

Psalm 40:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The psalm concludes with paradoxical confession: David is 'poor and needy' yet the LORD 'thinketh upon me.' The Hebrew *chashav* (think, account, reckon) indicates intentional, ongoing attention from God. Despite David's inadequacy, he is not forgotten. The closing petition 'make no tarrying, O my God' expresses urgent trust without demanding immediate resolution.

Historical Context

Self-designation as 'poor and needy' (*ani ve'evyon*) became technical vocabulary in Israel for the pious remnant who depended entirely on God, anticipating Jesus' beatitude: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging spiritual poverty position us to receive God's help?
2. What comfort comes from knowing that the LORD 'thinketh upon' you personally?

Interlinear Text

לְ ֤ יִמְשֶׁלֶת ֤ בְּ אֶדְנָה ֤ וְאֶבְיוֹן ֤ עַת ֤ וְאֶת ֤

H589

But I am poor

H6041

וְאֶבְיוֹן ֤ yet the Lord

H34

H136

thinketh

H0

עַזְבָּת ֤

וְמִפְלָט ֤

בְּתָה ֤

upon me thou art my help

and my deliverer

H859

H5833

O my God

H408

H6403

H430

תַּאֲכִרָה:

make no tarrying

H309

Additional Cross-References

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

Isaiah 41:17 (References God): When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

Psalms 34:6 (References Lord): This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Hebrews 13:6 (References Lord): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

1 Peter 5:7 (Parallel theme): Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Psalms 54:4 (References God): Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.

Psalms 40:5 (References God): Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

James 2:5 (References God): Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

Revelation 22:20 (References Lord): He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Psalms 86:1 (References Lord): Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I am poor and needy.

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