

### Psalm 3

David wrote this psalm under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit when he fled from Absalom his son. Some of you have just studied David's flight from Absalom in catechism and in Bible class. Remember what was involved in that flight. While David was sitting on the throne, his son Absalom presented himself before the people as a better ruler than David. Absalom stole the hearts of all the men of Israel, so that when Absalom finally rebelled against David and sent men throughout all of Israel to announce that Absalom now reigned, all the hearts of Israel were ready to follow Absalom. David was feeling very much alone as he fled from Jerusalem. There were some of David's friends with him; David also had some soldiers with him; but by far the majority of the people were following Absalom and were acclaiming him as king. In fact, Absalom had the greater part of the army as well, so that he could bring a huge host to the field to surround David.

David fled from Jerusalem, and as he fled he saw how many were set against him. That is why David in this psalm so often speaks of the hosts against him. Verses 1–2: "LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God." Later, in verse six, he mentions ten thousands of people that have set themselves against him round about. You can imagine the hosts of the army of Israel and all the people of Israel who were speaking against David.

So over here, on the one hand, you have the many, the ten thousands, the multitudes. Over here you have David with just a few. Many against a few. But David says in this psalm that though there be ten thousands set against him and many that rise up and trouble him and that he is alone, he is not really alone, and he will not fear because the Lord is for him. Verse 3: "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." David knew God was on his side, for he cried to God with his voice, and God heard David out of his holy hill (v. 4). God's holy hill is heaven, of which Mount Zion was a type. God from his throne in heaven heard his servant David when David cried unto him.

Therefore David says, "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me." That is quite a picture: David, running away from Absalom, with all the host of the army chasing after him, surrounded by ten thousands, could lay down and sleep and not be kept awake with worry and fear. He laid down; he slept; and the next morning he woke up again, for the Lord sustained him. So David confesses in this psalm, "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about."

David prays to God, "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." That is very violent language to show

how much of a protector God is. Even the cheeks and the teeth of the enemy are smashed as God defends his people.

All of that leads David to this conclusion: "Salvation belongeth unto the LORD." Salvation did not come from man. Salvation did not come from the arm of man. It did not come from David's greater might as a man or his greater army. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord. God saved David. God overthrew Absalom, hung him by his hair in a tree so that he was smitten through by Joab's darts; and God brought David back to Jerusalem. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord. And this related truth: "Thy blessing is upon thy people." Always and ever God's blessing is upon his people. Though there be thousands and hosts raised against God's people, so that we may feel alone, God's blessing rests upon his people.

But now the question for us is, why must David go through all of that? The answer is because David was a picture of another. Although this was David's psalm when he fled from Absalom, this was really the psalm of Jesus, the sweet psalmist of Israel. David had to be set about by ten thousands and by many which rose and troubled him and spoke against him as a picture of what the Lord's life was all his time upon this earth, from the very beginning of his life to the end. "How are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me." From the innkeeper, who had no room for Jesus as a picture of the heart of man that has no room for Christ; all the way to the mob of Jews before Pontious Pilate, who shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him"; to all of those who passed by the cross as Jesus hung upon that cross, wagging their heads, clicking their tongues, and saying to themselves, "He said he was the Son of God; if God is really for him, let him come down from the cross"—"Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God." Through all of his life, the Lord Jesus Christ had many, many, many set against him.

How did the Lord bear that opposition? He who is God and man bore the opposition of the enemies in the strength of God. That is, according to his human nature he depended upon the triune God and was heard by his God. "I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill." "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and God heard Jesus out of his holy hill. "I thirst," and God heard him out of his holy hill. "It is finished," and God heard him out of his holy hill. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," and God heard him out of his holy hill. The Lord Jesus Christ was sustained by God to accomplish and finish our salvation.

All of that happened to the Lord Jesus Christ as the demonstration for us members of the church that salvation belongeth unto the Lord. "Thy blessing is upon thy people" for Jesus' sake, the sweet psalmist of Israel.