

## PSALM 4:1-8

### CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"God does nothing by halves. He will never stop helping until we cease to need."

**H**ear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer. (Ps. 4:1). This is another example of David's common habit of pleading past mercies as a basis for present favor. He renews his memorial monuments and takes comfort from them. It is not to be imagined that He who has helped us in six troubles will leave us in the seventh (Job 5:19). God does nothing by halves. He will never stop helping until we cease to need. Manna will fall every morning until we cross the Jordan (Ex. 16:15).

In the second part of the Psalm we are led from the prayer closet to the conflict. Notice the courage of the man of God, David admits that his enemies are great (this is the meaning of the Hebrew word translated "sons of men"), but he still believes they are foolish. He chides them as though they were children. He tells them that they (Ps. 4:2) love worthlessness and seek falsehood; they love lying, empty fancies, vain conceits, and wicked fabrications. He asks how long will they make his honor a jest, and his fame a mockery? A little of this mirth is too much. Why do they continually indulge in it? Hadn't they been watching long enough for his failure? Had repeated disappointments convinced them that the

Lord's anointed would not be overcome by their slander? Did they mean to jest their souls into hell, and laugh until swift vengeance would turn their merriment into howling?

(Ps. 4:3) **But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto Him.** "And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him," (Luke 18:7). Since He chose to love us, He cannot but choose to hear us.

(Ps. 4:5) **Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.** When the Jews offered sacrifice righteously, in a spiritual manner, they set forth the Redeemer, the great sin atoning Lamb. Thus, we have the full gospel in David's exhortation. Sinners, flee to the sacrifice of Calvary, put your full confidence and trust in Him who died for you, the Lord Jehovah.

(Ps. 4:6) **There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.** We have now entered the Psalm's third division. Here the faith of the afflicted finds words of sweet contentment and peace. There were many, even among David's followers, who wanted to see rather than to believe. Unfortunately, this is the tendency of all! Even the regenerate groan after prosperity and are sad when darkness covers good. As for

sinners, this is their unceasing cry, **Who will shew us any good?** Never satisfied, they turn their gaping mouths in every direction; their empty hearts are ready to drink any delusion that impostors invent. When these fail, they soon despair and declare that there are no good things in either heaven or earth.

(Ps.4:7) **Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.** "It is better," said someone, "to feel God's favor for one hour in our repenting souls than to sit for ages under this world's warmest sunshine." Christ in the heart is better than corn in the barn or wine in the vat. Corn and wine are only fruits of the world, but the light of God's countenance is the ripe fruit of heaven. "You are with me," is a far more blessed cry than, "Harvest home: Let my barns be empty; I am full of blessings if Jesus Christ smiles on me. If I have all the world, I am poor without Him."

(Ps. 4:8) **I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.** How many sleepless hours

can be traced to our untrusting and disordered minds. They slumber sweetly whom faith rocks to sleep. No pillow is so soft as a promise, no blanket is so warm as an assured interest in Christ.

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

**How does David approach God in Psalm 4:1?**

**Why are the men in Psalm 4:2 foolish?**

**What does it mean in Psalm 4:4 when it says; "to be angry and sin not"?** Eph. 4:25-27

**What are the sacrifices God wants us to offer?** Ps. 4:5

**What is the outcome after sacrificial offerings?** Ps. 4:7-8