

# Psalm 89:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.

## Analysis

**Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.** This verse recalls God's revelation through the prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 7:4-17), where God promised David an eternal dynasty. The phrase "in vision" (ḥāzōn, חָזֹן) indicates prophetic revelation, the same term used for Isaiah and other major prophets' revelations. God speaks **to thy holy one**—likely Nathan, though plural "holy ones" (ḥāsîdîm, חָסִידִים) could refer to faithful prophets or saints who received this revelation.

**I have laid help upon one that is mighty** uses the Hebrew šiwwîtî 'ēzer (שִׁוּוּתִי 'ֵזֶר), literally "I have placed help." The "mighty one" (gibbôr, גַּבּוֹר) refers to David the warrior-king, chosen not for his strength but given divine strength. **I have exalted one chosen** employs bāhîr (בָּחִיר), emphasizing God's sovereign election. This "choosing from among the people" recalls David's humble origins as the youngest son, a shepherd—God's pattern of choosing the weak to shame the strong (1 Corinthians 1:27).

This verse establishes divine initiative in the Davidic covenant. God chose, God exalted, God provided strength. The ultimate fulfillment is Christ, the mighty one laid as our help (Isaiah 42:1), the chosen one exalted from among humanity yet divine.

## Historical Context

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This verse refers to the prophetic word given through Nathan around 1000 BCE, after David had conquered Jerusalem and desired to build God a temple (2 Samuel 7). Instead of David building God a house, God promised to build David a house—a dynasty. This oracle became foundational to Israel's royal theology and messianic hope. Written during or after the exile when the Davidic monarchy had fallen, Psalm 89 wrestles with how God's promises could still stand when no Davidic king ruled.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's sovereign choice of David demonstrate that divine election is based on grace rather than human merit?
2. In what ways does David's anointing as 'one chosen out of the people' prefigure Christ's identification with humanity?
3. How should the fact that God 'laid help' on His chosen one encourage believers facing overwhelming challenges?

## Interlinear Text

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אַתָּה שֹׁאֵל וְאַתָּה תֹּאמֶר  
H227 Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one and saidst I have laid help  
H1696 H2377 H2623 H559 H7737 H5828

עַל מְעַל בְּחֵרֶב וְבְרִימָה וְתִתְּהִלֵּל  
H5921 upon one that is mighty I have exalted H970 out of the people  
H1368 H7311 H5971

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 16:18** (Parallel theme): Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

**1 Kings 11:34** (Parallel theme): Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes:

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