

PSALM 3:1-8

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"David complains to his loving God about the enemy's worst weapon."

A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son. You remember the sad story of David's flight from the palace to hide from his rebellious son's fury (2 Sam. 15:14). He forded the brook Kidron with a few faithful followers, and in this David was a type (foreshadow) of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus also fled across the brook Kidron with a feeble band of followers when His people rebelled against Him (John 18:1). Many expositors call this Psalm, "The Morning Hymn." May we always wake with a holy confidence in our heart and a song on our lips!

(Ps. 3:2) In the bitterest drop of his distress, David complains to his loving God about the enemy's worst weapon. **Many there be which say of my soul, "There is no help for him in God."** Some said this in sorrow, but his enemies boasted it. They wanted David's destruction. The worst cut was when they declared that God had forsaken him. David knew he had given them grounds for this statement, for in the light of day he had sinned against God. They flung Bathsheba at him. "Go up, you bloody man. God has forsaken and left you." Shimei cursed him to his face, "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul . . . You are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man" (2 Sam.

16:7, 8). Shimei was bold because many thought of David in this fashion. This infernal suggestion staggered his faith. If all the trials that come from heaven and all the temptations that ascend from hell could be mixed with all of earth's crosses, they would not make a trial so terrible as that which is contained in this verse. It is the most bitter of all afflictions to fear that there is no help in God.

Yet remember our blessed Savior endured this to the deepest degree when He cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46). Jesus knew what it was to walk in darkness and not see light. This was the curse of the curse, wormwood mixed with gall. Deserted by His Father was worse than being despised by men. Surely we should love Him who suffered this most bitter trial for us. It is delightful and instructive to mark the Lord in His agonies. There is in this Psalm, and in many other Psalms, far more of David's Lord than David.

David declares confidence in God. (Ps. 3:3) **But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me.** The original word means more than a shield. It is a buckler that gives complete protection, a shield above, beneath, around, without, and within. What a shield God is for His people. He quenches the fiery darts of Satan from beneath (Eph. 6:16) and the storms of trials

from above. And at the same moment, He speaks peace to the inner tempest.

You are **my glory**. David knew that though driven from his capital in contempt and scorn, he would return in triumph. By faith he believes that God will honor and glorify him. Oh, for grace to see our future glory in our present shame. There is a present glory in affliction, if only we could discern it. It is no small thing to have "fellowship with Christ in His sufferings" (Phil. 3:10).

(Ps. 3:5) **I laid me down and slept**. David's faith enabled him to lie down. Anxiety would have kept him on tiptoe, watching for an enemy, but he could sleep, sleep in the midst of trouble, surrounded by foes. "He gives His beloved sleep" (Ps. 127:2). There is a sleep of presumption. God deliver us from it! There is a sleep of holy confidence. God help us to close our eyes!

David, though exposed to many enemies, reclined his head on God's bosom and slept securely under the wings of Providence. He awoke in safety, **for the LORD sustained me**.

(Ps. 3:8) **Salvation belongeth unto the LORD**. This verse contains the sum and substance of Calvinistic doctrine. Search the Scripture, read it with a candid mind, and you will be persuaded that the doctrine of salvation by grace alone is the great doctrine of the word of God: **Salvation belongeth unto the LORD**. This is a point for which we fight daily. Our opponents say, "Salvation belongs to the free will of man, if not to man's merit, at least to man's will." But

we hold and teach that salvation from first to last, every iota of it, belongs to the Most High God. It is God that chooses His people. He calls them by His grace. He brings them life by His Spirit. He keeps them by His power. "So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy" (Rom. 9:16). Learn this truth by your experience. Our proud flesh and blood will never permit us to learn it any other way.

(The Treasury of David, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

Show which verses:

- 1. David pleads for help.**
- 2. Calmly trusts in God for an answer.**
- 3. Gives glory to God.**

Is the ability to lie down in confidence and not be afraid a work done by the Holy Spirit or is it a natural resolution of manly courage?

Enlarge on the idea that the Lord is to be stirred up (Ps.3:7).