

Psalm Chapter 003 Commentary

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

Ps 3:1 "LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me."

As we look at this Psalm, we want to draw your attention to the background from which it is drawn, which is the rebellion of Absalom against King David, his father.

King David hears of Absalom's rebellion and his attempt to usurp the throne from his father David, seen in: **2Sa 15:10-13; 10 "But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron. 11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not anything. 12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom. 13 ¶ And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom."**

Thus, we see that David is in dire straits because of this rebellion against his kingship. Israel knows that King David has committed adultery with Bathsheba, and murdered Uriah her husband, so he could take her to be his wife. Israel knows that God has issued judicial judgments against King David, for giving the enemies of God reason to blaspheme the name of God. Wherefore, it is easy to see why Israel is saying of King David, **"There is no help for him in God."** They see King David as forsaken of God. This is blasphemous on the part of Israel, for God does not support multitudes, but God does support those who trust in him, no matter how large a group of people are fighting against them.

What Israel fails to remember, and understand, is that God has told King David that he has forgiven him of his sins, even though he is going to suffer great consequences for his actions. God has not said that David is to be dethroned and will no longer be king over Israel. God has not said that Absalom is to be king over Israel.

2 Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah."

We believe that King David is surprised that the multitudes of Israel are turned from him. After all, Israel has loved King David for forty years, and to suddenly turn from following King David and God, to chasing after Absalom, who has beguiled them with his silvery tongue is astonishing to King David.

What does this have to do with us as children of God? When we are born again by the Holy Spirit power and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Christ in us: the whole world of the unsaved immediately gather against us under the leadership of their king, the devil. What they fail to see is that though we were, and are, sinners, lost and undone, in the new birth we are made kings and priest to God, seen in: **Re 1:5 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."**

Thus, we see; as God never told King David his kingship was withdrawn; we can rest assured that our kingship in Christ will never be withdrawn. Satan and his minions will certainly rise up and fight against us, and this is usually manifested in our lives by the old inherit flesh nature, with which we never cease to war against, until the death of the mortal body.

3 "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. 4 ¶ I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah."

We remember that they brought the ark of God to carry it with King David as he fled from Absalom into the wilderness. We also remember that King David had them carry the ark back to Jerusalem saying, if God still hath pleasure in me, he will bring me to the ark again, that I may once more worship him in spirit and truth, in his designated place of worship. King David knew that the consequences of God's judicial judgment against him did not include losing his kingship, nor his eternal life with God. This is why he said: **"But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."** King David understood that this rebellion was just a temporary thing. King David believed that God would **"lift up his head"** and restore his kingship once again.

King David here reminds me of Jacob when he wrestled with the angel of the Lord all night, seen in: **Ge 32:24-29; 24 ¶ "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of**

Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." Like Jacob, King David would never let go of God, but held fast onto his trust in God, understanding that God was his answer, his protection, and his deliverance.

A good lesson for us. When we are suffering under tribulations and trials in life, we should believe that God will: **"lift up our head."** This is why we are commanded to pray with confidence, seen in: **Mr 11:22-24; 22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."**

Wherefore, we can have the same confidence in our King, Jesus Christ, as King David had in God the Father. Though we may suffer afflictions and tribulations, he has promised to never leave us or forsake us, seen in: **Heb 13:5-6; 5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."** Man may cause us many heartaches and tribulations in life. They may even kill the body. But they cannot undo the eternal life we have in Christ Jesus, nor hinder us from entering our eternal rest with Jesus, in the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about. 7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah."

King David tells us that I lay down and slept in peace knowing that God would sustain and protect me from the hands of evil men, even as he has demonstrated to me so many times before. King David is telling us; I will not lay awake fearing what the thousands of men that have gathered against me may do to me, for God is my shield, my protection, and the destroyer of those who rise up against me.

King David says I awaked and found that God my shield and protector had kept me safe. Then King David continues in prayer: **"Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God:"** King David realizes the importance of being constant in prayer. We should also recognize; we must be constant in prayer if we are to realize the deliverance of God from our tribulations in life. God tells us in: **Lu 21:36 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."**

King David understood; the thousands of men that had risen up seeking to destroy his life, were not doing the bidding of God. They were trusting in a man, Absalom, who was a self-proclaimed king, and not in the one true and living God, in whom King David had learned long ago was the protector of those who feared God and served him with their whole heart. King David understood that salvation was of the Lord, and none could destroy those who were under the protection of God.

Surely, when the trials and tribulations of this life rise up in our faces, trying to dissuade our confidence in our Saviour and Lord, we can do like King David and lie down and sleep in peace, and awaken to find we are still resting in the hand of God and under the care of his protection.

King David understood that this warfare to take his life would go on, until the Lord put a stop to the rebellion, and returned him to his throne in Jerusalem. Do you notice in his prayer that King David uses the past tense, seen in: **"for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly."** King David knew that God in times past had exercised his great saving power, and King David expects no less of the manifestation of the salvation of God in his life in this situation. Why did King David speak in this manner? Because King David knew that: **"Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah."** King David understood that though the people had been misled and beguiled by Absalom, they were still God's people, and therefore he prays not only for his deliverance, but the deliverance of the people from their state of beguilement. This is a lesson of why we pray for one another, and especially those who are found in a state of confusion. It is a reminder of the commandment of Jesus to us in: **Lu 21:36; 34 "And take heed to**

yourself, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Certainly, this is a great lesson of speaking in the past tense for every Child of God today. Why? What did Christ say before he died upon the cross? **"It is finished"** meaning that the eternal forgiveness of sin, and the eternal life of every Child of God, was accomplished through his finished work. For us, it is in the past tense. Wherefore, we can pray for deliverance from our enemies, and the trials and tribulations of life, understanding that they have already been overcome by Christ Jesus, they are in the past tense, though they be real in our earthly lives.

"for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly." You see, though Satan and his minions may gnash with their teeth, and howl loud curses against us, Jesus has broken their teeth, and they cannot bite us to death. This is what we see in: **1Co 15:55-58; 55 "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 ¶ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."**

God's people understand that Satan, and his followers, can do no more than God will allow them to do. God demonstrated this to us in the life of Job. God is even demonstrating it now in the life of King David, a man after God's own heart.

This does not mean that we will not have to suffer, when through our sins and errors, we give the enemies of God occasion to blaspheme the name of our God. But it does mean; as we suffer under the afflictions brought upon us by the judicial judgments of God; we can have the same great faith and confidence of King David, because we know how the story ends. Jesus, who was victorious over sin, death, hell, and the grave, will return as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and we shall be gathered to him in our resurrected and changed bodies, which will be sinless, immortal, and glorified, (bodies like the resurrected body of Christ) and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Hallelujah! Amen! Praise, ye the Lord!