

## *God Hears*

Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17 (June 21, 2020)

### ***Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17***

1Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.  
2Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God;  
3be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.  
4Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
5For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.  
6Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.  
7In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.  
8There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.  
9All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.  
10For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

16Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.  
17Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

### ***Historical Context***

Psalm 86 is a psalm attributed to David. It stands out as such in the midst of a collection of psalms associated with the Korah priests. The psalm is often seen as a recapitulation of earlier Davidic collections. Connections with earlier psalms and other texts have often led to the conclusion that Psalm 86 is something of a compendium of other biblical texts.

A common feature in ancient literature is the use of structure to highlight a main idea. In Psalm 86 David uses a distinct structure to show what's central to his thinking. While the psalm starts and ends with references to his situation and his requests for salvation, the center sections of the psalm are completely focused on God and David's devotion to God.

### ***Theme: God Hears***

*When People are Big and God is Small* is the title of a book which suggests that we are prone to giving more weight to what other people say than to what God says. In our thoughts we make people big and God small.

In a similar way many of us are guilty of seeing our situations and thinking they are too big or too complicated while at the same time minimizing the power and care of God. We are guilty of believing that *our situations are big and God is small*.

In Psalm 86 we see a prayer of a man who has a proper perspective. While he finds himself in a difficult situation, he remains confident that God hears and is able to save him. In verse 5, David recounts the ways God relates to His people. He's sure that even though his situation is dire, his God is bigger and desires to show mercy to those whom He loves.