

Psalm 3 – “O GOD OUR HELP”

Taunting from the enemies of Christ is common. It occurs more frequently today, and Christianity has taken a beating from many sides. Christians have receded into their shells like a turtle hiding from its enemies. Christians have forgotten that the world will always hate godly Christians because they are in the light. The world persecuted Christ our Lord and Saviour who lived a perfect life of truth and righteousness. The world will do the same to all believers who live like Christ. Psalm 3 reassures every believer who undergoes trials and persecution for the sake of Christ that God is an ever present help in time of need. The flight of David from his son Absalom is the context of Psalm 3. Absalom usurped David's throne and wanted his father dead. David fled for his life.

1. **(3:1-2) –NO Help!** – The synonymous parallelism in verse one emphasizes the desperation in David. The enemies against him increased exponentially. Worse still was that the leader of the rebellion was his ambitious third eldest son (he had killed Amnon the eldest son a few years earlier). David had to flee in haste from the safety of his own palace. He knew that any delay might result in death by the hand of his own son. It was an unimaginable nightmare for David. Furthermore, his enemies mocked him and said that not even God could help him.

To be alone, and deserted, and mocked into hopelessness by one's own son can be devastating, even for the stoutest heart. Weaker men have resorted to suicide when all hope seemed lost. Great trials can wear down the strongest of character. There is a breaking point in all of us. We often cry to God to take us home when overwhelmed. The intent of David's enemies was clear - go, kill yourself; no one will help you David, not even God!

2. **(3:3-4) – WILL Help!** – David did not give up hope in his God. David could not control the mouths of his enemies but he did control his own heart and mind. He refused to allow the taunts of his enemies to destroy his trust in his God. In hopeful response, David declared that the LORD (the covenantal name) is a shield for him. The LORD will never break His covenantal promises to protect and to comfort. The shield was for protection against the fiery darts of the evil one. David would not allow the verbal abuses to destroy his faith and trust in God. God anointed David to be king, and no one but God alone can remove him from the throne.

David's worship of God in such trying times was most commendable. He declared that the LORD was his glory (ie. worshipful praise) and the lifter of his head. David refused to be cast down and to remain downcast. David's intimate relationship with the LORD was not dependant upon the circumstances of life. David had already learned that the LORD was his God because He is the one living and true God, and beside Him, there is none

other. His relationship with his LORD was not at any time based upon material blessings but God's truth. Adversities such as these tested the authenticity of David's faith and trust in God. David cried loudly unto the LORD. He acknowledged that the LORD heard him out of His holy hill. The rebuffs of wicked men have no impact on God; it would not affect David as well. These enemies would not stop saying that there is no help in God. However, the LORD is always nigh unto all those who are His own and who are doing His holy will, like King David. It is the Word and the promises of the faithful God against the taunts of many wicked men.

3. **(3:5-8) – HAS Helped!** – David laid himself down and slept. To be able to sleep soundly and so easily, with the storms of life raging all around him, was truly a demonstration of David's complete faith in his God. Insomnia is a sure sign of faithlessness. Being able to sleep is a clear demonstration of the believer's faith in his God to protect and watch over him while he is "dead" to the wicked world all around him. The LORD surely sustained David, for He neither slumbers nor sleep. David also declared that he would not be afraid of the innumerable enemies all around him. His safety was not in man, or the arm of flesh, but in God alone. David cried to the LORD to arise and save him. He also called upon "the LORD, his God", acknowledging that the LORD is also God Almighty and all powerful. He would smite all of David's enemies. David had great faith when he declared that God had delivered, even though it had not occurred yet. A strike on the cheekbone implies a knockout blow! To have the teeth broken is to shut up the taunting mouths of the wicked!

Salvation belongs to the LORD. The LORD helps in His time. He controlled the life of David. In God's time, David was delivered from his nightmare and was returned to the throne that God gave to him. God's blessing was upon His people with a king like David. God was still in control of the welfare of David and His people even though circumstances may appear otherwise. Nothing is ever outside of God's control!

APPLICATION – The assurance of the LORD's presence and protection is our hope in this sin sick world. There is no other hope. Every believer must have this experiential knowledge. This means that every believer will have to endure some trials in his life. There is no running away from this sanctifying route. To experience real help from the LORD, the believer needs to be in the pond of despondency for Jesus' sake. This is the only way. In the face of the darkest hour, the light of God's grace and presence shines the brightest. God's help will always be just in time - never too early that we do not see it is His hand that has lifted; and never too late that we are crushed under the load of sorrow and pain. In times of need, the LORD lifts us up and protects us so that we know without a doubt that it is from Christ alone our help has come! AMEN.