

Psalm 70

Prayer during the Day Wednesday Week 3

Prayer during the Day Office for the Dead

This is a plea for God's help. It is a duplicate of Psalm 40 verses 13 to 17 (see the commentary). The slight variations are noted below. Its title reads: 'To the leader. Of David, for the memorial offering.'

Psalm 40:13 has 'YHWH, please free me'.

YHWH, do not stand aside! O my strength,
come quickly to my aid!

– Psalm 22:19

Make haste to help me, O Lord, my deliverance.

– Psalm 38:22

The psalmist prays that those who are opposing him will fail. Psalm 40:15 has 'let those who say 'Aha! Aha!' remain aghast because of their shame'

Do not let them say, 'We have devoured you.'
Let all those who rejoice at my calamity be put to
shame and confusion; let those who exalt themselves
against me be clothed with shame and dishonour.

– Psalm 35:25-26

O my God, in you I trust that I will not be put to
shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
All those who hope in you are not put to shame;
those who are ashamed are those who are wantonly
disloyal.

– Psalm 25:2-3

Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who
seek to hurt me speak of ruin, and think up treachery
all day long.

– Psalm 38:12

The evil that my enemies carry out will turn back
upon them. In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

– Psalm 54:5

Note the contrast. He speaks here of those who seek God (not those who seek his life); those who desire the psalmist's salvation (not his harm); those who proclaim: 'Great is God!' (not 'Aha'). Psalm 40:16 has 'Great is YHWH!'

Psalm 40:17 has: 'As for me, I am poor and needy; *but YHWH takes thought for me.* You are my help and my deliverer. O my God, do not delay.'

¹O God, please free me.

YHWH*, make haste to help me!

**²Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confu-
sion . Let those who desire
to harm me be repulsed and
disgraced .**

**³Let those who say, 'Aha,
Aha!' be turned back in
shame.**

**⁴May all who seek you re-
joice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your
saving* presence say con-
tinually, 'Great is God!'**

**⁵I am poor* and needy*;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my
deliverer; YHWH, do not
delay!**