

PSALM 3

A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM ABSALOM HIS SON

1 O Lord, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

2 many are saying of my soul,

“There is no salvation for him in God.” *Selah*

3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.

4 I cried aloud to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy hill. *Selah*

5 I lay down and slept;

I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of many thousands of
people who have set themselves against
me all around.

7 Arise, O Lord!
Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸ Salvation belongs to the Lord;
your blessing be on your people! *Selah*

1. If you look at the superscription above Psalm 3, it tells us that it was written by David ‘*when he fled from Absalom*’. Absalom gathered a bunch of followers and was going to take David’s throne by force, so David had to flee. What things are said in 2 Sam. 15:30 about David and those with him?

As David fled from Absalom, an enemy named Shimei met him. What did Shimei do to David that showed disrespect (2 Sam. 16:6)? What things did he call David (v. 7)?

2. What things do you learn about David’s **enemies** in Psalm 3:1-2, 6?
3. In verse 3, David said that the Lord was his **glory**. What are some other things you can think of that David could have said were his glory, his significance?
4. David says in verse 5 that he ‘lay down and **slept**.’ As you look at this psalm, what things do you see that could allow him to do that when he was under such stress, running for his life?
5. What things did David ask God for in vv. 7-8?

PSALM 4

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS, A PSALM OF DAVID

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah*

3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

4 Be angry, and do not sin;

ponder in your own hearts on your beds,
and be silent. *Selah*

5 Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, Lord!”

7 You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine
abound.

8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O Lord,
make me dwell in safety.

6. In verse 1, David asks God to hear his prayer. From verse 1, what reason(s) do you see that David had to be confident that God would hear his prayer?
7. In verse 1, David says that he was in ‘distress.’ According to verse 2, what were David’s enemies doing that was causing him distress?
8. In verse 4, David counsels, ‘Be **angry** and do not sin.’ What things can we do, according to this psalm, to be angry but not sin?
9. In a word or two, how would you describe the attitude of the people David speaks of in verse 6?
10. What things does God give according to vv. 7-8?