

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

About Psalm 3

- a song of a father in distress
- the most heartbreaking episode in David's life?
- written as he was fleeing from the capital city of Jerusalem

About Absalom

- Most handsome man in the kingdom of Israel... Oh! That hair!
- mother was the daughter of the King of Geshur, in Syria.
- Geshur was land that should have been conquered by Israel (Tribe of Manasseh)

The Backstory

- Absalom’s sister Tamar was violated by their half-brother, Amnon.
- Absalom avenged Tamar by having Amnon murdered.
- He then fled to the land of Geshur, where he stayed for three years.
- David ended up allowing Absalom to come back from exile, but did nothing else.
- Absalom began to plot to win the people and replace David as king.
- Psalm 3 is composed as David flees the city

A time of great shaking and powerful emotion in David’s life:

- *Betrayal:* family betrayal, very difficult
- *Ingratitude:* betrayed by many of the people for whom he had done so much
- *Fear:* fear of death and fear of the destruction of the city of God. There’s also fear of the death of other family members.
- *Discomfort:* David was now elderly
- *Slander:* David has been accused of being an unjust king; why did people say “there is no help for him in God?”
- *Spiritual Confusion:* Anyone would have questioned himself and wondered why this was happening, and why God was allowing this. Absalom’s name means “father of peace.”

How did David respond to betrayal and all those other emotions? He encouraged himself and rose up in faith as he always seemed to!

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.

- 2 Samuel 15 tells us that the conspiracy of Absalom was strong and growing one.
- Absalom had a resentment problem. When resentments are nursed, they grow into roots of bitterness and defile your spirit. You begin to develop plans and schemes to get back at that person. And those plans are eventually acted upon!
- David now delivers the first “selah” in the Psalms. A *selah* is a pause or a suspension: we stop to reflect.
- So there are three powerful things for you in that short little verse 3:
 - We need protection from God (shield)
 - We need vindication from God (glory)
 - We need encouragement from God (lifter of 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.

- David cried unto the Lord. He called out! Is my praying too timid and too polite?
- When David prayed, he sensed God had answered him from Jerusalem.

- Don't be convinced by the enemy that it's over for you, and don't be discouraged just because it looks like you've been bumped out of your place.
- He explains how he has slept without fear because God sustained him.
- Even when we feel surrounded, let God give us His supernatural peace.

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*

- Having received confidence that God is preserving him against trouble, David prays for victory. He reminds God that God has always destroyed his enemies.
- David proclaims that salvation belongs to the Lord.
- Finally, David places his trust in God, knowing that God's blessing is upon His people. God will come through and deliver him because he belongs to God and God loves him.

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