

Psalm 3

Theme: A personal lament.

Authorship: A Psalm of David.

- 1st time the word Psalm is used in Psalms.
- 1st prayer in Psalms also.
- 1st psalm directly attributed to David.
- Psalm: “Mizmor” (H4210) A masculine noun referring to a “melody”, “to pluck strings.”

Back ground: When David fled from Absalom.

- We’re given the timing of this Psalm because it will help us to understand the backdrop of what was going on when David wrote it.
- This Psalm is written as David is fleeing from Absalom his son. This takes place after David’s sin with Bathsheba and is in some ways directly a result of that sin, one of the consequences.
- Part of the judgment declared by God through Nathan the prophet to David:

2 Samuel 12:9-12 Nathan reproves David.

2 Samuel 12:10-11 “¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised Me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. ¹¹Thus saith the Lord, behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house...”

- Absalom desired the kingdom so he began to steal the hearts of the people, sitting in the gates of the city - telling people that the king was too busy to bother with them, but that he would hear their issues. He eventually went to Hebron with his supporters and raised up an army and marched on Jerusalem.
- David didn’t want to fight his son and despondently fled Jerusalem in the middle of the night with his few supporters, he was bare foot, and covered his head with a cloth.
- As he crossed the brook Kidron, his future was very uncertain, the future of the kingdom was uncertain, it seemed that David was being driven out by his own son - and he wept, he lamented:
- David had gone from being very popular to suddenly being reviled.

2 Samuel 16:7 “And thus said Shimei when he cursed, come out, come out, thou bloody man of Belial:” Probably a reference to his murder of Uriah the Hittite.

- David was a man after God’s own heart. David was an imperfect man, he had many flaws - which in a twisted sort of way I find encouraging. God can love and use a flawed and imperfect man who can still be “a man after God’s own heart.”

V: 1-2 “**LORD..**” Jehovah / Yahweh - starts off abruptly or suddenly, hurriedly somewhat like Peters prayer when he had been walking on water and suddenly began to sink. He didn’t waste time with a drawn out request, he prayed quickly “Lord!”

- David quickly states his position, he’s in trouble.
- 2nd part: There are many who are saying that you / God won’t help me. The implication being that because he’s sinned God will cut him off.
- David is being dog piled, he’s being overwhelmed by his circumstances and the forces coming against him. In such a situation he does what we should all be doing, crying out to God for help!

Psalm 61:1-2 “¹Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. ²From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”

- “**help**” - (H3444) Yeshua, Jesus - “God is salvation.”
- (**Selah**) Sort of announces the end of one thought and the beginning of another. It’s used over 70 times in the Psalms and no one really knows what it means. Because of it position between thoughts, many have thought that it means pause and think, or consider what was just said, I’m not sure if thats it or not, but it seems like a good thing to do.

V: 3-4 “But” - contrary to what those people think: The focus changes from the enemies to the Lord. (Where it should be!)

- The declaration that God is for me, He is a shield for me, He is the lifter of my head.

Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

- God is the lifter of our head / chin:

Similar situation:

1 Samuel 30:6 “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.”

- Yes I'm in trouble, yes I've sinned, my life is in danger, my son is rebelling and would kill me, people have turned against me and they're saying there is no hope, no help from God for him - but they're wrong!
- I have cried unto you and you have heard! He is the God who hears.

Psalm 34:15 "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry."

(Selah)

V: 5-8 Now having put things in perspective, that God is still there, that God is still with David - even in this chastening, he can be at peace.

- David can be at peace, David can be at rest, in fact now he can sleep in the midst of this trial because of his confidence in God.

Isaiah 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

- Getting to go to sleep and wake up with a new start is a total gift from God!

Lamentations 3:22-23 ²²It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

"⁶I will not be afraid..." = I will trust in thee!

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Psalm 91:1-7 ¹He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. ³Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. ⁴He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. ⁵Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; ⁶Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. ⁷A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee."

- Arise Lord and save me - salvation belongs to you. Then, thy blessing is upon thy people - thank you Lord for saving me.
- "Salvation" - (3444) "Yeshua" - Joshua - Jesus.

- So, ultimately David's cry of victory, crying unto the Lord, he receives His help and declares his confidence / faith. He's able to rest in the midst of his problems.
(Selah)

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