

# “THE MORNING PRAYER IN A DARK HOUR”

## Psalm 3

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

### INTRODUCTION

The Grief of David over his son (II Sam. 18:33) is not stressed here; other issues are such as rampant disloyalty (vv. 1, 6; cf. II Sam. 15:13), the “rumor” that the Lord had withdrawn from David (v. 2; see II Sam 15:26), and the “precarious state of his people” who need God’s blessing and deliverance (v. 8).

This is “**an morning psalm for the ordinary believer**”.

- **Our troubles** are nothing compared to David’s—why not have restful sleep?
- **David’s expectation** of physical deliverance is nothing compared to the expectation the believer has today!

### YOU MUST LEARN TO REST IN THE LORD AND HAVE PEACE IN THE MIDST OF TERRIBLE TROUBLES.

#### I. DAVID’S DEPENDENCE UPON GOD’S MERCY (1-2)

- A. David’s minority is shrinking, while his adversaries increase!
- B. The “opposition is active”: David is “encircled.”
- C. The adversaries are accusing: No deliverance from God; this is against David, for he is not worthy of God’s help (See II Sam. 16:8). This **“was a shaft that went home.” (54)**
- D. But, this trial was good for David, since it caused him to throw himself on God’s mercy. Not only did David learn to depend upon God’s mercy, he also learned to depend upon God’s faithfulness.

#### II. DAVID’S DEPENDENCE UPON GOD’S FAITHFULNESS (3-8)

##### A. Divine Protection (3-4) (The “YOU” is emphatic)

*God is David’s Shield, Glory, a Lifter of his head, and an Answerer of prayer.*

1. A *Shield* is “about me”; a strong preposition meaning “to cover me”.
2. *Glory* may include:
  - The Honor of serving the Lord;
  - The Radiance He imparts (34:5; II Cor. 3:13, 18)
  - The unimportance of earthly esteem which is “always transient and fickle” (Kidner, p. 54)
3. *Lifter of the head* means to raise David’s head high

4. *Answerer of prayer* (4)

- a. David's crying was to the Lord with his voice
- b. Yahweh's answering him is from His holy mountain

The emphasis on "His holy hill" is very **significant**;

- It was the place where God set up His king—David himself; see 2:6ff.
- It was the place He put His ark, the symbol of His presence and of His holy throne (II S. 6:2).
- It was the place of His covenant.
- Absalom's decrees will not issue from the "holy hill" in order to **determine David's fortunes**, but God's will. Indeed, these decrees have already "been dispatched from there" : "I cry . . . He answered."

- B. Divine Peace of mind (5-6)—"I slept"; "I awoke"; "The Lord sustains me" "I Will not be afraid"

Note the emphatic "I" in v. 5. God had heard him. He can "face the worst."

- C. Divine Victory and blessing (7-8) –Salvation ("Save me") and Defeat "my enemies" and Blessing upon "Thy people"

- Terms of Salvation:
  - 1) It belongs to the Lord (v. 8). **He gives it on His terms.**
  - 2) David's appeal is on the basis on his relationship with God: Yahweh and "my God"
- Terms of the defeat of his enemies
  - 1) They are "wicked" (v. 7b)
  - 2) They are therefore God's enemies primarily, and they are opposing God's anointed. Thus, "refuge is not enough" (p. 55).
  - 3) He smites on the cheek, shattering the teeth—used to attack God's man; the attack was verbal before it became physical (See 57:4 & 58:6 and contexts.)
- Terms of the blessing
  - 1) David looks beyond "I" and "me" of the previous verses to the people.
  - 2) David recognizes that they are not **his** people, but they are **THY** people.
  - 3) The blessings he asks for are **THY** blessings.
  - 4) He asks for more than "victory" here; he asks for health and fruitfulness.

## CONCLUSION

**YOU MUST LEARN TO REST IN THE LORD AND HAVE PEACE IN THE MIDST OF TERRIBLE TROUBLES.**

Surely the Lord will give us victory and blessing also!