

Psalm 70-79

A Call for Deliverance

CHARACTERS: David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 70

DAVID: God, deliver me. Hurry to help me, Lord!

ALL: Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;

DAVID: let those who love Your salvation continually say,

ALL: God is great!

DAVID: I am afflicted and needy; hurry to me, God.

ALL: You are my help and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.

Psalm 71 God's Help in Old Age

CHARACTERS: David, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 71

DAVID: Lord, I seek refuge in You; let me never be disgraced.

ALL: Be a rock of refuge for me, where I can always go.

DAVID: Give the command to save me, for You are my hope, Lord God,

ALL: my confidence from my youth.

DAVID: I have leaned on You from birth;

ALL: You took me from my mother's womb.

DAVID: Don't discard me in my old age;

ALL: as my strength fails, do not abandon me.

ENEMY: God has abandoned him; chase him and catch him, for there is no one to rescue him.

DAVID: God, do not be far from me;

ALL: my God, hurry to help me.

DAVID: May my enemies be disgraced and destroyed;

ALL: may those who seek my harm be covered with disgrace and humiliation.

DAVID: But I will hope continually and will praise You more and more.

ALL: I will proclaim Your righteousness, Yours alone.

DAVID: God, You have taught me from my youth,

ALL: and I still proclaim Your wonderful works.

DAVID: Even when I am old and gray, God, do not abandon me.

ALL: Then I will proclaim Your power to another generation,

DAVID: Your righteousness reaches heaven, God, You who have done great things;

ALL: God, who is like You?

Psalm 72 A Prayer for the King

CHARACTERS: Solomon, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 72

SOLOMON: God, give Your justice to the king

ALL: and Your righteousness to the king's son.

SOLOMON: May he vindicate the afflicted among the people,

ALL: help the poor, and crush the oppressor.

SOLOMON: May he continue while the sun endures

ALL: and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

SOLOMON: May he be like rain that falls on the cut grass,

ALL: like spring showers that water the earth.

SOLOMON: May the righteous flourish in his days

ALL: and prosperity abound until the moon is no more.

SOLOMON: For he will rescue the poor who cry out and the afflicted who have no helper.

ALL: He will have pity on the poor and helpless and save the lives of the poor.

SOLOMON: He will redeem them from oppression and violence, for their lives are precious in his sight.

ALL: May he live long!

SOLOMON: May people flourish in the cities like the grass of the field.

ALL: May his name endure forever; as long as the sun shines,

SOLOMON: may his fame increase.

ALL: May all nations be blessed by him and call him blessed.

SOLOMON: May the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wonders, be praised.

ALL: May His glorious name be praised forever;

SOLOMON: the whole earth is filled with His glory.

ALL: Amen and amen.

Psalm 73 God's Ways Vindicated

CHARACTERS: Solomon, All, Arrogant (who must deliver lines arrogantly)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 73

SOLOMON: God is indeed good to the pure in heart. But as for me, my feet almost slipped;

ALL: my steps nearly went astray for I envied the arrogant;

ARROGANT: (*boasting*) I've got it made. I prosper in all I do.

ALL: They have an easy time until they die, and their bodies are well fed.

ARROGANT: I am not in trouble like others or afflicted like most people.

ALL: Therefore, pride is their necklace, and violence covers them like a garment.

SOLOMON: The imaginations of their hearts run wild.

ALL: They mock, and they speak maliciously; they arrogantly threaten oppression.

SOLOMON: They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues strut across the earth.

ARROGANT: How can God know? Does the Most High know everything?"

SOLOMON: (*disgusted and discouraged*) Look at them—the wicked!

ALL: They are always at ease, and they increase their wealth.

SOLOMON: (*hopeless*) Did I purify my heart and wash my hands in innocence for nothing?

ALL: When I tried to understand all this, it seemed hopeless

SOLOMON: until I entered God's sanctuary. Then I understood the destiny of the wicked who seem to flourish here on Earth.

ALL: God put them in slippery places and make them fall into ruin.

SOLOMON: How suddenly they become a desolation!

ALL: They come to an end, swept away by terrors.

SOLOMON: When I became embittered and my innermost being was wounded, I was stupid and didn't understand;

ALL: I was an unthinking animal toward You.

SOLOMON: Yet I am always with You; You hold my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel,

ALL: (*enraptured*) and afterward You will take me up in glory.

SOLOMON: Who do I have in heaven but You? And I desire nothing on earth but You.

ALL: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart,

SOLOMON: my portion forever.

ALL: I have made the Lord God my refuge, so I can tell about all You do.

Psalm 74 Prayer for Israel

CHARACTERS: Asaph, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 74

ASAPH: Why have You rejected us forever, God?

ALL: Why does Your anger burn against the sheep of Your pasture?

ASAPH: Remember Your congregation, which You purchased long ago and redeemed as the tribe for Your own possession.

ALL: Our enemies are like men in a thicket of trees, wielding axes, smashing all the carvings with hatchets and picks.

ASAPH: They set Your sanctuary on fire;

ALL: they utterly desecrated the dwelling place of Your name.

ENEMY: Let us oppress them relentlessly, burning down every place where God met them.

ASAPH: God, how long will the enemy mock?

ALL: Will the foe insult Your name forever?

ASAPH: Why do You hold back Your hand?

ALL: Stretch out Your right hand and destroy them!

ASAPH: God my King is from ancient times, performing saving acts on the earth.

ALL: You divided the sea with Your strength;

ASAPH: The day is Yours, also the night;

ALL: You established the moon and the sun.

ASAPH: You set all the boundaries of the earth;

ALL: You made summer and winter.

ASAPH: Do not give the life of Your dove to beasts;

ALL: do not forget the lives of Your poor people forever.

ASAPH: Consider the covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of violence.

ALL: Do not let the oppressed turn away in shame;

ASAPH: let the poor and needy praise Your name.

ALL: Rise up, God, defend Your cause!

Psalm 75 God Judges the Wicked

CHARACTERS: Asaph, Voice of God, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 75

ASAPH: We give thanks to You, God;

ALL: we give thanks to You, for Your name is near.

ASAPH: People tell about Your wonderful works.

VOICE OF GOD: When I choose a time, I will judge fairly. When the earth and all its inhabitants shake, I am the One who steadies its pillars.

ALL: God says to the boastful and wicked

VOICE OF GOD: Do not boast or speak arrogantly.

ASAPH: God is the Judge: He brings down one and exalts another.

ASAPH: As for me, I will tell about Him forever;

ALL: I will sing praise to the God of Jacob.

Psalm 76 God, the Powerful Judge

CHARACTERS: Asaph, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 76

ASAPH: God shatters the bow's flaming arrows,

ALL: the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.

ASAPH: You are resplendent and majestic coming down from the mountains of prey.

ALL: At Your rebuke, God of Jacob, both chariot and horse lay still.

ASAPH: And You—You are to be feared.

ALL: When You are angry, who can stand before You?

ASAPH: From heaven, You pronounced judgment.

ALL: The earth feared and grew quiet

ASAPH: when God rose up to judge and to save all the lowly of the earth.

ALL: Make and keep your vows to the Lord your God; to the awe-inspiring One.

ASAPH: He humbles the spirit of leaders;

ALL: He is feared by the kings of the earth.

Psalm 77 Confidence in a Time of Crisis

CHARACTERS: Asaph, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 77

ASAPH: I cry aloud to God, and He will hear me.

ALL: I sought the Lord in my day of trouble.

ASAPH: My hands were continually lifted up all night long;

ALL: I refused to be comforted.

ASAPH: God, you have kept me from closing my eyes;

ALL: I am troubled and cannot speak.

ASAPH: I consider days of old, I meditate in my heart, and my spirit ponders.

ALL: Will the Lord reject forever and never again show favor?

ASAPH: Has His faithful love ceased forever?

ALL: Is His promise at an end for all generations?

ASAPH: Has God forgotten to be gracious?

ALL: Has He in anger withheld His compassion?

ASAPH: I will remember the Lord's works;

ALL: Yes, I will remember Your ancient wonders.

ASAPH: I will reflect on all You have done and meditate on Your actions.

ALL: We remember how you delivered Moses

ALL: And the whole of Israel at the Red Sea.

ALL: God, Your way is holy. What god is great like God?

ASAPH: You are the God who works wonders;

ALL: The waters saw You, God; they trembled.

ASAPH: Even the depths shook.

ALL: The clouds poured down water.

ASAPH: The storm clouds thundered; Your arrows flashed back and forth.

ASAPH: The sound of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;

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ALL: lightning lit up the world; the earth shook and quaked.

ASAPH: Your way went through the sea and Your path through the great waters,

ALL: but Your footprints were unseen.

ASAPH: You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalm 78 Lessons from Israel's Past

CHARACTERS: Asaph, All, Scoffer

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 78

ASAPH: I will speak mysteries from the past—

ALL: things we have heard and known and that our fathers have passed down to us.

ASAPH: We must not hide them from the children,

ALL: but must tell a future generation the praises of the Lord,

ASAPH: His might, and the wonderful works He has performed.

ALL: He commanded our fathers to teach to their children so that a future generation—children yet to be born—might know.

ASAPH: They were to rise and tell their children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works,

ALL: but keep His commands unlike their fathers,

ASAPH: a stubborn and rebellious generation,

ALL: a generation whose heart was not loyal and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

ASAPH: God worked wonders in the land of Egypt

ALL: He split the sea and brought Israel across;

ASAPH: the water stood firm like a wall.

ALL: He led them with a cloud by day and with a fiery light throughout the night.

ASAPH: He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as abundant as the depths.

ALL: He brought streams out of the stone and made water flow down like rivers.

ASAPH: (sadly) But they continued to sin against Him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

SCOFFER: Is God able to provide food in the wilderness?

ASAPH: The Lord heard and became furious; because they did not believe God or rely on His salvation.

ALL: He opened the doors of heaven.

ASAPH: He rained manna for them to eat.

ALL: People ate the bread of angels, an abundant supply of food.

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ASAPH: He made the east wind blow in the skies and drove the south wind by His might.

ALL: He rained meat on them like dust, and winged birds like the sand of the seas.

ASAPH: They ate and were completely satisfied, but while the food was still in their mouths,

ALL: God's anger flared up against them, and He killed some of their best men.

ASAPH: Despite all this, they kept sinning and did not believe His wonderful works.

ALL: When He killed some of them, the rest began to seek Him;

ASAPH: they repented and searched for God.

ALL: They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God, their Redeemer.

ASAPH: God was compassionate, atoned for their guilt and did not destroy them.

ALL: He often turned His anger aside and did not unleash all His wrath.

ASAPH: He remembered that they were only flesh, a wind that passes and does not return.

ALL: How often they rebelled against Him in the wilderness and grieved Him in the desert.

ASAPH: They constantly tested God and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

ALL: They did not remember His power shown on the day He redeemed them from the foe,

ASAPH: God performed His miraculous signs in Egypt

ALL: He turned their rivers into blood,

ASAPH: He sent among them swarms of flies and frogs, which devastated them.

ALL: He gave their crops to the locust and killed their vines with hail

ASAPH: He struck all the firstborn in Egypt.

ALL: He led His people out like sheep and guided them like a flock in the wilderness.

ASAPH: He led them safely, and they were not afraid; but the sea covered their enemies.

ALL: He brought them to His holy land, driving out nations before them.

ASAPH: But they rebelliously tested the Most High God,

ALL: They treacherously turned away like their fathers;

ASAPH: They became warped like a faulty bow worshipping that which was not God.

ALL: God completely rejected Israel and surrendered His people to the sword

ASAPH: Later, God chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds;

ALL: He brought him from tending ewes to be shepherd over His people.

ASAPH: He shepherded them with a pure heart

ALL: and guided them with his skillful hands.

Psalm 79 Faith amid Confusion

CHARACTERS: Asaph, ALL, Sneering enemy

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalm 79

ASAPH: God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance, desecrated Your holy temple, and turned Jerusalem into ruins.

ALL: They poured out their blood like water and there was no one to bury them.

ASAPH: How long, Yahweh? Will You be angry forever?

ALL: Pour out Your wrath on the nations that don't acknowledge You,

ASAPH: Do not hold past sins against us;

ALL: Let Your compassion come to us quickly, for we have become weak.

ASAPH: God of our salvation, help us— for the glory of Your name.

ALL: Deliver us and atone for our sins, because of Your name. Why should the nations ask,

SNEERING ENEMY: Where is their God?

ASAPH: Let the groans of the prisoners reach You;

ALL: according to Your great power, preserve those condemned to die.

ASAPH: Then we, Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will thank You forever;

ALL: we will declare Your praise to generation after generation.