry out urgently. The Psalter includes more laments than any other genre, validating human suffering while directing it toward divine help.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How comfortable are you praying with urgent, desperate language like "make haste"?
2. What does it mean practically to confess God as "my salvation" rather than merely "a savior"?
3. How does ending with confident confession reframe the entire lament and transform perspective?

Interlinear Text

ח וְשָׂה	לְעֻזָּתִּי	אֲדֹנָי	תְּשׁוּעָתִי:
Make haste	to help	me O Lord	my salvation
H2363	H5833	H136	H8668

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 40:13 (References Lord): Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me.

Psalms 27:1 (Salvation): The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

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.

Psalms 70:5 (References Lord): But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.

Psalms 71:12 (Parallel theme): O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help.

Psalms 62:6 (Salvation): He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

Psalms 141:1 (References Lord): LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.

Psalms 62:2 (Salvation): He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalms 70:1 (References Lord): Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org