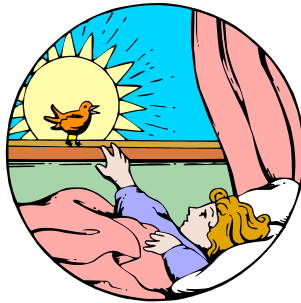


Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

Adult Sunday School
Placerita Baptist Church
2003

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Psalm 3 — Reveille



1.0 Introducing Psalm 3

- 1.1 Psalm 3 begins the Davidic collection (Psalms 3-41).
- 1.2 The setting for the psalm is at the time when David fled from his son Absalom (2 Samuel 15-19).

Psalm 3	Situation	2 Samuel
Verse 1	David's enemies increased	15:12
Verse 2	David to be forsaken by God.	16:7-8
Verse 3	David's head, covered on the Mt. of Olives, will be raised by God.	15:30
Verse 5	Danger and confidence at night.	17:1, 16
Verse 6	David heavily outnumbered.	15:13; 17:1, 11
Verse 8	Victory eventually comes.	19:1-2

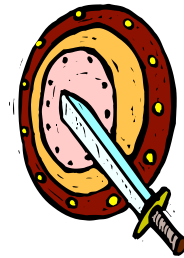
1.3 *Selah*

- “Let us read the passage which precedes and succeeds it with greater earnestness, for surely there is always something excellent where we are required to rest and pause and meditate, or when we are required to lift up our hearts in grateful song.” (C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, 1:23)
- “It invites a response from the people gathered for worship, whether a vocal response or some other kind of outward bodily action we are not sure.” (Robert Davidson, *The Vitality of Worship*, 21-22)
- 71x in the Psalms (Pss 3, 4, 7, 9, 20, 21, 24, 32, 39, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 66, 67, 68, 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 140, 143)
- 3x in Habakkuk 3:3, 9, 13

1.4 Called a “morning psalm”: “I lay down and slept; I awoke, ...” (v. 5).

1.5 A military psalm:

- References to foes and “enemies” (vv. 1, 7).
- Reference to victory (vv. 3, 8).
- God is described as the psalmist’s “shield” (v. 3).
- “People” (v. 6) can be used with the meaning of “army” (e.g., the same Hebrew word is translated “army” in 2 Kings 13:7; cf. 2 Samuel 10:10). Note that they are deployed against David (Ps 3:6).
- “Arise, O LORD” (v. 7) was spoken at the time the Ark of the Covenant was sent into battle (Numbers 10:35).
- Some would take “Salvation *belongs* to the LORD” (v. 8) with the sense of “Victory *belongs* to the LORD.”



2.0 Reading Psalm 3 (NKJV)

3:1 A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.

LORD, how they have increased who trouble me!

Many are they who rise up against me.

3:2 Many are they who say of me,
“There is no help for him in God.” **Selah**

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

3:4 I cried to the LORD with my voice,
And He heard me from His holy hill. **Selah**

3:5 I lay down and slept;
I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.

3:6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people
Who have set *themselves* against me all around.

3:7 Arise, O LORD;
Save me, O my God!
For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone;
You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.

3:8 Salvation *belongs* to the LORD.
Your blessing *is* upon Your people. **Selah**

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

3.0 Understanding Psalm 3

3.1 Outline

- I. Superscription (v. 1a)
- II. The Psalmist’s Lament or Complaint (vv. 1b-2)
- III. The Psalmist’s Hymn of Trust (vv. 3-6)
- IV. The Psalmist’s Prayer for Deliverance (v. 7)
- V. Summary (v. 8)
- VI. Subscription



3.2 Notes

vv. 1-2 Note the repetition of “many” (see v. 6, also).

v. 2 “Help” is almost the identical Hebrew word as “salvation” in v. 8.

- v. 3 Statements of trust do not begin with “I”, but with “you”—God, not the human being, is where trust is centered.
- v. 4 *Problem:* Some commentators claim that Jerusalem was not known as the divinely chosen “holy hill” in David’s day (James Luther Mays, Robert Davidson), so this psalm could not have been written by David.
- Response:* Other commentators (J. J. Stewart Perowne, Franz Delitzsch, Derek Kidner) point out that Zion is where David had placed the Ark of the Covenant (2 Samuel 6). Cf. Psalms 14:7; 20:2.
- v. 6 “Ten thousands” is related to and employs the same consonants (*rbb*) in the Hebrew as “many” and “increased” (cf. vv. 1-2).
- v. 7 “Save” is from the same Hebrew root as “help” (v. 2) and “salvation” (v. 8).
- v. 8 The subscription is the musical portion of the psalm heading now located at the beginning of Psalm 4. According to Thirtle’s theory of the psalm headings, this belongs with Psalm 3 (W. Graham Scroggie agrees).

4.0 Singing Psalm 3

My Glo-ry and the Lift-er of mine head;
My Glo-ry and the Lift-er of mine head.
But Thou O Lord art a shield for me,
My Glo-ry and the Lift-er of mine head.



I cried un-to the Lord with my voice,
I cried un-to the Lord with my voice,
I cried un-to the Lord with my voice,
And He heard me out of His ho-ly hill – Se-lah.

My Glo-ry and the Lift-er of mine head;
My Glo-ry and the Lift-er of mine head.
But Thou O Lord art a shield for me,
My Glo-ry and the Lift-er of mine head.

5.0 Praying Psalm 3

“Let ‘Selah’ teach us to pray.” (C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, 1:23)

- Lord, be my help and my shield. [vv. 2, 3]

- Father, give me a restful sleep as I trust myself into Your care. [v. 5]

- Remove my fears and give me Your peace. [v. 6]

- Thank You, O God, for saving me. You alone can save me from my sins. [v. 8]

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6.0 Applying Psalm 3

- When trouble comes, get in the habit of going to God.

- The Lord is worthy of trust, therefore we must trust Him.

- Salvation is from the Lord—He alone can save us from our sins.