

Psalm 69:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.

Analysis

Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters. David returns to the drowning imagery from verse 2, intensifying the plea with "mire" (טַּעַת/tit)—thick mud or clay that entraps and suffocates. "Let me not sink" (אַל-אֶתְבָּעַת/al-etba'ah) uses the verb for sinking beneath water's surface, drowning. The double petition—"deliver me" and "let me be delivered"—emphasizes urgency and desperation.

"From them that hate me" (מִשְׁתַּאֲי/misonai) identifies enemies not as mere opponents but as those who bear active hatred. "Deep waters" (מִמְּאַמְּקָדָם/mima'amqde'ah) continues the drowning metaphor—not shallow, manageable troubles but overwhelming, life-threatening floods beyond human ability to navigate.

The language anticipates Jonah (Jonah 2:3-5) and prefigures Christ's descent into death. Jesus spoke of His coming death as a "baptism" He must undergo (Luke 12:50), an overwhelming flood.

Historical Context

Mire and deep waters functioned as common biblical metaphors for mortal danger and overwhelming trouble (Psalm 40:2, 69:2, Lamentations 3:54). Ancient Israel's geography included treacherous wadis (dry riverbeds) that could flash flood suddenly, and marshes near water sources where one could become fatally stuck.

The plea for deliverance from enemies echoes throughout Davidic psalms, reflecting his historical experience fleeing Saul, battling hostile nations, and facing Absalom's rebellion.

In Christian interpretation, this became paradigmatic of Christ's passion. He sank into death's waters, descended into the mire of sin and judgment (though personally sinless, bearing sin's penalty), and emerged victorious.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What "mire" in your life feels like it's pulling you under, and how do you cry out to God from that place?
2. How does recognizing that enemies may truly hate us (not merely misunderstand us) affect our prayers and expectations?
3. In what ways does Christ's descent into death's waters and emergence in resurrection provide hope for our present drowning experiences?

Interlinear Text

אָנַצֵּל הָ	מִטִּיט	וְאֶל	אָטַב עָה	אָנַצֵּל הָ	Deliver
Deliver	me out of the mire	H408	and let me not sink	Deliver	
H5337	H2916		H2883	H5337	
מִן־שְׁנָאָי	מִן־עַמְקָי	מִן־			
from them that hate	me and out of the deep	H4615	waters		
H8130			H4325		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 144:7 (Parallel theme): Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children;

Psalms 109:3 (Parallel theme): They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause.

Psalms 42:7 (Parallel theme): Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

Psalms 109:21 (Parallel theme): But do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.

Psalms 42:2 (Parallel theme): My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

Psalms 35:19 (Parallel theme): Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

Psalms 69:15 (Parallel theme): Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.

Mark 15:34 (Parallel theme): And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Luke 19:27 (Parallel theme): But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Luke 19:14 (Parallel theme): But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

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