



Tim Pauley
PO Box 58403, Charleston, WV 25358
304.767.8430
tim.pauley@capitolcom.org

How My Adversaries Have Increased! Psalm 3 Studies on Christ in the Psalms

We love the Psalms because there we read how followers of God dealt with some of the greatest trials and challenges of life. Nowhere do we read of greater trials than when David endured the betrayal and rebellion of his own son and of his closest friends. Even in the middle of such tremendous difficulty, David demonstrated faith in God. These are the experiences of which David writes in Psalm 3. As we read this Psalm, we can take great encouragement from his example of faith and how God delivered him.

We gain even more from this Psalm when we consider how it points us to Christ, what He endured for us, and the deliverance and blessing we have in Him!

Psalm 3

Morning Prayer of Trust in God.

A Psalm of David, when he fled
from Absalom his son.

*¹ O LORD, how my adversaries have increased!
Many are rising up against me.*

*² Many are saying of my soul,
"There is no deliverance for him in God." Selah.*

*³ But You, O LORD, are a shield about me,
My glory, and the One who lifts my head.*

*⁴ I was crying to the LORD with my voice,
And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah.*

*⁵ I lay down and slept;
I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.*

*⁶ I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people
Who have set themselves against me round about.*

*⁷ Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God!
For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek;
You have shattered the teeth of the wicked.*

*⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD;
Your blessing be upon Your people! Selah.*

David and His Son Absalom

In 2 Samuel 15 we read the account of David's son Absalom's rebellion and plot to seize the throne. He turned the loyalties of many in Israel against his father and rode in to Jerusalem planning to kill David and replace him as king. David had to flee Jerusalem to escape. A battle ensued between those following Absalom and those who remained faithful to David. David's enemies were defeated, Absalom was killed, and David returned to his position as king. This Psalm was penned by David about these difficult experiences in his life.

We can certainly read this Psalm and take great comfort and encouragement from how David dealt with what

must have been some of the most difficult circumstances in his life. We may gain even more as we once again look for Jesus Christ in this Psalm. Let us remember how we see Christ in the Psalms:

- Jesus is the representative singer
- Jesus is the supreme singer
- Jesus is the returning singer

How is Jesus the Representative Singer of Psalm 3?

*¹ O LORD, how my adversaries have increased!
Many are rising up against me.*

Many gathered with Absalom to pursue David. This would point us to Christ and to consider how His enemies rose up against Him.

In the garden Judas came to betray Jesus accompanied by a large crowd with sticks and clubs. They laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

They took Jesus to Caiaphas where the scribes and elders were gathered together. Many false witnesses came forward to testify against Him.

Jesus was then taken before Pilate. As the crowd gathered Pilate offered to release Jesus or the notorious prisoner, Barabbas. The leaders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be crucified. The crowd shouted louder and louder, "Crucify Him; Crucify Him!"

Jesus was then turned over to the Romans soldiers to be crucified. The whole battalion was gathered around Him as they stripped Him, placed the crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His hand, knelt before Him and mocked Him. They spit on Him, beat Him on the head, and led Him away to be crucified.

² **Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God."**

As David escaped Jerusalem, a man came out and cursed David as he fled. His loyal followers wanted to put the man to death, but David refused determining that God allowed or even caused this man to curse him.

As Jesus hung on the cross, the religious leaders mocked Him saying, **"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him..."** (Matt. 27:42-43) Even in the face of such mockery Jesus cried out, **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing"** (Lk. 23:24).

⁴ **I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain.**

David writes of his faith and trust in God even during the greatest of trials and peril. He sees God as his shield, his glory, the one who would lift up his head.

In the gospel accounts we read how often Jesus took time to pray. Just hours before His death we see Him pour out His heart in prayer to His Father in John 17. In the Garden, we see Him agonizing in prayer as faced taking our sin upon Himself. In Luke's account we read that God sent an angel to strengthen Him (22:43). And we know that Jesus looked forward to when God would deliver Him from death in the resurrection.

⁵ **I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.**

Evidently David was able to find rest and sleep because of his trust in God.

As Jesus and the disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat, we read of the great storm that arose so that the boat was being covered by the waves. Yet we see that even though the disciples were fearful, Jesus Himself was asleep. (Matt. 8:23-27).

Again, we need to be careful not to read too much into specifics of Christ into the Psalms which are not pointed to in the New Testament. However, we cannot read these words without thinking of Jesus' death and His resurrection. Jesus "slept" in death, yet after three days He "awoke" as He was raised from the dead! This reminds us of another Psalm speaking of Christ's resurrection, **"For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay"** (Ps. 16:10; Acts 2:27; Acts 13:34-35).

How is Jesus the Supreme Singer of Psalm 3?

When we consider the glory from which Jesus came, we find no greater example of one whose enemies rose up against them. Ultimately this was a conflict between God the Son and Satan himself (Gen. 3:15).

We see no greater example of faith and trust in God than what Jesus demonstrated in His Father. This is what

allowed Jesus to pray in the Garden, **"Not my will, but Yours be done"**.

And we see no more supreme instance of deliverance from enemies than the resurrection! And God has indeed "lifted up His head" as He has "highly exalted Him and given the name which is above every name" (Phil. 2:9).

David writes, **"Salvation belongs to the Lord; Your blessing be upon Your people!"** Jesus is the One who by His life, suffering, death, and resurrection provides our salvation when we put our trust in Him. He is "the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 2:2). It is only through Him that God's blessing comes to those who have believed!

How is Jesus the Returning Singer of Psalm 3?

⁷ **Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked.** ⁸ **Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be upon Your people! Selah.**

David writes of his own deliverance from the treachery of his son Absalom. Yet he points us to the time when all the enemies of Christ and of His followers will ultimately be defeated.

We live in times when it seems the enemies of God and of His children are running rampant. Around the world believers are persecuted, imprisoned, and killed. In our own country it is becoming more unacceptable to proclaim the truth of the gospel, speak out for moral certainties, and live out the Christian life. But David's words point us to the time when Christ will reign, His enemies will be completely defeated, and we will experience our final salvation and blessing as we enter His presence in Heaven.

Let us take encouragement as we read how David trusted God in the middle of his greatest trials.

Let us marvel at how our Savior left the glories of heaven to endure the taunts of His enemies and the suffering of the cross. Let us praise Him for His resurrection and the salvation He provides!

Let us look forward to when God's enemies will be ultimately defeated, and we will experience the blessings of heaven.

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, May 31

12:00 McManus Conference Room (M254 by Hs. Min. Offices)