

Psalm 86:14–17

¹⁴O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them.

¹⁵But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

¹⁶Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant.

¹⁷Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Psalm 86, Part Three
Psalm 86:14–17

INTRO:

We have come a long way since we eavesdropped on David's prayer closet in the first part of **Psalm 86**. We listen to David's pleading for the Lord to answer His prayer in the opening verses. His pleas were not because he doubted God would hear and answer. Rather they were pleas to remind David of the One Who was his hope. He was David's Adonai, Yahweh, and Elohim.

In the second stanza, **verses 8-12**, we learned how great David's God is. The LORD reigns over all the nations. There is none like Him. Because this is true, David pleads to be taught the ways of God, assuring Him that he has determined already he will walk in them. He has one request. That God will unify his divided heart so he will fear Him and be rightly related to Him.

In this final stanza we learn of the trouble that squeezed this prayer from David. We learn of David's trouble, His resource in God, and finally, his requests in view of who God is.

I. David's Trouble (v. 14)

II. David's Refuge (v. 15)

III. David's Request (v. 16-17)

I. David's Trouble (v. 14)

Psalm 86:14 ***“O God, the proud have risen against me, And a mob of violent men have sought my life, And have not set You before them.”***

A. Perhaps the most surprising thing about this verse is that it appears so late in the Psalm. We are often so overwhelmed with our problems, we don't take time to consider Who our help is before we run into His presence.

1. We can draw a great lesson here. David spends time reciting his relationship with God and pleading to be heard, underlining his assurance of an answer, and thinking of the sovereign power of God before he trots out his problem.

2. This is often the way the saints of the Old Testament do it. Remember Jehoshaphat? In **2 Chronicles 20**, Jehoshaphat starts praying in **verse 6**. His plea for deliverance from this impossible situation does not appear until **verse 10**. Let me just give a glimpse of how Jehoshaphat prayed.

“O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?”

Jehoshaphat could not bring his request until he rushed into God's character.

B. This was no small problem. David states it plainly and emphatically to God. First, ***“O God, the proud have risen against me.”*** (Psalm 86:14) These are men who think they can overcome me and have their confidence in their might. David then rhymed the thought. ***“And a mob of violent men have sought my life.”*** (v.14) These men are not just arrogant they are deadly. They want to kill me. Finally, David underlines their thinking. ***“And have not set You before them.”*** (v.14) These men have no place for God and His way.

II. David's Refuge (v. 15)

Psalm 86:15 ***“But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth”***

A. What is the answer to an impossible situation? It is an infinite God. David quotes from **Exodus 34:5-6**.

“Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.’”

B. In quoting this David brings those singing the Psalm with him back to the revelation of God's nature to Moses in **Exodus**. He also provides us an example of what **Proverbs 18:10** means.

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.”

We can rely on God in the midst of the crisis because we know what God is like.

C. We find help also in that David relied on the LORD’s mercy, compassion, and faithfulness. He was not arrogantly independent like his enemies.

Psalm 25:6–7 ***“Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness’ sake, O LORD.”***

While David knew he wasn’t sinless, He knew his God was merciful and compassionate.

III. David’s Request (v. 16-17)

vs.16-17 ***“Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant. Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.”***

A. David closed his prayer with two requests. First, he asked God to have mercy on him and give him strength to cope with his enemies.

v.16 ***“Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, And save the son of Your maidservant.”***

After David has reminded himself about Who this God is Whom he is asking this from, he offers his supplications be known to his God.

1. He first recognized that he could not plead that he deserved anything. God’s provision is always a matter of grace.

2. Second, he did not ask the LORD to wipe out his enemies, but that He would give him strength to cope with them.

B. He asked for God to give him evidence of His blessing.

v.17 ***“Show me a sign for good, That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me”***

David wanted God to get the glory for all that He did for him.

Hymn #56 *Day by Day*