

Psalm 69

4. ⁶(O God) of Hosts defend and stay,
all those that trust in thee:
Let no man doubt or shrink away,
for ought that chanceth me.
⁷It is for thee, and for thy sake,
that I do bear this blame:
In spite of thee, they would me make,
to hide my face for shame.
5. ⁸My mother's sons my brethren all,
forsake me on a row:
And as a stranger they me call,
my face they will not know.
⁹Unto thy house such zeal I bear,
that it doth pine me much:
Their cheeks and taunts at thee, to hear,
my very heart doth grudge.
6. ¹⁰Though I do fast my flesh to chaste,
yea, if I weep and moan:
Yet in my teeth this gear is cast,
they pass not thereupon.
¹¹If I for grief, and pain of heart,
in sackcloth use to walk:
Then they anon will it pervert,
thereof they jest and talk.
7. ¹²I was a talk to all the throng,
that sat within the gate:
The drunkards likewise in their song,
of me did talk and prate.²⁵
¹³But thee the while (O Lord) I pray,
that when it pleaseth thee:
For thy great truth thou wilt alway,
send down thine aid to me.
8. ¹⁴Pluck thou my feet out of the mire,
from sinking do me keep:
From such as me pursue with ire,
and from the waters deep.
¹⁵Lest with the waves I should be drowned,
and depth my soul devour:
And that the pit should me confound,
and shut me in her power.
9. ¹⁶O Lord of Hosts to me give ear,
as thou art good and kind:
And as thy mercy is most dear,
Lord have me in thy mind.
¹⁷And do not from thy servant hide,
nor turn thy face away:
I am oppressed on every side,
in haste give ear I say.
10. ¹⁸O Lord unto my soul draw nigh,
the same with aid repose:
Because of their great tyranny,
acquitt me from my foes.
¹⁹That I abide rebuke and shame,
thou knowest, and thou canst tell:
For those that seek and work the same
thou seest them all full well.
11. ²⁰When they with brags do break my heart
I seek for help anone.²⁶
But find no friends to ease my smart,
to comfort me not one.
²¹but in my meat they gave me gall,
too cruel for to think:
And gave me in my thirst withal,
strong vinegar to drink.
12. ²²Lord turn their table to a snare,
to take themselves therein:
And when they think full well to fare,
then trap them in the gin.
²³And let their eyes be dark and blind,
that they may nothing see:
Bow down their backs, and do them bind,
in thraldom for to be.
13. ²⁴Pour out thy wrath as hot as fire,
that it on them may fall:
Let thy displeasure in thine ire,
take hold upon them all.
²⁵As desert dry their house disgrace,
their offspring eke expel:
That none thereof possess their place,
nor in their tents do dwell.

²⁵ To talk excessively and pointlessly; babble.

²⁶ Anon.