

## When Your Enemies Are Too Many To Count Psalm 3

### Introduction:

- 1) In life we should not be surprised when we are forced to fight, when we are faced with battles we cannot avoid.
- 2) One of life's greatest disappointments and heartbreaks is to be in a foxhole, receiving enemy fire, only to feel a burning sharp pain in the back, to turn and see that someone you were certain was a friend, is actually the enemy who has just stabbed you in the back in cruel betrayal.
- 3) This no doubt is what David felt when he was betrayed by his own son, Absalom. (2 Sam. 15-18).
- 4) What should we do when all seems lost? Trust in the Lord and call out to Him in confidence that He will deliver us.

### I. Share Your Problem with God 3:1-2

Psalm 3 is the first Psalm with a superscription providing some information about its context and occasion for writing. It is a psalm of lament and it is the natural extension of Psalms 1 & 2. Interestingly, the promise of Psalm 2:12 is tragically fulfilled in the death of Absalom as recorded in 2 Sam. 18:14-15.

- 1) Tell the Lord What They Do 3:1
  - Lord, how (amazement at the turn of events) they have increased who trouble me. Many...Many (vr 2).
- 2) Tell the Lord What They Say 2:2
  - David's adversaries are active (v.1) and they are accusing (v.2).
  - V.2 ends with "Selah," as does vs. 4 and 8. Here it probably means "stop, and think about that."

### II. Shout Your Praise to God 3:3-4

David's complaint now takes a 180 turn. He gets biblical not emotional. He gets theological not experiential. He recalls and remembers who God is and what God is like.

- 1) Exult in the Character of God 3:3  
But you is a strong adversative, a powerful point of contrast. I know you, Oh LORD (*Yahweh*) are 1) a shield around me, 2) My glory and 3) the One who lifts up my head.
  - My Shield speaks of God as His protector, and is repeatedly used in the Psalms (7:10; 18:2, 30; 28:7; 33:20; 47:9; 59:11; 84:9, 11; 91:4; 115:9-11; 119:114; 144:2). David perhaps recalled God's words to Abram in Gen 15:1, or the final blessing of Moses to Israel in Deut 33:29.
  - My Glory-Any praise and honor I have I have in and from you.

- The One who lifts up my head-David had a droopy head; a depressed, downcast countenance. James 4:10 instructs us, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
- 2) Express Your Confidence in God. 3:4
- To God I cried and I did so aloud
  - To us-“He heard me and from His holy hill (cf 2:6!) From the very place you installed me as King I received an answer.

### III. See Your Protection in God 3:5-8

The Bible promises us a peace “that surpasses understanding” (Phil 4:7).

- 1) Trust the Lord to Sustain You 3:5  
David went to sleep!  
David would say read Psalm 121:3.
- 2) Trust the Lord to Strengthen You 3:6  
The many of vs. 1-2 are now the myriads, “the tens of thousands” (NIV) of v. 6.  
David, however, would say:
- The Lord is my shield (v.3)
  - The Lord hears my prayers (v.4)
  - The Lord sustains me (v.5)
- 3) Trust the Lord to Save You 3:7-8
- Now comes David’s actual petition. True to the form of most lament psalms, it includes a prayer for God to arise and a prayer for God to deliver. The poetic parallelism is beautiful and balanced. David is so confident in what God will do he uses what is called “a prophetic perfect.” The Lord’s future vindication of His servant David is so certain that he can write as if it has already happened.
  - Again there is beautiful poetic parallelism as David’s enemies, pictured as wild and dangerous animals, are described also as receiving a crushing blow from the Lord. The ungodly who have walked the path of the sinners of Psalm 1:1 and who have refused to kiss the Son of Psalm 2:12 are defeated by the Lord.
  - Like Jonah (2:9) David proclaims, “Salvation belongs to the Lord.” Joining with Ps 1:1, 2:12, this 3<sup>rd</sup> song affirms the blessing of the Lord upon His people. Yes, “the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish (Psalm 1:6).