

# Psalms 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" (ḥāzôn, חֲזוֹן) 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, חֲסִידִים) could refer to faithful prophets or saints who received this revelation.

**I have laid help upon one that is mighty** uses the Hebrew šiwwîṭî 'ezer (שִׁוְוִיטִי עֶזֶר), literally "I have placed help." The "mighty one" (gibbôr, גִּבּוֹר) refers to David the warrior-king, chosen not for his strength but given divine strength. **I have exalted one chosen** employs bāḥîr (בָּחַר), 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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אָז	דָּבַרְתָּ	בְּחֵזֶן	לְחֹסֶדְךָ יְיָ	וְאָמַרְתָּ	שֶׁנִּי יָתִיתִי	עֲזָרָה
H227	Then thou spakest	in vision	to thy holy one	and saidst	I have laid	help
	H1696	H2377	H2623	H559	H7737	H5828
עַל	גִּבּוֹר	הִרְמִיתִי	בְּחֵזֶן	מִמֶּנּוּ:		
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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