

PSALMS 3-4
Peace in the Storm

It is probable that these two psalms are linked, dealing with the same event. David was on the run from a revolt. His own son was leading the rebellion David found himself a wanted man. People denounced him and asserted that God had abandoned him. So the question arises, does God abandon His people? Ever?

Ps 3

1. David was amazed the number of his enemies

- a. "How many rise up against me!" (David was on the run, outnumbered and outgunned).
- b. Many were saying, 'God will not deliver him.'" They thought David had been "kicked to the curb" by God. And it *can* look that way to a believer when we place our focus on problems to the exclusion of God (2 Pet 1:3-11).

2. God was David's shield in trouble. David found strength in the Lord. On another occasion when he was pursued, a friend ministered to him (2 Sam 23:15-18). David's hope was in the Lord (Who is faithful Ps 33:12-32, Heb 13:5).

- a. He knew that it is God who lifts one up or sets them down. His life was in God's hands and he was fine with that. The "lifting of his head," is a Hebrew saying that God was in control and could raise or abase. David's confidence was in God. See Phil 4:13 for an example from Paul's life.
- b. He directed his prayerful God, for God answers! (1 Jn 5:13-15).
- c. David was able to sleep because he had confidence in God (Act 12:6-7) to sustain him. Think about Paul in a Roman jail (Phil 1:18b-26).
- d. He was determined not to fear the masses lined up against him. Numbers do not matter to God - one plus Him *always* equals a majority (Numbers alone do not save and David knew this - 1 Sam 17:41-47). And he knew that we do not determine the outcome.

3. Call on the Lord

- a. He is our deliverer. What are you facing? Have you even asked for help? On what are you depending? And where is your heart? (Jas 4:1-10).
 - He cries to God to strike his enemies on the jaw ("humble them").
 - and to "pull their fangs" (render them powerless).
- b. From The Lord comes deliverance and blessing

If God's people seek Him, he will be found by them!

Those who rest in Him will find peace, but the process is just as vital as the product
Phil 4:6-7

Psalm 4

1. David calls out to God to answer his prayer.

- a. David is at rest here. The relief from his distress is past tense. God has set his mind at ease as he trusted God.
- b. And he calls to God for mercy. Do we *deserve* anything good from God in and of ourselves?

2. He asked aloud how long others would slander him and assail his reputation?

- a. They were caught up in a cause based on lies (delusions and lies). Many of the nation's prominent people had rejected David, the Lord's anointed king. They slandered and despised him.
- b. They should know that God has set the godly apart for himself (2 Tim 2:19). David knew *whose* he was.
- c. If his enemies had a legitimate grievance, they were going about it the wrong way.
 - In their anger, honey shouldn't sin. (It isn't a sin to be angry. Anger is an emotion and one cannot help how they feel. But one can help how they express it.)
 - They should search their hearts and hold their peace. The idea here being to take their grievances to God. Checking our eye for planks is always a good idea before we presume to correct someone else.
 - They were to offer right sacrifices, and trust The Lord (Dt 33:19/Ps 51:15-19), (How does one offer right sacrifices? See Rom 12:1, Mat 5:23-24, 1 Pet 3:7.).

3. Where does blessing come from? Israel's people had been looking to their king instead of their God. to focus our hope on anyone else but God is to be disappointed. And it is idolatry.

- a. David prays that God would reveal Himself to His people.
- b. David was assured that God was with him and rejoiced in that assurance.
- c. David could rest peacefully because He knew God had things handled.