



# Psalm 3

Saved!

(by grace through faith)

# Translation



1. *A Psalm belonging to David during his flight from the presence of Absalom his son: Yahweh, how have my oppressors become [so] many? Many are rising up against me!*
2. Many are saying to my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God."  
*(Selah)*
3. Yet you, Yahweh, are a shield beside me, my glory, and you are lifting up my head.
4. [With] my voice, I will call to Yahweh, and He will answer me from the mountain of His holiness. *(Selah)*
5. As for me, I laid down and I slept; I woke up because Yahweh upholds me.
6. I will not be afraid of the myriads of a people which are in place against me [all] around.
7. Rise up, Yahweh, Save me, my God, for You have hit all my enemies upon the cheek, you have shattered the teeth of the wicked
8. To Yahweh belongs salvation – Your blessing upon your people.  
*(Selah)*

# Introduction to Psalm 3



- ❧ Verse number discrepancy: Psalm super-scriptions are v.1 in Hebrew and Greek Bibles, and text starts in v.2.
- ❧ First Psalm superscription:
  - ❧ A song to be accompanied by instruments
  - ❧ Author is David
  - ❧ Occasion: when a fugitive from his own son! (2 Sam. 15-17)
- ❧ Applies to David, to Jesus, and to Christians.
- ❧ “Trouble song” when others undermine us maliciously, our spirit is violated by verbal or psychological or physical abuse, and we question our own dignity.
- ❧ Intensely personal: 17 “me/I/my”s and personal name for God (LORD/Yahweh/Jehovah) in almost every verse.
- ❧ “Morning Hymn” (before the battle) followed by Ps. 4, the “Evening Hymn” (after the battle) ~Delitzsch
- ❧ First Psalm with a Selah (v.3) ...

# What does “Selah” Mean?



**Patrick:** “...cannot be certainly known... omit this word”

**Calvin:** “...denotes the lifting up of the voice in harmony...”

**Venema:** elevation of the voice in singing the Psalm. (cf. Rabbi Kimchi)

**Wocher, Coxe:** *sursum corda* — “up, my soul!”

**Altrug:** repetition of the word immediately preceding.

**Mathewson:** musical notation - perhaps “repeat.”

**Targums, Mishna, Aquila, Syriac:** “forever”

**Ibn Ezra, Cohen:** “pause”

**Alexander:** “a pause in the sense as well as the performance”

**Luther:** “silence”

**Herder:** “change of note”

**Spurgeon:** “re-tune the harps”

**Gesenius, Delitzsch:** “Let the instruments play and the singers stop.”

**Sommor:** “trumpet blast” accompanies “appeal/summons to Jehovah.”

**Plumer:** “designed to fix the minds of the godly on the matter which has just been spoken of... as well as to regulate the singing in such a manner as to make the music correspond to the ... sentiment.”

# Subject > Upward Move > Salvation



A. (Subject: Adversaries) 1. Yahweh, how have my **oppressors** become many?

^ Many are **rising** up against me! 2. Many are saying to my soul,

“There is no **salvation** for him in God.” (*Selah*)

B. (Subject: God) 3. Yet you, Yahweh, are a shield beside me, my glory,

^ and you are **lifting** up my head.

4. I will call to Yahweh... and He will **answer** me from His holy mtn.

(*Selah*)

C. (Subject: Me) 5. I, I laid down and I slept;

^ I woke up

because Yahweh **upholds** me. 6. I will not be afraid of

D. (Subject: people) myriads of a people which are in place against me around.

^ 7. **Rise up**, Yahweh,

**Save** me, my God, for

E. (Subject: Enemies) You hit all my **enemies** ... shattered teeth of the wicked

8. To Jehovah belongs **salvation** –

^ Your **blessing** upon your people. (*Selah*)

# v.1



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- ❧ How to respond to stress that builds up uncontrollably?  
(*War, Job, Politics, Family, Finances, Personal faults*)
- A. “Yahweh/LORD” In trouble, begin by calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus!
- B. Then talk to Him about your problem: “Afflictors/troublers/adversaries/foes” are “Many/increased/multiplied” and are “rising up against me!”
- ❧ 2 Sam 15:12 “the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom”
- ❧ The “Many” vs. the One

## v.2



- ❧ Word on the street is, “There is no deliverance/help/salvation [*yeshu’a*] for David in God” (Shimei?)
- ❧ “The core meaning of [*yeshu’a*] denotes removing restriction and providing room” (GHW)
- ❧ David’s own sins of adultery and murder could have caused him to doubt his salvation.
- ❧ Does the Many define what is true or the way to be safe?
- ❧ They do not even know God’s name! (*elohim* vs *Yahweh*)
- ❧ What is the lie that you are up against?
- ❧ “As long as our dignity and honor come from what we are able to do and accomplish, or from what others around us think, we are... unprotected from attack... Only God provides the shield that is both before and behind...” (GHW)
- ❧ Now “switch gears” (*Selah*) and state the truth in faith.

# v.3 But you, O Lord are...



A) ...A **SHIELD** about/beside/for/around me

**Quoting Gen. 15:1** After these things [attack by 5 armies] the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a **shield** to you; Your reward shall be very great."

+ **Moses - Deut. 33:29** "Blessed are you, O Israel; Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, Who is the **shield** of your help And the sword of your majesty! So your enemies will cringe before you, And you will tread upon their high places."

**2 Sam. 22:3** My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My **shield** and the horn of my salvation (*re: Saul's manhunt + 18 more in Psalms*)

(Only "shield" in N.T.) **Ephesians 6:14-18** Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth... righteousness... the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit...

**1 Pet. 1:5** who through faith are **shielded** by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed at the last ...



# v.3 But you, O Lord are...



A) ...A SHIELD beside me

B) ...My GLORY

☞ All other occurrences in Psalms indicate “self”

**Ps. 7:5b** ...let him trample my life ... and lay my glory in the dust.

**Ps. 16:9a** ...my heart is glad and my glory rejoices...

☞ Glory given to God in faith is **reciprocal**

**John 17:10** “and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.”

**John 5:44** "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from... God?"

**Rom. 5:2** ...we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand...we exult in hope of the glory of God

**1Pet. 1:7** so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable... may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

**1Pet. 4:14** If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

# v.3 But you, O Lord are...



A) ...A SHIELD beside me    B) ...My GLORY

C) ...LIFTING my Head (Present tense)

- ✎ Poetically related to oppressors "rising up" (*qum* - v.1) and call for God to rise up (*qum* - v.7) as well as God "upholding" (*samak* - v5)
- ✎ Direct rebuttal of oppressors' lie from previous verse ("Not for him'? Not so! Mine... mine... mine!")
- ✎ David barefoot and bare-headed in 2 Sam. 15:30
- ✎ "Public demonstration of support from Yahweh in the presence of the enemies' onslaught" (GHW)

**Gen 40:13** In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office...

**Psalms 27:4-6** One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life... For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will... sing praises to the LORD.

**Luke 21:27-28** "Then they will see the son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

# v.4 I will call ... He will answer...



A) Tense is debatable but kept consistent

- ❧ I was crying (perfect<sup>NAS,LXX</sup>) / cried (past<sup>KJV,ESV</sup>)... He answered
- ❧ Remembering God's past deliverance can strengthen faith in Him for future deliverance (Kimchi)
- ❧ I cry aloud... He answers (habitual<sup>NIV</sup>)
- ❧ I think it's future, exercising faith before His deliverance. "I will call... He will answer" (Delitzsch agrees)

B) "My voice"

- ❧ Omitted by ESV and NIV, but emphasized in Hebrew ("loud"?)
- ❧ Let it be YOUR voice – don't leave the rocks to do it for you!
- ❧ Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6)

C) Heard<sup>LXX,KJV</sup> = heeds / will answer (ענן) – We are not alone or defenseless against "the many"

D) *Meyhar qadshu* = from the hill / mtn of His holiness / holy hill (Ps. 2:6)

- ❧ Lit. – David left Jerusalem and the ark behind in his flight
- ❧ Exalted nature of God both physically and morally.
- ❧ Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God (cf. Ezek. 40:2)

E) *Selah*

# v.5a I lay down... and I woke up



**Psalm 17:15** I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.

**Prov. 6:22** When you walk about, they [the commandments] will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9-10** For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

∞ Future consecutive verbs refer to events in David's past

∞ Veiled prophecy of Jesus' death and resurrection

**Job 14:10-12** "But man dies ... man lies down and does not rise. Until the heavens are no longer, He will not awake nor be aroused out of his sleep.

# v.5b “because Yahweh upholds me”



**2 Kings 18:21** "Now behold, you rely on the staff of this crushed reed, *even* on Egypt; on which if a man leans (*samek*), it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on him.

**2 Chron. 32:8** "With him is *only* an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people relied (*samek*) on the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

**Psalms 37:24** When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

**Hebrews 1:3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds (φέρων) all things by the word of His power.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Him who empowers (ενδυναμουντι) me.

# Five actions coming from faith



A) I will call to Yahweh (v.4)

B) I laid down (v.5)

C) I slept;

D) I woke up

E) I will not be afraid (v.6)

**Carry On**

**Everyday Life!**

# v.6 I will not be afraid of...



- ❧ The ten thousands (lit. “manys,” i.e. “many” adversaries, “many” rising up, “many” saying no salvation – v. 1-2)
  - 1 Sam. 29:5** "Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"
  - Psalms 91:7** A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, *But* it shall not approach you.
- ❧ “Of a people” – Jews – David’s own subjects!
- ❧ “Who set themselves/ drawn up against me round about/ on every side”
  - ❧ How many high officials have been “in place” just waiting to overthrow David?
  - ❧ What are you afraid of? Communist spies? “Sleeper” terrorists? Sex offenders? Demons? Your own sin?
  - ❧ How can we not be afraid? V.5 “because the LORD sustains me”!

# v.7 "Rise up and save/deliver"



Counter "My enemies" (*oyvey*) and "my adversaries" (*tserrey*) of v.2 who "rise up" and say there is no "salvation."

**Imperatives: Can you command God to act?**

☞ "Arise" & "Deliver" (NIV adds "strike" & "break")

**Quote from Numbers 10:34ff** The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp... and when the ark set out, Moses said, "Rise up, LORD! And let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You." When it came to rest, he said, "LORD, return to the myriad thousands of Israel"

**Psalms 7:6; 9:19; 10:12; 17:13; 44:26; 74:22; 82:8; 132:8**

**Mat. 14:30** "Lord, save me!" (Peter walking on water)

**2 Tim. 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him *be* the glory forever...

☞ *If you know it is His will, you're just egging Him on.*



# v.7 "Rise up and save/deliver"



Counter "My enemies" (*oyvey*) and "my adversaries" (*tserey*) of v.2 who "rise up" and say there is no "salvation."

Egg God on in His saving work (Arise & save - Num. 10:34)

Remember that God punishes evil

"Hit/smite/strike cheek/jaw" was a shameful discipline

☞ Job 16:10 "They have gaped at me with their mouth,  
They have slapped me on the cheek with contempt..."

☞ Jesus disciplined in this way when He carried our sin  
and was treated by God as an enemy for us (Jn. 18:22)

# v.7 “Break/Shatter the teeth”



☞ Execute JUSTICE & make unable to bite or harm anymore

**Exodus 21:24** “eye for eye, tooth for tooth”

**Job 4:8-10** (Eliphaz) “...those who plow iniquity And those who sow trouble harvest it... by the blast of His anger they come to an end... And the teeth of the young lions are broken.” (quoted in Psalm 58:6)

**Matt. 24:51** “...assign him a place with the hypocrites ... there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**Hope for sinners: Lam 3:1** I am the man who has seen affliction Because of the rod of His wrath... 16 He has broken (ויגרס) my teeth with gravel... 30 Let him give his cheek to the smiter, Let him be filled with reproach... 35 ... justice In the presence of the Most High... 42 We have transgressed and rebelled... 57 You drew near when I called on You; You said, "Do not fear!" O Lord, You have pleaded my soul's cause; You have redeemed my life...

# v.7 “Rise up and save/deliver”



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- ☞ “Hit/smite/strike cheek/jaw” was a shameful discipline
- ☞ “Break/Shatter the teeth” = punitive **Justice**
- ☞ Remember God’s acts of justice in the PAST (perfect tense “struck” “shattered”) to face the FUTURE with confidence: “you [will] strike... you [will] break... the wicked” (ESV, Kimchi - prophetic perfect)
- ☞ What’s the scariest thing you face in the future?
- ☞ Arm yourself with Bible stories and personal testimony!
- ☞ **God will even shatter** the locusts from the pit with “teeth like lions”! (Rev. 9:8)

v.8



**“Salvation/deliverance”**

(cf. “save me” v.7, “no salvation with God” v.2)

**“Belongs to the LORD”** (emphatic position in Hebrew) *No other effective source of security besides Jesus (Rev. 7:10)*

**“Salvation”** || **“Blessing”** (Parallelism)

**“on your people”** (*Grace!*)

☞ “Although his subjects, unmindful of their allegiance, have sided with the usurper, he has no bitter feelings towards them and invokes upon them God’s blessing.” ~Metsudath David

☞ “counterpart in the ‘Father forgive them’ of [Jesus] ~D.

☞ “Psalm 3 challenges us to acknowledge our own moments of anger and hatred and calls us to turn them from cries of vengeance on our enemies into pleas for God to deliver the faithful and to establish His justice.” ~GHW

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