

Psalm 3

A Psalm of David When He Fled from Absalom His Son.

1 LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me.

2 Many are they who say of me, "There is no help for him in God." Selah

3 But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

4 I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.
Selah

5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.

6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around.

7 Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.

8 Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah

Trust in a Hard Place

Psalm 3

The hymn writer wrote, "Simply trusting every day." Yet, if you have known the Lord Jesus for any length of time, you know that trusting Him is not a simple thing, It can be a very difficult thing to do. This is exacerbated by the fact that our adversary the Devil does everything he can to keep us from trusting. Today we visit a time in King David's life when trusting God was hard to do, yet David did trust and God blessed him in a unique way. May we learn from David how to trust in a very hard place.

I. The Hard Place (vs. 1-2)

II. David's Glorious God (vs. 3-4)

III. Trust in Action (vs. 5-8)

I. The Hard Place (vs. 1-2)

“A Psalm of David When He Fled from Absalom His Son. ‘LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, ‘There is no help for him in God.’ Selah.” (Psalm 3:title–2)

A. We are told many times in the Old Testament David was “the man after God’s own heart.” Being the man who had Yahweh’s high esteem was one who often knew trouble. As we read the Psalms, we realize that at times David had distresses by the truckload.

B. In this Psalm, the danger David faced was largely of his own making. David sinned with Bathsheba and killed Uriah. Although Yahweh graciously forgave David at his confession, He promised the sword would never depart from his family. Absalom, David’s son, stole the hearts of the people away from David and David had to flee Jerusalem and was living in peril of his life.

1. When David fled many cried, some rejoiced and cursed King David. When we read, ***“LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, ‘There is no help for him in God,’”*** we need to hear Shimei in ***2 Samuel 16:7-8***. ***“Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: ‘Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!’”***

2. This was no small problem. David was in peril of his life and his kingdom.

II. David’s Glorious God (vs. 3-4)

A. So what do you do when your world is falling apart? David reminded himself about the nature of his God. Even when his enemies loudly proclaimed there was no help for him in God, David still fled to God. People who know the Lord keep running back to Him. ***“But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my***

head. I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah.” (Psalm 3:3-4)

B. David wrote Yahweh was his shield. Yahweh the personal faithful God of Israel and David’s God was David’s protector.

C. Yahweh was also David’s glory. To get this statement we need to remember in Genesis, after Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, he sent them back to Jacob and instructed them to tell him of all of Joseph’s glory. In Absalom’s mind David’s glory was his kingdom and all he had.

David said to God, my kingdom, my possessions, and my reputation are NOT my glory. You. LORD, alone are my glory.

How about us? Is the Lord alone, our glory?

There could be a second idea here. When Israel rose up against Moses or the two obedient spies, God’s glory appeared in the tent of meeting. God’s glory appeared to deliver and protect His leaders.

D. Yahweh is a restoring God. He will lift David’s head. To wrap our heads around this expression we need to remember when Joseph was in prison in Genesis 40. Remember the cupbearer who got put in prison. When Pharaoh lifted his head, he restored the cupbearer to his high position. David knew God as the Lord who would restore him.

E. Yahweh was also the God who heard and answered his prayer. ***“I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill.”*** When David fled Jerusalem, the priests tried to flee with him. They thought they should bring the Ark of the Covenant with them. David sent them back to return the ark to its proper place. Now David cries out to God and even though he is not in the geographical place of God’s worship, he knows the God of the universe heard and answered his prayers.

III. Trust in Action (vs. 5-8)

A. Finally, we see David’s trust in action. ***“I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck***

all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah.” (Psalm 3:5-8)

B. First, David lays down and sleeps. Wait! How can David do this? Absalom is still in Jerusalem and plotting to kill him. David is still in hiding in the wilderness and in peril of his life.

What has changed? David remembered who His God is. He prayed to Yahweh and in the midst of the trial David trusted God enough to leave the trouble with Him and to get the sleep he needed.

David knew how to trust God. Even if thousands were against him, he would not be afraid.

C. Why was he not afraid? First, because of what he knew about his God. Second, because he knew how God operated. The words of verses 7-8 recall the scene in ***Numbers 10:35. “So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: ‘Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You.’”*** Moses reminded Israel that the God of the universe went with them in their wanderings and He would not be silent if they needed Him. David desired that God incapacitate his foes and restore him to his place, because he knew deliverance was from the LORD. Contrary to those who said there was no help in God for David, in God was the only place there was help.

Two Things to Take Away

How seriously do we take spiritual warfare today? Do we recognize our adversary uses all manner of things against us? The things of this world do not help us on to God or help us become the people He wants us to be?

Second, do we know how to trust God like David did? Trust comes from intimate knowledge of the one trusted. David trusted God because He knew Him well. So, when the trouble came, the vicious verbal attacks and the physical danger, David knew how to flee to his God and find peace and deliverance. Do we?

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