

THE PSALMS

Series: Selected Psalms Phase 1

Lesson 3: Victory in the Face of Danger Psa. 3:1-8

Today's Study: Psalm 3:1-8

1. Distress Vv. 1-2
2. Dependence/Desire Vv. 3-4
3. Delight and Courage Vv. 5-6
4. Deliverance Vv. 7-8

INTRODUCTION

1. Brief Review of Lesson 2

- (a) Psalm 2 is like Psalm 1 in that it is without a title.
 - (1) It has been the consensus of scholars that Psalm 2 was written by David, based on the Apostle's account in Acts 4:25-26.
 - (2) Psalm 2 belongs to a special class of psalms known as "royal" or "Messianic" psalms. These psalms are prophetic and foretell of the coming "Messiah" or the "Anointed One."
- (b) Psalm 2 consists of four stanzas (divisions or sections) in which the speaker addresses the rebellion intended by the leaders and the people against God and His Anointed.
- (c) There was organized opposition against God's plan because Satan knows that as the Messiah's kingdom rises and gains ground, all his efforts are in jeopardy, and he was determined to oppose and destroy God's work here on earth but his opposition is futile.
 - (1) "**Heathen**" or "**Nations**" (Psa. 2:1) were in a state of rage and turmoil.
 - (2) The psalmist sees the nations in violent agitation or commotion, as if under high excitement, engaged in accomplishing some purpose – rushing on to secure something or prevent something. They were furious and determined to accomplish their objective although failure was inevitable.
- (d) They were rallying the **people** or **nations** against God! (Psa. 2:1b).
 - (1) Herein, we have seen the people of various background, coming together despite their differences; they were united in their effort to fight against God.
 - (2) The people *imagine* or they *meditate*; based on the Hebrew usage "**imagine**" is the same as "meditate" used in Psa. 1:2, but here with the implication of plotting to do evil.
 - (3) Their minds were engaged in deliberating on their plot . . . that is, they continuously focused on their plan to oppose God.
- (e) The leaders of the nations stir their people to rise up with them in rebellion against the LORD (Psa. 2:2).

- (1) Since the time of Babel, men have continued to band themselves together against God (Gen. 11:1-9). Their mistaken belief is that two or more men united against God have a better chance than one man set against God.
 - (2) The uprising was against the LORD and His Anointed (Psa. 2:2)
 - **Christ** means the “Anointed One” and “Messiah” or “The Messiah Jesus.”
 - In essence the leaders and people rose up in opposition to the LORD and His Anointed One . . . Jesus Christ.
 - Some relating Scriptures in the New Testament, associated with Psalm 2 in reference to Jesus Christ: **Psa. 2:1-2** in Acts 2:25-26; **Psa. 2:7** in Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5; **Psa. 2:8-9** in Rev. 2:26, 27; 12:5; 19:15.
 - (3) The opposition can be described as:
 - It was a spiteful and malicious opposition.
 - It was a deliberate and militant oriented opposition.
 - It was a resolute and obstinate opposition.
 - It was a combined and confederate opposition.
 - (4) People often think they will be free if they get away from God.
 - Just as the fish is not free when it leaves the water and a tree is not free when it leaves the soil, we are not free when we leave the LORD!
 - **We can find one sure route to freedom by wholeheartedly serving God the Creator. God can set you free to be the person He created you to be!**
- (f) God’s response to the rebellion (Psa. 2:4-6)
- (1) Charles H. Spurgeon notes:

“Mark the quiet dignity of the Omnipotent One, and the contempt which He pours upon the princes and their raging people. He has not taken the trouble to rise up and do battle with them – He despises them, He knows how absurd, how irrational, how futile are their attempts against Him – He therefore laughs at them.”
 - (2) Despite the excitement of the threatening uproar, God was calm and unshaken (v. 4).
 - His first response was non-verbal; He is seen simply **sitting** on His throne (v. 4).
 - The compelling and powerful message here is: “Him who is enthroned in heaven is completely and soundly secure in His power and position of the universe.
 - (3) **Note 2:4b:** *“The LORD shall hold them in derision” (NKJV).*
 - **God laughs (2:4)** but it is a scornful laugh! It is a laugh with vengeance!
 - God will not always look calmly on, nor will He allow them to accomplish their evil purpose without Him intervening.
 - (4) He takes time to address the rebels (v. 5).
 - This is a clear picture of the power of the word of God! He has but to speak the word to bring confusion to His enemies!!

- Whatever method He uses, will accomplish the victory intended (Ex. 23:27; Deut. 2:25; Josh. 10:10; 2 Sam. 5:24; etc.).
 - He would “*vex them*” (v. 5) . . . He would cause them to tremble, to be terrified, and be struck with consternation.
 - Note also: “. . . *in His deep displeasure . . .*” (v. 5d); the meaning here is that God would be displeased with their purposes, and the expression of His design would be adopted to fill them with the deepest alarm.
- (5) Irrespective of the rebellion in the making God’s plan would be fully realized.
- Jesus Christ is a King, and is endowed by Him who is the fountain, the source of power; His King is appointed and anointed with greatness and authority of a sovereign prince in the kingdom both of providence and grace.
 - “*Yet I have set My King . . .*” (v. 6 NKJV). “*Yet*” is translated “*And*”. “**And I have set or established My King.**”
 - Note God spoke of Christ as “*My King*”. God was saying to the rebels: “***In spite of all your purposes and all your opposition, I have set My King on the hill of Zion.***”
- (g) Declaring the Decree (Psa. 2:7-9)
- (1) In verses 7-9, we have strong proof that this is the LORD’S Anointed Himself speaking. He will declare the decree that the Father spoke to Him.
- (2) **Decree as used here (Psa. 2:7)** refers not to a law which Christ was to obey, but to an ordinance or statue respecting His reign: the solemn purpose of the LORD in regard to the kingdom which the Messiah was to set up the constitution of His kingdom. This statement shows and implied two things:
- . . . that He was to be regarded and acknowledged as His Son, or to have that rank and status (v. 7).
 - . . . that the heathens and uttermost parts of the earth were to be given Him for a possession or that His reign was to extend over all the world (v. 8).
- (3) He is the Son of God (v. 7b).
- He is the Son of God and therefore of the same nature with the Father; has in Him all the fullness of the godhead. infinite wisdom. power and holiness (Col. 2:9; John 1:1; Rom. 1:4; 9:5; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:3).
 - The decree (v. 7) included not only an acknowledgment of the Messiah’s divinity but His domain (kingdom) and dominion (superiority, sovereignty). He only had to ask and His desire would be granted (v. 8).
 - The dominion which was to be conceded to Him would not only be for protection of His friends but He would have power to humble and crush His enemies (v. 9).
- (4) “*You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall dash them to pieces like a potters vessel.*” (v.9)

- “He must be severe because the kings of the world will unite their armies together in one final unrestrained attack against Jesus Christ when He returns to claim His inheritance (Rev. 19:11-21)” (POSB)
 - God’s word does not change (Isa. 40:8); those who submit to Christ’s authority will be His subjects, while those who resist shall be destroyed.
- (h) The rebels had the options to continue on their destructive pathway or repent and serve Jesus Christ (Psa. 2:10-12).
- (1) The Messiah, The Anointed One, has already declared the decree that was made before the foundations of the world, that He was established with authority to rule over the world and all who oppose Him will be destroyed (Psa. 2:7-9). “For Christ must be King and reign until He has put all [His] enemies under His feet. [Psa. 110:1]” **(1 Cor. 15:25 Amplified Bible)**.
- (2) With these established and unchangeable factors, the question is asked: **“What must we do to be saved?”** The answer: **“Serve the LORD with reverent awe and worshipful fear . . .” (Psa. 2:11a Amplified Bible)**. Love Him wholeheartedly (Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31), remain obedient and surrender to His will, way and Word. We most effectively serve Him by consistently living by His standards.
- (3) Those who defy God are broken, but those who depend on Him are blessed. The psalmist leaves this with everyone: “Do you want to be broken or be blessed?”

2. Introduction to Psalm 3

At some time or the other we are tormented and sleepless. Unfortunately, for many this situation is a persistent experience; others of us it occurs when we are faced with some adverse challenge that remains on our minds. We find it difficult to sleep because the situation rests heavily on our minds and mentally we constantly focus on the possibly negative impact the new day will bring. There are a variety of medications and methods suggested for, managing restlessness but there is only one successful cure that really helps.

In Psalm 3, David reveals the cure for restlessness (sleeplessness, insomnia) and the awful fear of facing tomorrow. David, for a great part of his life, had to live as a fugitive and here he was again fleeing from Jerusalem. David’s popularity was envied by King Saul who did everything possible to kill him. This second occasion of him fleeing Jerusalem was a most unfortunate, hurting and devastating experience because he was fleeing for his life because of Absalom his own son!!

Satan knows that one of the most disastrous experience we face is internal family conflicts (*we do not have time for a discussion*). Any parent would agree that life’s most intense, distressing situations, with mental agony and stress involve children or a spouse. We can imagine what it was like for David, the heart-piercing pain as a result of his own son seeking to destroy him. This is the mighty King David, the

gallant soldier, adored and beloved leader; all over with shame and embarrassment as he fled Jerusalem bare feet and weeping (2 Sam. 15:30). How could anyone sleep facing these circumstances? Think of David facing the facts that the next day, he would have to face his very own son in battle!!

As noted above, this is a psalm of David (Psalm 3) in his flight from the raging, consuming fury of Absalom his son. The psalm is a lament to God. The basic structure of the psalm is lament; it consists of a fervent call on God (v. 1). It is a description of the believer's trouble, suffering or injustice (Vv. 1-2), and an affirmation of trust in God (Vv. 3-6), a plea for help (v. 7), and an expression of praise or thanksgiving (v. 8).

The exceptionally large number of psalms of lament in the Bible indicates that God wants His people to call upon Him in times of need and trouble (Heb. 4:14-16). You will observe that many of the psalms of laments ("**lament**": *moaning, wailing, weeping, etc.*) end on a note of praise signifying that the psalmist had prayed through his problem and realized God's presence, care, and eventual resolution of the difficulty (Example: Psa. 6; 10; 42 and 43; 57; etc.). The Word of God encourages us to cast **all** our cares upon God because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). We have also seen that while the believer may experience many difficulties, God will deliver out of them all (Psa. 34:19).

The song "**Leave It There**" may not include all areas of challenges that we face, however, it is a powerful reminder that we can take all our needs to God!!

A partial quote:

Leave it there, leave it there

Just take your burden to the Lord oh and leave it there

If you trust Him through your doubt, He will surely bring you out

Take your burden to the Lord, and leave it there.

3. Divisions of Psalm 3

Please note four main points:

- (a) Distress Vv. 1-2
- (b) Dependence/Desire Vv. 3-4
- (c) Delight and Courage Vv. 5-6
- (d) Deliverance Vv. 7-8

Selected Verses . . . Psalm 3:1, 3, 5, 7, 8 NKJV

"LORD, how they increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise against me . . . But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head . . . I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me . . . Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheek bone, You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the LORD, Your blessing is upon Your people!

A. Distress Psa. 3:1-2**1. Persecutors (Psa. 3:1)****(a) Mystery unfolds**

- (1) David saw a bitter replay and amplification of his past sins and he knew that while God forgave him there would be consequences (2 Sam. 12:7-14, NB Vv. 9-11). However, Absalom as an individual was responsible for his personal actions.
- (2) The personality of Absalom was coming to light more and more (example see 2 Sam. chaps. 13 and 14).
 - After he was allowed to return to Jerusalem (2 Sam., 14:23-33), he secretly undermined his father's leadership (2 Sam. 15:1-9).
 - Then came the day for his rebellion in planning, his treacherous and evil objectives to be forcefully enacted (2 Sam. 15:7-14, NB Vv. 10-14 . . . read chaps 15-18).
 - Absalom would have made a great king and the people loved him; but he lacked the inner character and control needed to be a good leader. His appearance, skill, and position did not make up for his lack of personal integrity.
- (3) Obviously, David apparently had little or no advance information of Absalom's evil plot. At the time when he heard the revolt was already activated (2 Sam. 15:12-13 . . . note also v. 14).

(b) Melancholy sets in!

- (1) It was a sad and discouraging day for King David as his son formed and enacted a conspiracy against him to take away not only his crown but his life!
- (2) David was heavy laden with grief, he went up the Mount of Olives (2 Sam. 15:30) (KJV ... Olivet), he wept greatly, with his head covered, and marching barefooted; although his experience was so devastating he wrote this most comforting psalm.
- (3) Matthew Henry notes:
"He wept and prayed, wept and sung, wept and believed; this was sowing in tears. Is any afflicted? Let him pray; nay let him sing psalms, let him sing this psalm. Is any afflicted with undutiful disobedient children? David was; and yet that did not hinder his joy in God, nor put Him out of tune for holy songs."

(c) Many were his enemies!

- (1) Somehow it seemed that the objective was to crush David's spirit; Absalom was successful on obtaining an overwhelming support!
 - We observe **in verse 1**: ". . . they have increased . . ." **and in verse 2**: "Many are they . . ." (NKJV).
 - David was outnumbered, he was in the minority and would be at a disadvantage if he remained at the palace.
 - It should also be taken in consideration that this attack was not from an enemy nation! This was an internal problem!!

- The party that sought his ruin was very formidable under the leadership of his son.
 - The expression **“that trouble me” (v. 1 KJV)** is literally **“my adversaries.”**
 - This group consisted of David’s family, friends and foes, all united to take his life.
- (2) There was now a great deal of irritation, especially considering those from whom he had all the reason to expect better:
- From his son, whom he had been indulgent with.
 - From his subjects, whom he had been so great blessings.
- (3) ***Beloved, Christ the Son of David (Matt. 1:1; 15:22; etc.) had many great enemies:***
- When the great multitude came to seize Him (Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43; Luke 22:47; John 18:2,3)
 - When the crowd cried: *Crucify Him! Crucify Him!* (Matt. 27:22; Mark 15:13; Luke 23:21; John 18:40).
- (4) If Christ had enemies, the Christians will have enemies (John 15:18-27)
- The attacks on believers are orchestrated by the arch enemy Satan himself (Rev. 12:9; 2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11).
 - You heard the statement before but it is a reality: **“as we (Christians) grow in the LORD, our trials and troubles will increase both in number and severity!!**
 - Satan and his demonic forces are not worried about carnal believers because they are of no threat to him. His objective is to seek to destroy the mightiest soldiers (Christian soldiers).
 - One strong advice in Scripture (well-known and quoted) **Eph. 6:10-19.**
2. **Pathetic Picture Painted** (Psa. 3:2)
- (a) They were very malicious.
- (1) They put a spiteful and unpleasant interpretation upon his troubles.
- We saw similar situation with Job:
“I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all.” (Job 16:2 NKJV).
 - **“Insults have broken my heart, and I am in despair. I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comfort, but I found no one.”**
- (2) David’s tormentors were asserting that because his servants and subjects had forsaken him he was to be regarded as a hypocrite and a wicked man.
- (b) They blasphemously attested that God was unable to help him.
- (1) The situation in which he is in is so enormous that even God was reluctant and unwilling to help him.

- (2) Matthew Henry notes:
“it is strange that so great unbelief should be found in any, especially in many, in Israel, as to think any party of men too strong for the Omnipotence to deal with.”
- (c) They endeavored to shake his confidence in God and drive him to despair, noting that there would be no relief for him.
- (1) Beloved, whenever the question is asked: **“Where is your God?”**, shows the blindness of unbelief.
- (2) To a trusting person the advice of others that their deliverance is hopeless, such is an insult and lacks faith in God (compare Psa. 11:1 and 42:10).
- (3) It startles a child of God at the very thought of not being helped of God; to him (child of God) such a thought is abhorrent and unacceptable.
- Hezekiah spreads Rabshakeh’s blasphemous letter before the LORD (2 Kings 19:14-19).
 - **What else to do but ignore the voices of discouragement and the expressions and the outburst of hate and rage. Just like Hezekiah, David took his situation to the LORD in prayer!!**
- (4) As noted earlier, David knew his sin in the matter of Bathsheba and Urijah; he knew that although he was forgiven there would be consequences. God told him there would be consequences for his sin: “. . . raise up adversity against you from your own house; . . .” (2 Sam. 12:11 NKJV).
- David humbled himself to God’s judgment (2 Sam. 12:13-17; Psa. 51) and most likely he also used this adverse situation to recommit himself to God.
 - However, David did not cast away his confidence in the divine power, mercy and grace of God. Despite the reality of what was unfolding, he did not despair nor lose hope in God!!
- (d) The following is a partial quote from The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible (POSB)
- “David’s false friends defended their disloyalty by claiming that God was on Absalom’s side and that David had lost the LORD’S favor. This false assumption satisfied their corrupt consciences and, to their minds, justified their treason against their king. And, sadly, the opinion that God was judging David was spreading. Note the word of Shimel, a relative of Saul who cursed David as he fled (see 2 Sam. 16:5-8).*

When sincere believers face trouble, some carnal Christians and unbelievers usually question their relationship with the LORD . . .”

NOTE:

(a) **A few brief pointers on forsaking sin:**

- (1) There are consequences for sin: Gen. 3:9-19; 2 Sam. 12:7-14; Gal. 6:7-8; Rom. 5:12.

- (2) God promises and gives assurance of the forgiveness of sin: Psa. 32:5; Isa. 43:25; 55:6-7; 1 John 1:9.
 - (3) Sin must be confessed and forsaken: Prov. 28:13; Luke 13:3; John 5:14; 8:11; Acts 17:30; Eph. 4:22.
We must NOT HABITUALLY SIN!! (1 John 3:1-10).
 - (4) Carnal Christians and unbelievers often want to use the past to haunt and taunt but sins sincerely confessed to God and forsaken is a done transaction: Psa. 103:12; Isa. 43:25; Micah 7:19; Heb. 8:12; 10:14-18.
- (b) **Selah** (Psa. 3:2,4,8)
- (1) **“Selah”** is a term of uncertain meaning . . . scholars vary as to its usage.
 - (2) It has been used 74 times in the Old Testament (71 times in the Psalms and 3 times in Habakkuk).
 - (3) Leading scholars says that based on the Hebrew usage it is a word for **“pause”**. Many think it speaks of a reflective pause, a pause to meditate on the words just spoken. It may also be a musical instruction, for a musical interlude of some kind (*as a reminder, “psalms” are songs or hymns accompanied by musical instruments.*)
 - (4) **A Practical Lesson**
David inserted the word **Selah** after he described the distressing situation to the LORD. It may seem to be an abnormal place for a pause (v. 2), however, its usage here has strategic reason. Whenever we are facing distressing situations and turn to this psalm, we will observe that the psalmist encourages us to pause here and deliberate on the adversity and perhaps the hopelessness of the circumstances. It is obvious that this interlude effectively sets the stage for the full impact of David’s triumphant statement in the next verse (Psa. 3:3). “But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, my glory and honor, and the One who lifts my head.” (Amp. Bible)
Turn to the LORD should be our first resort, not our last (Matt. 11:28; 1 Peter 5:7; Psa. 55:22).

B. Dependence/Desire Psa. 3:3-4

As it relates to an active believer the more he is beaten off from God, either by the callousness of others or the condemnation of enemies, etc., speedily he will hold unto God and become more attached, he will cleave to Him, as we have seen exemplified by David.

Hard-pressed by adverse and hateful opposition and life threatening danger, David expresses his heartfelt desire for the LORD’S intervention. His enemies had said there was no help for him in God but David cries with resounding assurance, **“But You O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head”** (Psa. 3:3 NKJV). They can say what they desire, but I am without doubt that You will never forsake me and I am resolved that I will never distrust you!!

Soldiers in those days depended on a shield to protect them during a battle but David is seen here trusting God as his shield against the power of all his enemies. He was also confident of having God's continued presence and it was God who would raise him up out of the horrible pit . . . the pit of betrayal, hate and all the evil associated with the insurrection.

1. Prelude to His Confidence (Psa. 3:3)

(a) Protection (v. 3a)

(1) Safety

- *"But You, O LORD, are a shield for me . . ." (NKJV)*
- Safety has been given top priority in every area of life and we see continued new and improved methods and means of security put in place with the objective of ensuring maximum protection.
 - There was a time when no one felt threatened in anyway when we attend church services but unfortunately today **in some** situations there are armed security in some congregations (*concealed weapons*).
 - We will not be criticizing measures taken to ensure safety (*even if we question some measures in-place*) but no resource less than God is adequate to meet human needs (Psa. 33:12-22, NB Vv. 16-19).
- Paul's voyage to Rome was a hazardous and life threatening situation. *We will have time for limited highlighted pointers. See Acts 27, NB Vv. 21-44.*
 - The sea was boisterous and violent
 - The crew did their very best in a desperate manner to save the ship and lives.
 - Their state of survival seemed hopeless and darkness overshadowed.
 - Despite all their efforts nothing seemed to be working and it all seemed useless.
 - We witnessed the commanding courage of Paul because of his relationship with the true and living God.
 - Paul specifically pointed out that there was only one way to survive and was to stay in the ship.
 - Although the ship was eventually destroyed no lives were lost as God had revealed to Paul.
 - Man must learn and take all his needs to God and trust Him to do His part! (Prov. 3:5-6; etc.)
- Whether it's being caught on a turbulent, boisterous sea as it was in Paul's situation (Acts 27, NB Vv. 21-44) or in the midst of a violent, life threatening situation as it was with David's case (2 Sam. chaps. 15-18) or whatever situation we may be experiencing adversity our safety is found in Jesus Christ!!
 Leaning on the everlasting arms.
 Leaning, leaning
 Safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning on the everlasting arms.

(2) Sovereign protection assured to all!

*"You, O LORD, are **a shield for me . . .**"*

- He is not just a shield but "**a shield for me!**"
 - He is there to secure on all sides, since my enemies surround me (Psa. 57:4; 64:3; etc.).
 - He is not only my protector but I am privileged to enjoy the benefit and advantage of that protection.
- Under attack from a cunning and ruthless enemy, David needed a shield and He knew that God was his shield!
- David's troubling situation and mind motivated him to reflect on the promises of God's Word.
 - **Gen. 15:1 Amplified Bible**
 "After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abraham, **I am your Shield**, your abundant compensation, and your reward shall be exceeding great."
 - See also Deut. 33:20; Psa. 33:20; 84:11; 115:9; Prov. 30:5.

(3) Surrounded with divine care and protection.

- Sometimes we tend to see only the adverse situations and the uncertainties of what's next and sometimes fail to wholly trust in God who is always there for us! (Prov. 3:5-6)
- Elijah fled from Jezebel and desired to die. Seemed to be a situation he was not prepared for physically and mentally so he fled to the desert.
 - See 1 Kings 19
 - Yet God was with Him and eventually converse with him, giving the assurance that was necessary (Note carefully 1 Kings 19:11-18 . . . chapter 18 will help if you are in need of background information).
- Elisha was caught in the midst of a conflict between Syria and Israel . . . Read 2 Kings 6:8-23.
 - Elisha was regarded as a threat by the king of Syria and they decided to take him as a prison-of-war.
 - Elisha's location was surrounded by the Syrian army and Elijah's servant became panic stricken. Elisha prayed that God would open his eyes to see what God was doing on behalf of their well-being (**Note 2 Kings 6:14-18**).
- Those who trust in the LORD will experience the protection of His embracing presence just as Jerusalem was protected by the surrounding mountains (See Psa. 125).
 - **Psa. 125:2 NKJV**
 "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people From this time forth and forever."
 - See also Psa.34:7; 41:2; 91:4, 5; Zech. 2:5; Heb. 13:6; etc.

(4) God is your (our) shield, He is there for you (us)!!

- He is there when others forsake us (Psa. 27:10)
- He watches and protects us continuously, . . . He never sleeps (Psa. 121).
- He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother (Prov. 18:24).
- He is a present help in time of trouble (Psa. 46:1).
- We have His word; we'll never be alone (Isa. 43:2; Matt. 28:20).

(b) **Presence** (v. 3b)

"But You, O LORD, are . . . My glory . . ." (3b NKJV)

The most common use of the word "glory" in the Bible is to describe the splendor or holiness and majesty of God.

Glory in this sense, is often associated with a person experiencing the manifestation of God's presence in a tangible way. When used this way, the word "glory" conveys a sense of heavy honor. Two examples are (a) When the Tabernacle was completed (Ex. 40:34-35), (b) God's glory filled the newly constructed Temple (2 Chron. 5, NB Vv. 4-14, highlight Vv. 11-14).

This was experienced tangibly by those around, who saw a cloud filled Temple. This cloud which signified God's glory and presence, temporarily prevented the priest from conducting their duties.

(1) The glory of God . . . His presence . . . a great honor!!

- The presence of God is to be cherished, nothing else is more valuable, nothing more is of greater necessity!
 - Adam and Eve lost so much when they fell by their transgression.
 - Samson was defeated, humiliated, etc. because the presence of God had departed.
 - King Saul desperately sought to regain even a brief moment of God's presence but never did, and his end was disastrous!!
- Men find **glory** in all sorts of things – fame, fortune, power, prestige, or possessions. **David found his glory in the LORD!!**

F. B. Meyers notes:

"Oh, my soul, hast thou made God thy glory? Others boast in their wealth, beauty, position, achievements: dost thou find in God what they find in these?"

(2) God is our source of glory.

- David the mighty warrior was a "man of war" (1 Sam. 16:18; 2 Sam 17:8; 1 Chron. 28:3).
- It's an established fact as to how David ascended to the throne. We know that he was chosen by God (1 Sam. 16) but there were other contributing factors:
 - His victory over Goliath (1 Sam. 17, NB Vv. 45-50).
 - His victories as a soldier in all his military campaigns (1 Chron. 18:1-17).

- He ruled with wisdom, compassion and care over God's people (2 Sam. 9, NB Vv. 3, 7, 11; Psa. 78:72; Acts 13:36).
- There was always something special about David, loved by the people; pleasing to God (1 Chron. 18:14; Acts 13:22).
- The insurrection orchestrated by his son, stripped him of his glory (so it seemed) as he fled from Jerusalem barefooted, weeping, etc.; he was overtaken by shame and deep humiliation.
- The fact that his enemy was his son produced further disgrace and deeper hurt.
 - But David recognized that any glory he had achieved had come from the LORD, and he was fully aware that only God could restore his former glory.
 - The Word of God declares:
Psa. 84:11 Amplified Bible
 "For the LORD God is a Sun and Shield; **the LORD bestows [present] grace and favor and [future] glory (honor, splendor, and heavenly bliss! . . ."**

(3) Quote from The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible:

"We sometimes face situations that can make us feel embarrassed, scorned, and even disgraced. Problems of an intensely personal nature, such as family strife, financial difficulty, or loss of employment leave us feeling humiliated and ashamed. But even in the midst of our failures, we must remain faithful to the LORD and hope in Him. If we do, He promises to shower us with His glory."

Rom. 8:18 NKJV

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

(See also 1 Peter 4:13-14)

(c) **Promotion**

*"But You, O Lord, are . . . **the One who lifts up my head**"* (v. 3 NKJV)

David was not sitting on his throne in a place of power; he was running for his life from his rebellious son Absalom, and a host of traitors. When circumstances go against us, we may be tempted to think that God is also against us. But David reminds us that the opposite is true. **When everything seems to go wrong, God is still there for us. If a circumstance has turned against you, don't blame God – seek Him!!**

God was more than David's protection. He also was the one who put David on higher ground, lifting his head and showing him glory. There was nothing

glorious or head-lifting in David's current circumstances, but there was in his God.

(1) Labeling David as being hopeless . . . they were saying:

- You had your chance and blew it!!
- You have no help in God!!
- You are like an abandoned and rejected child!!
- You have no hope, no secured future!!
- You will be annihilated; you will be crushed!!
- You are doomed, there is nothing ahead of you but darkness, despair and destruction!!

(2) God abandoning the unrighteous is a topic that is frequently debated. (*See Rom. 1:14-32; there are many things to be learnt from this passage . . . I have time to **briefly** comment on verse 24*).

- There are two reasons why God abandons the unrighteous to sin:
 - To allow sin and its consequences to accelerate as part of His judgment upon them.
 - To make them realize their need of salvation (Rom. 2:4)
- To neglect and reject God's offer of salvation is to reject His mercies (Heb. 2:3).
- **David was not abandoned by God** and he knew that and kept his unwavering confidence in God.

(3) Lift out of the dungeon of hopelessness!

- ***"Thou art the lifter up of my head!!"***
 - God would lift his head and give the needed courage to face his foes, fears and the dread of tomorrow.
 - He would lift his head out of troubles, and restore him to dignity again.
 - David was saying: "I shall not slump, nor be discouraged, nor my spirit fail."

- Oh, Beloved! Rom. 8:28 is the Word of God!! Even if we do not always understand it!!

In the worst of times, God's people can lift up their heads with joy, knowing that all shall work for good for them; they will own it is God that is the lifter up of their head, that gives them both causes and hearts to rejoice!!

- We can still sing today:
**He lifted me up from the deep miry clay;
 He planted my feet on the King's Highway
 And this is the reason why I sing and I shout
 My Jesus came down, down, down
 And lifted me up.**

(4) Liberated out of the consuming evil circumstances.

- The LORD would lift David's heads above his circumstances so that he might see God's glory.
 - Despite the conflicts and attacks of our enemies in this world God is still in control!
 - In the darkest nights He lifts up our heads to give us a glimpse of Himself – His glory, power, greatness, and sufficiency for our troubles.
- (5) Load will be removed and ultimate victory realized!!
- David had left Jerusalem with his head hung low in shame and rejection. God would lift his head in triumph, and the king would march into Jerusalem.
 - By God's grace victory would be realized and he would recover his throne with his head held high!
 - **Promotion comes from God!!** (See Psa. 75:6-7; etc.). It was God who promoted David from a shepherd to be king of Israel (1 Sam. 16:1-13; Psa. 78:70-71; etc.) and it will remain as such!

I will close this pointer with a quote from Matthew Henry:

*"In singing this, and praying it over we should possess ourselves with an apprehension of the danger we are in from the multitude and malice of our spiritual enemies, who seek the ruin of our souls by driving us from God, and we should concern ourselves in the distresses and danger of the church of God, which is everywhere spoken against, everywhere fought against; **but in reference to both, we should encourage ourselves in our God, who owns and protects and will in due time crown His own interest both in the world and in the hearts of His people.**" (emphasis mine)*

2. Prayers Answered (Psa. 3:4)

- (a) In David's situation it appeared at the outset, that the enemy may seem to be accomplishing their goal to seek and destroy!
- (1) My cruel enemies clamor against me; they lift up their voices, and, behold, I lift up mine, and cry out, and it soars!!
 - (2) They clamor, but the cry of my voice in great distress pierces the very skies, and is louder and stronger than all their tumult; for there is one in the sanctuary who hearkens to me from heaven and He heard me out "of His holy hill" (v. 4).
- (b) Definitely, David was irritated by his enemies, but he shook himself up to do what was necessary in such and any situation, he would look to God in whom there is comfort and assurance for tomorrow.
- (1) If he focused on what was around him, he would see nothing but discouragement.
 - (2) David, as a result of the darkness and threatening situation, looked back and thought about the abundant blessings he received from God.

- (3) David knew that although situations looked so dark, gloomy and uncertain, with God the sun will shine radiantly.
- (c) David knew the bliss, blessedness and bountiful outpouring of God's goodness, when we commune with Him and abide in His will.
- (1) God answered his prayers in the past (Psa. 3:4) and He will do it again! No situation was too difficult for God to deliver and He will do it again!!
- (2) David's past experiences were difficult and discouraging but they also taught him to continue trusting the all-sufficient God. **Note Three Things:**
- His troubles had always brought him to his knees, and that, in all his difficulties and dangers, he had been enabled to acknowledge God and to keep looking to Him at all times. *"I cried unto God with my voice."* (v. 4a).
 - David knew that God was ready to answer his prayers: *"He heard me from His holy hill"* (v. 4b), from heaven. **"Holy hill"** symbolizing the dwelling place of God.
 - David had ordered Zadok to return the Ark of God to Jerusalem; the Levites had taken it with them when they fled from Absalom (2 Sam.15:24-29, NB v. 25).
 - David knew that God was not tied to the Ark, Israel learnt that lesson when the Philistines defeated them, (see 1 Sam. 4, NB Vv. 3-9 and 10-17). God is not limited and will be there for us as long as we remain wholeheartedly committed to Him.
 - As seen in verse 5 (*we will discuss that verse in the next pointer*); David felt safe and secure from all alarms, in the care and protection of God.
- (d) Note a few "Practical Pointers", briefly presented: **"God Answers Prayers!"**
- (1) Unfortunately, for too many their plans were made before their prayers.
- You will observe that as it relates to the rebellion against David, he had no counteraction in place despite his outstanding military experiences. **David's first and only recourse was to cry out to God in prayer.**
 - David had a heaviness in his heart and spirit and was compelled to verbally cry out to God.
 - **Spurgeon notes:**
"Surely silent prayers are heard. Yes, but good men often find that even in secret, they pray better aloud than they do when they utter no vocal sound."
- (2) We must remain confident in a prayer answering God.
- David knew that there was a covenant with God and He would be faithful to His subjects.
 - David cried to God just as a child does to his earthly father, even so we must do to our heavenly Father! (See 1 Chron. 17:13; Rom. 8:14-15; Gal. 4:6).
- (3) God's provisions for us through Jesus Christ.

- Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we are given the wonderful privilege of crying out to our Heavenly Father at any time and any place.
- He assures us of open access into His glorious presence, and He invites us to come boldly before His throne. When we faithfully approach Him, He promises to help us and meet all our needs.

Heb. 4:16 NKJV

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find help in time of need.”

- See also Heb. 10:19-22; 1 John 5:14-15.

(4) Don't we all pass through different experiences? . . . *The following terms are used symbolically:*

- Beaten up day in and day out.
- Battered and scandalized mercilessly.
- Bruises and swollen body.
- Bleeding profusely and left to die.
- Broken in mind and spirit by the nay-sayers.
- Besieged by vengeful and hypocritical opponents.
- Etc.
- **But behold, we serve a risen Savior and He is with us!!**

(5) Answered prayers are sweet cordials for the soul!

- Oh Beloved! We need not fear a frowning world while we rejoice in a prayer-hearing God!
- *Note verse 4 also close with “Selah”*

➤ Rest a while, O tired believer, and change the strain to a softer air.

➤ **Psa. 3:4 Amplified Bible**

“With my voice I cry to the LORD, and He hears and answers me out of His holy hill. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!”

(e) **“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”** (*Partial Quote*)

Verse 1

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
 Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness,
 Take it to the Lord in prayer!

C. Delight and Courage Psa. 3:5-6

Note carefully: *“I laid down . . . I slept . . . and I awake!!”* (Psa. 3:5). David used these as evidences of God’s blessings, because David was under such intense pressure from the circumstances of Absalom’s rebellion that sleep might have been impossible, **but he slept!** Waking was another blessing, because many wondered if David would live to see a new day!

C.H. Spurgeon notes

“Truly it must have been a soft pillow indeed that could make him forget his danger, who then had such a disloyal army at his back hunting him.”

1. Preservation (Psa. 3:5)

Just as if David was saying: I am dwelling in the secret place of the Most High and shall continue under the shadow of the Almighty! Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for God is with me, His rod and His staff they comfort me!!

(a) Blessedness of sleep, the providence of God! (v. 5)

- (1) The blessings noted in this verse (v. 5) is applicable to the common mercies of every night for which we ought to give thanks, and with our families every morning!
 - Many have not where to lay their heads or if they have a place to lay their heads, they dare not lie down for fear of the enemy, **but we have laid ourselves in peace.**
 - Many lie down and cannot sleep, but are full of tossing to and fro till the dawning of the day, through pain of the body or anguish of mind, or the continual alarms of fear in the night; **but we laid down and sleep in safety, although incapable of doing anything then for our own preservation.**
 - We have been safe under His protection and serene in the arms of His divine superintendence.
- (2) David confidently and powerfully demonstrated his confidence in the LORD.
 - Unfortunately, characterizing David’s kingdom at the moment of the rebellion we see destabilization, distress and danger at the highest level with the reality of death facing him . . .
 - . . . there was the heartache of a son who sought his life.
 - . . . some of his close associates and comrades in arms had now joined the rebellion.
 - . . . there was the fear of an attack by his adversaries during the night.

- . . . the next day he would have to meet with his enemies under the leadership of his son in a most dreadful battle.
 - In spite of these adverse circumstances David lay down and slept!
 - His lying down proved his unwavering unshakeable reliance upon God who watches over him continuously (Gen. 28:15; Psa. 121:8).
 - **The fact that he went to sleep demonstrated the tranquility and hope that God gave him irrespective that he was in the midst of inconceivable trouble (John 14:27; 16:32-33; etc.).**
- (b) Blessed quietness flows from God!!
- (1) Most powerfully demonstrated in this account is the wonderful quietness and calmness of David in the midst of his dangers.
 - (2) What a great privilege given by God despite any odd circumstances:
It is great mercy when we are in trouble to have our minds stayed upon God, which assures us that we will never deprive ourselves of eating or enjoying needed rest being overcome with trembling and astonishment.
 - (3) Under the ultimate care and protection of The Almighty!!
 - David awoke to see the morning light because of God's comprehensive care, he was guarded, upheld and supported.
 - As he slept, David was leaning on the everlasting arms and he was safe and secure from all alarms. David woke up refreshed, with great confidence and was ready to face the battle of the day!!
 - Quote from P. O. S. B.
"We should remember the importance of sleep when facing serious trouble. We must be refreshed – renewed, strengthened – physically as well as spiritually in order to deal with the challenges that trouble brings. God will grant us sleep when we fully commit our concerns to Him for victory. Prayer does not always change our circumstances, but it always changes us."
 - (4) Beloved! God will bless His people with the ability to enjoy the necessity of sleep!!
 - **Psa. 127:2 ESV**
*"It is vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; **for He gives His beloved sleep.**"*
 - God sustains us in our sleep, but we take it for granted. Think of it: you are asleep, unconscious, dead to the world – yet you breathe, your heart pumps, your organs operate. **The same God who sustains us in our sleep will sustain us in our difficulties!**

2. Prowess (Psa. 3:6)

"I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around" (v. 6 NKJV).

(a) I will be courageous because the battle is the LORD'S!

(1) David knew by personal experience what it meant to be protected by God.

- In the keeping of his sheep when attacked by ferocious animals (1 Sam. 17:34-37).
 - In defeating the giant Goliath who defied the true and living God (1 Sam. 17:45) and the Israelite's army (1 Sam. 17, NB Vv. 48-54).
 - In the years of living as a fugitive fleeing for his life because of King Saul's determination to kill him (1 Sam. 18:10-16; 19:1-11; 23:9-29; etc.)
 - In his many battles against the enemies of Israel (1 Sam. 18:10-16; 23:1-7; etc.)
- (2) David's calmness and refreshing slumber helped to produce a confidence needed; hope and assurance in God! He would not be moved and was steadfastly focused on God!!
- The mind as well as the body had been renewed and invigorated.
 - With the bright light of the new morning he looked forward with more cheerful perspectives and aspirations on the things around him. and there was a new strength to meet any danger to which he was exposed.
- (b) David entrusted his all in the hands of God.
David and his small group were surrounded by ten thousands of people (Psa. 3:6), who had one objective: "annihilate David and his men!" What the enemy overlooked was the banner over David and his small group (Ex.17:15-16 . . . "Jehovah-nissi" ... "The-LORD-Is-My-Banner")
- Rom. 8:31 Amplified Bible**
"What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe], if God is on our side? [Psa. 118:6]."
- (1) David was able to face the adverse challenge because of his faith in God who enables him to be courageous.
- (2) David not only committed his all to God but was sustained by Him (Psa. 3:5b). This is the secret of David's confidence in the face of a multitude opposing him. It is also our secret.
- (3) One sarcastic remark from the enemy could be: *"They are greatly outnumbered – what hope do they have?" As noted before, the enemy overlooked the real facts!!*
- They that are with us are more than those with them (2 Kings 6:8-17, NB v. 16)
 - The battle is the LORD's (1 Sam.17:47; 2 Chron. 20:15; etc.)
 - Indeed, our God is mighty in battles (Psa. 24:8)
- (c) Faith is the victory that overcomes!!
- (1) David spoke from a heart of faith and not a heart of doubt.
- (2) We do experience those pitch dark, most desperate nights when it seems that all is caving in, but beloved, we must hold fast to God's unchanging hand!
- (3) *"Unwavering faith releases the mighty power of God to act on our behalf. However, even the slightest doubt can hinder the miraculous from taking place. For this reason, we must be fully persuaded of God's presence and*

power and not allow doubt to enter our minds (Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 9:23: 11:23; James 1:6-7).” (Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible)

D. Deliverance Psa. 3:7-8

1. Prayer for Personal Deliverance and Defeat of His enemies (Psa. 3:7)

Psa. 3:7 NKJV

“Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly”

(a) Calling on Him who is able and willing! (v. 7a)

(1) **“Arise”** usage in the Old testament (**Briefly Noted**).

- **“Arise”** is frequently used in the Old Testament as a call for the manifestation of God’s power in salvation or judgment (Num. 10:35; Psa. 3:7: 7:6; 68:1; etc.)
- There are different usages for the word **“arise”**. It means: to come into action, being, or notice; to become operative; to begin to act a part, . . . etc.
 - Some words associated with **“arise”** are: wake, waken, awake, bestir, stir, etc.
 - Some references: Josh. 1:2; Judges 7:9; 1 Sam. 23:4; **2 Sam. 17:1, 21**; Psa. 10:12; Isa. 6:1,2 (read the chapter).

(2) The cries of David.

- The cry noted in this verse (v. 7) differs from his previous cry.
 - In verses 1-3, he was in a state of disgust, desperation and facing possible death.
 - As we have it in this verse (v. 7) it was a cry of confidence, flowing out of a consoled soul, casting his all on Him who cares and is able.
- As noted in verse 5, David had a good night’s sleep and woke up refreshed, rejuvenated and ready for the challenge of the day! It was God who gave him a refreshing of His abiding presence and continued care!!
- **It was a cry for personal deliverance and defeat of his enemies (v. 7).**
 - David’s grievous plea was in response to those who ridiculed and derided him, those who branded him as one forsaken by God (v. 2).
 - Him who should have been intimidated and driven to despair by his enemies is calling fearlessly upon the LORD to appear on his behalf and confound his enemies!!
- While the enemies were the “ten thousands of people” (v. 6) that rose up against David’ **he was calling upon One to rise up for him!**

Psa. 118:6 Amplified Bible

“The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? [Heb. 13:6].”

(3) Salvation sought (*keep in mind “salvation” is “deliverance”*).

- Note Moses' prayer in Num. 10:33-36. **Arise, O LORD**, as we recollect, Moses used this phrase as the children of Israel broke camp in the wilderness. **Arise, O LORD**, was a military phrase, calling on God to go forth to both defend Israel and lead them to victory.
- David personally knew the miraculous power of God and His readiness and willingness to deliver all His people. He knew what God has done in the past and that He is more than able to give victory to His people.

(b) Contempt of the enemy (v. 7b)

(1) In regards to the destruction of the enemy David used two ordinary phrases (v. 7b).

- **"... struck all my enemies on the cheek bone . . ."** (v. 7b) or *"Striking the enemy on the cheek – 'a slap in the face – was an act of humiliation.*
- **"... broken the teeth of the ungodly"** (v. 7b)
 - David saw the rebels behaving like a herd of raging uncontrolled animals that needed their tooth broken.
 - This is a graphic figure of speech that is also used in Psa. 58:6.
 - A lion that has his teeth broken is powerless and David asked that his enemies be made powerless.
 - The term used here speaks of total domination and defeat of the enemy.
- You may also describe this prayer of David (Psa. 3) is like an imprecatory (denunciation) prayer for judgment on the wicked, including removing their capacity to harm.

(2) In essence David sought the total defeat of his enemies!

- As noted in this psalm (Psalm 3) David looked for protection, but he wanted more than protection he wanted victory.
- It wasn't enough for David to survive the threat to the kingdom; he had to be victorious over the threat, and he would be a blessing to God.

2. Proclaim Your Faith (Psa. 3:8)

(a) Acknowledging the divine deliverer

"Salvation belongs to the LORD . . ." (v.8a NKJV)

(1) It appertains to God alone to save!

- David had no expectation of saving himself; he had no confidence in the self-reliant effectiveness of his own arm.
- He knew that if he was to be saved it was to be of God only, and the praise of this was to be given to Him!!

(2) **Salvation** is the great word of deliverance (*as noted above*).

- It may be used in a temporal sense, as originally used here, to mean a deliverance from physical danger, the threat of death, or the defeat in war.
- The usage deepens throughout the Old Testament to take on more and more meaning of deliverance from man's rebellion against the LORD.

- (3) God has the power to save!
- No matter the level of danger, that confronts His people.
 - God has always been in the deliverance mode, when all other help fail, He is there!!
 - It is a pleasure! It is His pleasure! It is His promise to those that are His, whose salvation is not of themselves, but of the LORD!!
- (4) David knew that he served the “Almighty God”! . . . “El Shaddai”!! (Gen. 17:1) and in no way he (David) would receive credit for the victory he would receive!
- He gave God the glory for His salvation, praising the faithful God who keeps His covenant in spite of his (man’s) sinful failures.
 - Deliverance is not the property of any one nation or sect, but of the LORD God.
 - **Psa.50:15 Amplified Bible**
“And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor and glorify Me.”
 - See also Psa. 91, NB v. 15; Isa. 58:9; Jer. 33:3; Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; etc.
- (b) Victory assured and blessings upon the people!
- “Your blessing is upon Your people” (v, 8b NKJV)***
- (1) This thought (v. 8b) brings out the true personality of David, especially when he was in the midst of personal calamity.
- He was not only concerned for God’s hand upon himself, but upon all God’s people.
 - He didn’t pray for preservation and victory in the trial with Absalom just for his own sake, but because it was best for the nation.
- (2) Barnes comments as follows:
- “It is one of the characteristics of true piety thus to turn from our own condition to that of others, and to desire that what we enjoy may be partakers of by the people of God everywhere.”*
- (3) W. T. Purkiser notes:
- “It is important to note that David prays not only for the few who had been loyal to his cause. He invokes divine blessings upon the entire nation, which would include the rebels. This reminds us of the prayer of David greater Son for those who crucified Him: ‘Father forgive them, for they know not what they do’ (Luke 23:34).”*

Challenges will be experienced but it’s “Onward Christian Soldiers”! (Partial Quote)

Verse 1: Onward Christian soldiers, marching on to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see His banner go!

Verse 3: Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;

Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;
We are not divided; all one body we,
One hope and doctrine, one in charity

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

DO NOT JUST READ THE BIBLE, STUDY AND OBEY IT!

2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim. 3:16-17 NKJV

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

PSALM 3

Review Questions

1. (a) In what way Psalms 1 and 2 are alike? (b) To whom the authorship of Psalm 2 has been ascribed and why it was so determined?

2. List the relating Scriptures in the New Testament that are associated with the following in Psalm 2, and refers to Jesus Christ: (a) Psa. 2:1-2, (b) Psa. 2:7, (c) Psa. 2:8-9.

3. Complete the following:

Discussing the adverse effects experienced by David we noted what it means for family to deal with internal conflict . . . (this is a partial quote of that paragraph).

“Any (a) _____ would (b) _____ that life’s most (c) _____, distressing (d) _____ with (e) _____ agony and (f) _____ involve (g) _____ or a spouse.”

4. (a) Upon what occasion did David wrote Psalm 3? (b) What is the basic structure of the psalm and of what does it consist? **(Briefly)**

5. What is revealed about Absalom in the following references (a) 2 Sam. 15:1-9 (b) 2 Sam. 15:7-14.

6. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“Absalom would have made a great king and the people loved him; but he _____ needed to be a good leader ...”

- (a) lacked the skills of a soldier
- (b) lacked the inner character and control
- (c) was kept out of the spotlight
- (d) was deprived of the leadership skills

7. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

“Those who were with Absalom were fewer in numbers than those who fled with David.” (Give reference)

8. In regards to David’s adversaries (Psalm 3); in what way were they (a) malicious (b) blasphemous?

9. Briefly explain the meaning and usage of “*Selah*” (Psa. 3:2, 4, 8).

10. As exemplified by David, what is the result when there are attempts to beat off an active believer from the LORD?

11. Note with brief comments two Scriptural references where individuals in the midst of an adverse and threatening situation and were experiencing some despair and frustration, God revealed His divine care, continued protection and abiding presence.

12. In Psa. 3:3 David spoke of God as his “glory.” Briefly explain the essence of what is being communicated in this statement.

13. Complete the following:

A quote by F. B. Meyers

“Oh, my (a) _____, hast thou made (b) _____ thy (c) _____? Others (d) _____ in their (e) _____, beauty, (f) _____, achievements: dost thou (g) _____ in God what they find in these?”

14. In our lesson we briefly discussed why God abandons the unrighteous (Rom. 1:14-32). What two reasons were highlighted based on verse 24?

15. **Promotion comes from God!** (a) David fled from Jerusalem in humiliation, disgrace and deprived of his throne but how would he return? (b) Note some Scriptures showing that "Promotion Comes from God."

16. What strong message did David communicated in his testimony as recorded in Psalm 3:4?

17. Despite the life-threatening situation confronting David, he "laid down . . . slept . . ." and was "awakened." (Psa. 3:5). Briefly comment on what blessings noted in this verse.

18. Complete the following:

"David's (a) _____ and refreshing (b) _____ helped to (c) _____ a (d) _____ needed; hope and (e) _____ in God! He would not be (f) _____ and was (g) _____ focused on God!"

19. Briefly explain the two cries of David noted in Psalm 3 . . . (what differences in each cry).

20. In regards to the destruction of his enemies what two phrases did the psalmist used (Psalm 3:7)? **Briefly** explain each phrase.
