

#03 TREASURES AMONG THE TRIALS

TEXT:(Psalm 3:1-8)

Psalm One begins with Tranquility; Psalm Two begins with Hostility; and Psalm Three begins with Stability.

In Psalm Two we saw the Lord's Anointed and His kingdom threatened from without; and in Psalm Three we see them threatened from within. The background for this Psalm is found in **II Samuel, Chapters 15-17.**

David's son Absalom, who has been in exile, has been allowed to come home. Being full of proud, he soon seeks to undermine his Father's leadership. And slowly, but surely, he succeeds.

Finally, he summons his followers in Hebron for a march on Jerusalem. Word comes to David of his son's impending take over, and he has to flee for his life. He is out in the wilderness now, the king running from his subjects. His son has won the allegiance of the people. This is enough to crush the heart of a strong man, but not David. He is not influenced by mere circumstances but looks to the God of circumstances.

David pens these words which we know as the third Psalm.

David's derision (**v. 1, 2**);
David's defense (**v. 3**);
David's direction (**v. 4**).
David's decision (**v. 5a**);
David's Deliverance (**v. 5b**);
David's Defiance (**v. 6, 7**);
David's Dedication (**v. 8**).

In the first two verses we find Trial.
In the second two verses we find Trust.
In the last four verses we find Triumph.

Now before we take a closer look at this Psalm, I would like to call your attention to the word found at the end of **v. 2, 4, 8**.

The word is "**Selah**," and is found 73 times in the Psalms, generally at the end of a sentence or a paragraph. There are only two exceptions (**Ps. 55:19- 57:3**) where it is found in the middle of the verse. The word is found three times in the Book of Habakkuk.

I. THE PRESSURE OF DAVID'S FOES (v. 1, 2).

These verses set forth David's distress. He has been driven from his throne by his own son and trusted counselors.

A. THE INCREASE OF DAVID'S FOES

(v. 1a LORD, how are they increased that trouble me!

The wave which threatens to overwhelm him is growing in volume and momentum, like a snowball headed down hill. David is amazed at his rapid-growing opposition. **II Samuel 15: 12 states, "... And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom."**

Troubles and sorrows seem to come in bunches and often multiply quickly. One moment David was king, the next he was running for his life, like a criminal. Nearly all of Israel had deserted him. The odds were overwhelmingly against him. How sad it is that goodness is often outvoted. Many take circumstances as the sign of a man's spiritual condition. The world may know a man's sins, but not the condition of his heart.

A. THE INCREASE OF DAVID'S FOES

B. THE INSURRECTION OF DAVID'S FRIENDS

(v. 1b many are they that rise up against me.

Absalom was his very son, and Ahithopel was his servant and trusted counselor. It is bad enough when opposition arises from with-out.

But it is awfully hard to take when it comes from within. It is extremely sobering when your own flesh and blood be-comes your enemy.

A. THE INCREASE OF DAVID'S FOES

B. THE INSURRECTION OF DAVID'S FRIENDS

C. THE INFERENCE OF DAVID'S FOES

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

They claim that his cause is hopeless. We need to be careful of: "They say," and "I have heard." Many people make statements that they cannot back up. Might does not make a thing necessarily right. The majority may rule, but the majority can be wrong.

The verdict was popular (many),

The voice was positive (there is no help for him). But the voice of these was not the voice of God. They did not speak for God, and David knew this fact. And he also knew the reality of **Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."**

I. THE PRESSURE OF DAVID'S FOES

II. THE PROTECTION OF DAVID'S FATHER

(v. 3, 4).

David's trust in God remains unshaken. His statement here proves his confidence. Great trials often come before gracious triumphs.

A. GOD WAS HIS SHIELD.

His foes had attacked his person. The word "**shield**" means more than a mere frontal protection. It was a protection that completely surrounded him. It was a protection from the trials without and the temptations within.

A. GOD WAS HIS SHIELD.

B. GOD WAS HIS SPLENDOR. my glory,

His foes wanted his crown. They did not want to submit to his authority. They were determined to rule. This reminds us of the religious leaders of our Lord's day who said, "... **we will not have this man to reign over us**" (Luke 19 :14).

There can be only one Lord in any life. Jesus said: "**No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other**" (Matt. 6:24).

A. GOD WAS HIS SHIELD.

B. GOD WAS HIS SPLENDOR.

C. GOD WAS HIS STRENGTH. and the lifter up of mine head.

Men had cast him down, but the Lord was there to lift him up again.

(II Sam. 22 :49"It is God that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man"). One may be lifted up:

SHARP SAID David had been driven from his palace in Jerusalem, but not from his position in the Lord. He was outside the safety of the walled city, but he was sheltered under the wings of the Almighty. The Psalmist declares in **Psalm 57:1, "... Yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast."**

- I. THE PRESSURE OF DAVID'S FOES**
 - II. THE PROTECTION OF DAVID'S FATHER**
 - III. THE PEACEFULNESS OF DAVID'S FAVOR**
- (v. 5, 6)**

THREE THINGS STAND OUT HERE:

A. DAVID'S CONFIDENCE IN V. 5

B. DAVID'S COURAGE IN V. 6.

C. DAVID'S CALM in the midst of conflict.

Many lie down on comfortable beds who cannot sleep, but David had the ground for a bed and a rock for a pillow, and yet he had no trouble sleeping. This was not the sleep of exhaustion, but of complete confidence.

The Atlantic Ocean is swept by fearful storms, causing huge waves on its surface. But scientists tell us that it is so quiet down in the depths of the center And so it is amid the storms of life, the believer's heart is kept in perfect peace, a peace which the world cannot give, and which the world cannot take away.

I. THE PRESSURE OF DAVID'S FOES

II. THE PROTECTION OF DAVID'S FATHER

III. THE PEACEFULNESS OF DAVID'S FAVOR

IV. THE PRAYER OF DAVID'S FINISH

(v. 7, 8).

A. NOTICE HIS SUPPLICATION ... ARISE

David ends with a prayer, first for himself (v. 7), and then for the nation (v. 8). Many had risen against him, so now he asks the Lord to arise on his behalf.

A. NOTICE HIS SUPPLICATION

B. NOTICE SECURITY SAVE ME This is what David had in mind here. He knew that when the Lord stood up for him, no matter how large the enemy, no one would be left standing but the Lord. If the Lord be for us, what difference does it make who is against us (Rom. 8:31).

Notice that David makes his expectation rest on his past experience.

What God had done, He could and would do now. In the Word of God, past performances should be ample proof of present promises.

A. NOTICE HIS SUPPLICATION

B. NOTICE SECURITY

C. NOTICE HIS STABILITY

VRS.8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

1. Salvation comes from God.

2. Salvation is continued by God.

Thus two important lessons are taught in this Psalm.

First, human plots are powerless to frustrate God's purposes.

Second, whatever men may say, God never forsakes His own.