

Psalms 69:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Analysis

But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

After describing comprehensive mockery (verses 10-12), David pivots dramatically with "But as for me" (וְאֵי/va'ani). While enemies mock, David prays. Where others deride, David petitions. This contrast reveals the fundamental divide: enemies address their mockery to each other and to David; David addresses his supplication to Yahweh.

"My prayer is unto thee" emphasizes direction and focus. David doesn't defend himself to mockers, doesn't answer slander with slander, doesn't seek vindication through human means. His response to comprehensive rejection is comprehensive prayer. "In an acceptable time" (עֵת רָצוֹן/et ratzon) literally means "a time of favor" or "propitious time," acknowledging God's sovereignty over timing.

"In the multitude of thy mercy" (בְּרַב חַסְדֶּךָ/berav chasdekha) grounds the appeal in God's covenant love (chesed), not David's merit. "Truth of thy salvation" (אֱמֶת יִשְׁעֶךָ/emet yish'ekha) combines faithfulness and deliverance—God's reliable, faithful character guarantees He will save.

Historical Context

This verse marks a crucial turn in the psalm's structure, transitioning from lament to petition. Ancient Near Eastern lament psalms typically followed a pattern: complaint, petition, confidence in divine hearing, and often praise. This verse begins the petition section, grounding appeal in God's character and covenant faithfulness rather than human merit.

"Acceptable time" may reference liturgical language—times appointed for prayer and sacrifice. It also reflects wisdom theology recognizing divine sovereignty over historical timing (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

Paul later quotes this phrase in 2 Corinthians 6:2, declaring, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," applying it to the gospel age.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does turning to prayer rather than self-defense or retaliation demonstrate trust in God's justice and timing?
2. What does it mean practically to pray "in an acceptable time" while suffering, waiting for God's appointed moment?
3. How does grounding prayer in God's character (mercy, truth) rather than our worthiness change how we approach Him?

Interlinear Text

וְאֲנִי	תְּפִלָּתי	לְךָ	יְהוָה	עַתָּה
H589	But as for me my prayer	H0	is unto thee O LORD	time
	H8605		H3068	H6256
בְּצֶלֶן	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	בְּרַב	חַסְדֶּךָ	עֲיֵי נִי
in an acceptable	O God	in the multitude	of thy mercy	hear
H7522	H430	H7230	H2617	H6030
בְּאֵמֶת	יִשְׁעֶךָ:			
me in the truth	of thy salvation			
H571	H3468			

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 6:2 (Salvation): (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Isaiah 49:8 (Salvation): Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

1 Samuel 25:8 (Prayer): Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

Hebrews 5:7 (Salvation): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Isaiah 55:6 (References Lord): Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Genesis 24:27 (Grace): And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren.

1 Peter 2:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Psalms 98:3 (Salvation): He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalms 32:6 (Prayer): For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.