

Psalms Chapter 004 Commentary

To the chief Musician on Neginoth, A Psalm of David.

The commentary below, and the extemporaneously preached sermon, both have the same theme, and yet the wording is quite different. To listen to the extemporaneously preached sermon go to:
<https://elderclarkelee.com/sermons/>

Ps 4:1 "Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer."

According to historians, this Psalm was written after the uprising of Absalom, who tried to usurp the kingdom of David. Of course, he failed because God had given the throne over Israel to David. This is just a picture of how Satan has risen up trying to take the throne of Jesus as his own, and of course he will continue to fail.

David pleads with God to hear when he calls upon God. Then, David acknowledges that God did hear and enlarged me when I was in distress. David tells us that when I was outnumbered and seemed small in the sight of men, God's presence came on the scene and made me into an army that was greater than any that man could raise up against me. David asks God to continue to hear his prayers for deliverance. God has done the same thing for us when we are born again. If we are born again, we are chosen of God, and God will hear, and answer, our fervent righteous prayers.

2 "O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah."

David says to those who have risen to destroy him: How long will you seek to overthrow my reign over Israel, which is a glory that God bestowed upon me. David says that you are exalted in your own vanity, and you believe lies.

As it was in the life of king David, so it is in our own lives. We can expect that the devil and his minions will be always seeking to destroy our testimony as a Christian. The ungodly are vain in their pursuits and they believe the lies of the devil. (leasing means lies)

3 "But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him."

David says to his enemies: God has chosen me for himself, wherefore, God will hear and answer my prayers for deliverance. God's children are his chosen people, and God has set them apart from the rest, of the world of men, to be known as his own people. God will hear our prayers for deliverance, because of the Christ in us, the Holy Spirit power of God.

4 "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah."

David says to his enemies: you see that you cannot overcome me, wherefore stand in awe of the protection of God in my life. When you lie down, commune with your own heart and know that I am God's chosen king, and I am under his protection. Be still; and do not fight against God, because you cannot win. We can say the same thing to our enemies, even those that we inherit with our sin nature of the flesh.

5 "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD."

David says to those who are standing with him, and those who are against him: offer sacrifices of righteousness unto God and put your trust in him. God will deliver. The same is true for us: we can offer our bodies a living sacrifice to God, put our full confidence in the power of God, and God will deliver, as seen in *Ro 12:1-2; 1 ¶ "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

6 ¶ "There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us."

David tells his followers; those who are against us be many but doubt not the power of our God. Who will show us good? The Lord will show us good by filling our hearts with belief in his mighty power of deliverance, and when he does, the light of Christ will shine forth from our faces. God tells us the same thing.

7 "Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased."

David says to God: by delivering me from my enemies, you have put gladness in my heart. It is a gladness that is greater than the gladness that men have when they have great abundance of earthly things in their lives. Surely, God tells us the same thing. We have gladness in our hearts, because God has blessed us with the gift of eternal life and eternal forgiveness of our sins. The world has nothing to offer that can compare to this gladness.

8 "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."

David says that I will lay down at night to rest and have peace in my heart and mind, because I am safe in the hands of my God. David declares that God will keep me safe from my enemies, and they will not overcome me. God says the same thing to us today. We can lay down and sleep at night, knowing that God has us safe in his hands. We can know that we have been given eternal life, and even if men slay our bodies, we are still safe in the hands of God. Wherefore, do not be afraid to die mortally, for we have the sure promise of Jesus Christ that our bodies will be raised from the dead. We know that in mortal death, our souls and spirits will immediately be with God in heaven, our bodies will sleep in the dust until the return of Christ, and then they will be raised immortal, and glorified, and we shall ever be safe in the eternal heaven.

David says to God: only you can make me dwell in safety. Jesus Christ says to us: you are safe in my hands, and none can take away the eternal salvation I have given you. Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!