

Shield, glory, and lifter

*But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.
I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.
Psalms 3:3-4*

While the impact of this passage is significant, it is even more meaningful when we consider the occasion of its writing. The heading of Psalm 3 tells us that David wrote this when he fled from Absalom his son. Among the various desperate circumstances that David faced in his life, this one had also the compounding sorrow of betrayal by his own son. The anguish of David's heart and soul at this point would seem to be insurmountable, as he would also, no doubt, remember his own contribution to the situation in which he now found himself. This certainly could be cause for David to throw in the towel on his spiritual life and any expectation of further blessing from the Lord, as seemed to be the case when he forbade the proposed retribution upon the cursing Shimei (II Sam. 16:10). And though he feels yet another blow of the Lord's chastening hand, he still remembers that his only hope remains in the Lord. There is no other place to turn. So, as he has in his past often cried out in anguish to God, David turns again in faith to his shield and buckler, whom he knows can lift his head up out of his position of shame and even bestow His glory in this time of dire need. While he contemplates in verse two the echoes, perhaps from his own mind, that there is no help for him in God, that Selah allows him to recall the mercy and lovingkindness of his gracious Lord and return the glorious answer that we behold in our text. So, my dear wounded fellow-soldier, let us also remember that the God of all comfort is also our only recourse, shield, and glory, and let us cry unto His holiness to lift up our heads, even in the midst of unbearable sorrow, and in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known unto God.

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