

# Psalm 003 - Individual Lament: Prayer of Deliverance From Adversaries

## Historical Background (2 Sam 15-18)

This psalm came out of the personal experience of David. It tells us what went on in the heart of David when he had to flee from Jerusalem when Absalom, his son, rebelled against him.

He had become an outcast and a fugitive from his own city, Jerusalem, which is called the city of David. He had been driven from the people he ruled. Absalom, his own son, was in rebellion against him and seeking his life. Absalom's intention was actually to put his father to death. Your heart cannot help but go out to David during this heartbreakingly experience. As David fled, the enemy was on the sidelines cursing him. Abishai, one of his mighty men said, "Let me run a spear through him." David said, "Oh, no." The prophet Nathan had told David that God would punish him for his sins:

2 Sam 12:11: This is what the LORD says: 'Behold, I am going to raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.

- Why? Because David had sinned greatly, and he was not going to get away with it  
— God had forgiven David and restored him, but David had to reap the results of his sin; and it is in his own son's rebellion that he reaped it

## David's Family Problems (2 Sam 12-14)

- Death of Bathsheba's 1st son
- Rape of his daughter, Tamar
- Slaying of his sons: Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah

David's enemies have increased on all sides; for "...The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom" (2 Sam 15:13)

Absalom was an attractive young man, a clever politician who promised the people things he would not have been able to deliver. During Absalom's rebellion there were many others who rose up against David. (2 Sam 15:12-13; 16:7-8; 17:11). He went out of Jerusalem barefoot and weeping, passing over the Kidron. It looked as if there was no help for him at all.

## Psalm 3

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

## God Delivers His Servants

1 LORD, how my enemies have increased! Many are rising up against me.  
1 O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me.  
1 LORD, I have so many persecutors! Many are rising up against me!  
1 LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me.

2 Many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God." Selah  
2 Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God." Selah.  
2 Many are saying about me, "God will never deliver him!"  
2 Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. **Selah.**

### "Selah"

- Used 71x in Psalms; 3x in Habakkuk
- It is commonly assumed that this refers to musical instructions; however: selah is to connect subject matter, not music
- It connects the end of one strophe with the beginning of the next; it is the connecting of the two subjects together—sometimes synthetic; sometimes antithetic; concerned with truth, not tunes
- The word selah comes from two roots:
  - If derived from *salah* - "to pause" it is not the instruments of music which are to pause while voices continue to sing; but it is our hearts which are to pause and to note the connection of precious truths.
  - If derived from *salal* - "to lift up" it is not the instruments which are to lift up their sound in louder degree, but our hearts which are to be lifted up to consider more solemnly the two truths which are thus connected.

3 But You, LORD, are a shield around me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.  
3 But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.  
3 But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.  
3 But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.  
- He affirms his trust in God, nevertheless  
- God was his "shield" - he trusted God's promises (2 Sam 7)  
- God would "lift up his head" and restore him to his throne (Ps 27:6; 2 Sam 15:30); God was still on His throne!

4 I was crying out to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah

4 I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain.  
*Selah.*

4 I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy mountain.

4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. *Selah.*

5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.

5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.

5 I lie down and sleep, I wake up, because the LORD sustains me.

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 Who have set themselves against me all around.

6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me round about.

6 I will not fear multitudes of people, who set themselves against me on every side.

6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.

- The Lord works on our behalf even when we sleep (Ps 121:3-4; 127:2)

7 Arise, LORD; save me, my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked.

7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked.

7 Arise, LORD! Deliver me, my God! For you strike the jaw of all my enemies, and you break the teeth of the wicked.

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 belongs to the LORD; *May Your blessing be upon Your people!* *Selah.*

8 Salvation belongs to the LORD; *Your blessing be upon Your people!* *Selah.*

8 Deliverance comes from the LORD! *May your blessing be on your people.*

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

- Jonah quoted v8 in the fish (Jonah 2:9)

- David (having used brilliance in his opposing of Absalom) refused to take any credit