

# Psalm 3

**Psalms 3:1-2** [NIV] *“O LORD, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! Many are saying of me, ‘God will not deliver him.’ Selah”*

King David wrote this Psalm, not sitting on his throne but on the run for his life from his rebellious son Absalom and a host of traitors. [2 Samuel 15:13-14] The prevalent feeling was that **not** even God could help King David now.

When circumstances go against us, it is tempting to consider that God is also against us.

The word “*selah*” denotes we should rest or pause before we respond to what is happening. King David did exactly this.

**Psalms 3:3** [NIV] *“But you are a shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.”*

The use of the word “*shield*” indicates that God was his main protection, the Hebrew word translated “*glory*” is “*kâbôd*” meaning abundant or plentiful and the One who raises us from despondency. [“*lift up my head*”]

King David is reminding us that in any painful situation God does **not** leave us but provides a solution and lifts us out of dependency.

When everything seems to be going against us, God is still for us.

**Psalms 3:4** [NIV] *“To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah”*

If circumstances have turned against us, don’t blame God, seek His help.

Again King David adds the word “*selah*” to remind us to pause and meditate on what God can and will do for us. God will always respond when we pray to Him urgently and expectantly.

“*His holy hill*” was Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, the place where King David’s son Solomon would build the temple as planned for and provided for its construction by King David. [2 Chronicles 3:1]

King David knew that God could **not** be confined to any space, but he wrote poetically, expressing confidence that God would hear him when he prayed.

**Psalms 3:5-6** [NIV] *“I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side.”*

Sleep does **not** come easy during a crisis. King David could have had sleepless nights when his son Absalom rebelled against him and gathered an army to kill him.

How was King David able to relax in refreshing sleep in such a crisis?

Because King David was confident that God would respond to his prayers.

The personal assurance that God has heard and will answer our prayers will bring us peace of mind.

All this confidence rests upon experience of answered prayer, the verbs used by King David represent unvaried custom and the revelation of the nature of the Creator God.

**James 1:2-8** [NIV] *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he*

*should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”*

Doubt leaves a person as unsettled, as the restless waves of the sea. The Greek word translated “double-minded” is “*dipsuchōs*” literally meaning “two-spirited.”

This is allowing ourselves to be influenced by Satan, who will seek to place doubts in our mind [Genesis 3:1-5], and the Holy Spirit that seeks to generate in us the “fruit” of “faith” in our Creator God. [Galatians 5:22-23]

The Creator God we seek to know and have trust in is the God of salvation, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. [Acts 4:12]

**Psalms 3:7-8** [NIV] *“Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Selah”*

To ask God to strike his enemies on the “jaw and teeth” indicates two things in King David’s mind.

David saw his enemies as savage beasts about to devour him [Psalms 27:2] and for God to strike them in this way was to deprive them of the power to injure him. This was **not** a request for revenge as the next verse indicates, but for God to show His power to protect.

**Verse 8** is praising God in advance for His expected intervention and the blessings He does bring to all who place their trust in Him.

King David attested to the basic humility behind this prayer, which recognises that without the Creator God there is **no** solution or success.

Also this Psalm ends by looking beyond the personal by it being God’s deliverance of His people.

Our prayers and our desires must go beyond what is personal.

**1 Samuel 12:20-24** [NIV] *“‘Do not be afraid,’ Samuel replied. ‘You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.’”*

Israel, in asking for a human king to rule over them, had rejected the Creator God as their king, and had even turned to idol worship, even as the majority have today.

In spite of this Samuel, God’s servant, as all true Christians are, considered it would be a sin if he did not continue to pray for those who did **not** look to God for their guidance in life.