

Turn in your Bibles tonight to Psalm 3. We once again look into a low point of David's life and how he handles this situation and works through it. Have you ever felt that everyone and everything in your life was just coming against you? We can feel like that personally and even look at the world around us and think, "What in the world is going on?"

Those emotions could be because of the very fact that you are lost in your sin. We can experience these type circumstances because we live in a world broken because of sin! Also, we can experience this feeling of being surrounded by so many foes because of the persecution that can come when you stand on the Bible, as God's authoritative, unchanging, absolute truth to all things that pertain to life.

May I remind us of two wonderful words used in Scripture! But God! God is there for us to call on in times of trouble. God of course is there if we are convicted of our sin and we realize our need of salvation, and we call on his name to save our souls! God is also there when we are in times of complete despair because of this broken sin sick world to call on and ask for his strength, peace, guidance, and help through the valley we may be going through.

Psalm 3, let's read the first two verses:

***Psalm 3:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; <sup>2</sup> many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God."***

Let's put into context what David is experiencing at this time of his life. If you have an ESV translation you should find a heading at the top of Psalm 3. It reads as such:

***Save Me, O My God***

***A Psalm of David, When he fled from Absalom his son.***

Why was David fleeing from his son Absalom? I briefly mentioned this when I spoke on April 13<sup>th</sup> and taught from Psalm 22. Let's look at what happened. Let me give you a brief overview of Chapters 13 through Chapter 15 of 2 Samuel. There is so much more to be taught through Chapters 13 to Chapter 19 of 2 Samuel but all I have time for tonight is to point out why David is fleeing from Absalom.

Cliff Notes Version:

**Chapter 13** – Absalom has a brother Amnon, Amnon sins against their sister Tamar. Tamar is Absalom's full sister and Amnon's half-sister. Absalom gets mad and murders Amnon. David receives news that Absalom had Amnon murdered. Absalom thought his father David would have him killed for killing Amnon and flees to the town of Geshur. Absalom stays in Geshur for three years. The whole time David desired his son to come home to Jerusalem.

**Chapter 14** – Joab, a captain in King David's army, devised a scheme to get David to send for Absalom and bring him back to Jerusalem. It worked and David sent Joab to get Absalom. But Absalom was not granted to come into David's presence two years. Enter Joab again into this situation. Absalom tells Joab, "Why am I back here in Jerusalem if I don't get to walk around freely and be brought into the presence of the King?"

I would be better off in Geshur! Joab goes to David, David says bring Absalom to me, kisses Absalom and restores him and they are now one big happy family! Not so fast!

**Chapter 15** – Now Absalom was a very handsome man. Evidently, he also had a personality that attracted people to himself. Absalom used both of those characteristics to his advantage. Absalom was quite the conniver and willing to wait until it was the right time to enact any of his schemes. He waited two years before he murdered Amnon. He was exiled for 3 years before he came back to Jerusalem. Absalom waited two years until he inquired about coming before King David. After being restored he waited 4 years before he enacted the scheme to take over the throne.

In those four years, with his new found freedom, Absalom got for himself some chariots, horses and 50 men who would go before him, bodyguards of sorts, and wherever he went they would announce his coming. Absalom placed himself at what was called the gate. The gate was an entrance to where people would come and share grievances before the King to have a resolution to the issue.

Absalom began meeting all these people that would come to the gate and he would tell them that the King had no one to listen to you. But I will help you. In doing so Absalom turned the hearts of the people from David to himself. Absalom did this for 4 years and at the end of the 4 years he sent messengers to all the tribes that when they hear a trumpet sound say, “Absalom is king at Hebron!” Not only did Absalom get the hearts of the people he also was able to get David’s closest advisor, Ahithophel, to get involved in the conspiracy and it in Verse 12 of 2 Samuel 15 it says, ***“And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.***

David gets word of the conspiracy, and this is what David says:

***2 Samuel 15:13-17***

***<sup>13</sup> And a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.” <sup>14</sup> Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.” <sup>15</sup> And the king's servants said to the king, “Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides.” <sup>16</sup> So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. <sup>17</sup> And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.***

In essence Absalom has become King and David is once again running for his life! That is why again, that David said these words in verses 1 and 2.

***Psalm 3:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; <sup>2</sup> many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.”***

In verse 2 we see the word salvation. The Hebrew word used here is, yeshooaw – meaning salvation, deliverance. What is being said is that though God had delivered David in so many situations in his life, not this time! We’ve got him! There will be no deliverance for David!

Well, I think they forgot something! David was picked and anointed King of Israel by God himself. As a young man, as a shepherd in the field, taking care of the sheep. David killed a lion, and a bear, delivered by God! David anointed King, handpicked by God to rule over Israel! Before David becomes King, David faces the giant Goliath and with a slingshot and stone kills the giant, delivered by God!

Because of the jealousy of King Saul, he pursues David to kill David but can't lay a hand on him, delivered and protected by God! Once David becomes King, he goes out in battle time after time, delivered and protected by God! God had shown himself faithful time after time to David, even in David's sin, God was there to call him to repentance as we learned last week. David had put his trust in God for not only this deliverance from his enemies but also David had put his trust in God as his savior!

As we continue to go through this Psalm, we will see parallels as David calls on God to help him through this trial and how God works in our life to bring us to the point of salvation from our sins.

David has called out to God and described the situation he was in! Did God not know what was going on? Of course not, but God wants us to come to him in prayer, to come to him in times of trouble and in times of rejoicing. We see in verses 3 and 4 that David, yes, calls out in despair, but then immediately goes to the character and to the faithfulness that God has shown David in the past and knows how God will react in the present.

### ***Psalm 3:3-4***

***<sup>3</sup>But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. <sup>4</sup>I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill.***

When it comes to being delivered from a tough circumstance in our life or from the very fact we need salvation because of our sin, we must realize that God is our only hope. In each case we must see we are desperate for deliverance. In verse 4 David says, "I cried aloud to the Lord!" In Hebrew, there are several words that relate to our word cry. The word used here for "cried aloud" is, qara!

David is not just sitting here shedding tears or weeping, though tears may be present. David is shouting, uttering with a loud voice, calling on God for help. So, in context of this how do you think verse one may have sounded like. Like Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh? O Lord, how many are my foes! O bother! I lost my tail!

***No! O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising up against me! I need your help and I know you will because you are a shield about me!***

What does a shield do? Protects! Think of the windshield of a car. Sunglasses could be considered a shield as it protects your eyes from the ultraviolet rays. When we think of a shield if you are like me my mind immediately goes to the thought of a shield that protects in battle. A shield that would provide cover for the whole body.

Yes, David and the men that fled Jerusalem would soon fight a physical battle and the shields of battle will have to come out. That may be an image that David is picturing here, but that is not what he is referencing. Listen to these verses from Psalm 91.

### ***Psalm 91:1-4***

***<sup>1</sup>He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup>I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." <sup>3</sup>For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup>He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.***

David is calling on and recognizing God's faithfulness to deliver him once again from a dire situation. Yes, there will be the physical aspect of this situation, but this is also a spiritual battle. David is God's anointed King and Satan is using the sinfulness of Absalom to try to remove him from the throne.

Think about us for a moment. Are we in a constant spiritual battle? Many of you are saying, “Oh yeah!” Is Satan looking for ways to trip us up? To discourage us? Sure, and just like Absalom he will bide his time to try to do so. Remember he is a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour! Ephesian 6:12 tells us that we are in a spiritual battle. ***We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic power over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.***

Verse 16 of Ephesians 6 says this: Look at the screens:

***Ephesians 6:16***

***<sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.***

There is that word again, shield! We take the faith that God has given us, and we recognize and remember God’s faithfulness. We go to battle with the presence of God and with the Word of God we extinguish those flaming darts that Satan shoots at us. I believe one of the main tools Satan tries to shoot at us with his darts is discouragement.

Things look tough and what do we start to do. Our countenance changes, and sometimes it is reflected physically. You put your head down, your shoulders slump. I am going to use a sports analogy again, but this can be used in other situations. I’m going to use baseball since that was the sport I mostly played. When I coached and I have a pitcher on the mound and the inning is just not been going real well. He has walked a few batters, maybe given up a few hits, and he has given up a run or two.

I can just see it now. The head goes down, he begins to start walking around the mound. So, I call time and I go out to talk with him. What do you think I say? Hey, come here! Pick your head up! Pick your head up! This is one inning. You’ve got this! Come on! I believe in you! Get out of this! Use any sport! Use life!

In verse 3 David refers to God as, “My Glory and the lifter of my head!” David is discouraged and feeling pretty down right now. His own son is seeking to kill him! David relies on God’s faithfulness once again and his head lifts up. God is encouraging us tonight and he is telling each of us. Come on! Pick your head up! You’ve got this because I have you! In Luke 21 verses 25 and 28 Jesus said these words:

***Luke 21:25-28***

***<sup>25</sup> “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, <sup>26</sup> people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”***

In context, what is Jesus talking about here? The rapture! It is the present redemption of repentance of our sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that gives us the future redemption. It is the future hope of Jesus’ return that gives us hope in the here and now! Lift up your heads, God has you no matter the situation! Lift up your heads, your redemption is drawing near!

David lifted up his head and called on God for his help and God answered from God’s place of authority and his faithfulness. When we bring everything before the Lord, you know, there is a peace that comes upon us that we don’t understand. Philippians Chapter 4 speaks to that thought! Verses 6 and 7 say what.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus.*

Look at verse 5 and 6 of Psalm 3.

***Psalm 3:5-6***

***<sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. <sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.***

Here is David in this desperate time in his life and he still finds rest. How? In this Psalm and just as we saw from Philippians 4, as we put our trust in God and seek his help and his direction then we can rest and have peace. David lays his head down this evening, possibly not knowing if he would wake up on this earth. He did, he said, I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

Though the situation may look dire to us. We are about to have a meeting that we are not sure how it will go. We have a diagnosis that we were not expecting. Name it! What is a struggle that is right before you, right now! Name it! You may even say that, well this is kind of trivial! Not to God! Seek God! Ask God! Cry out to God! It doesn't mean that struggle goes away but there is a sense of peace that we can have as we walk through it.

Jesus even said in Matthew 11:28-30:

***Matthew 11:28-30***

***<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."***

The peace and the rest we can get from God takes fear away. Here is David, surrounded, practically by a whole nation. In fact, Ahithophel, asks Absalom to let him choose 12,000 men and go pursue David. David said, because of you Lord, lifter of my head, I will not be afraid of the many thousands that have set themselves against me.

What does it mean to set themselves? They have positioned themselves as an opposition, they have dug in. This takes us back to the fact we are in a battle for the souls of mankind and a battle for our minds. David also mentions another one of the top ways Satan will attack us. Fear! Fear can paralyze us at times. Fear can render us useless. Remember again that just as David said in this Psalm and what we read in Psalm 91.

God's faithfulness towards us is a shield! The description of that continues in Psalm 91 verse 5 to 10.

***Psalm 91:5-10***

***<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. <sup>8</sup> You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. <sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place the Most High, who is my refuge <sup>10</sup> no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.***

There are thousands that have set themselves against the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you see the strength and power of God in Psalm 91? A thousand may fall at your side, the thousand at your right hand but it will not come near you. Why?

Our battles are fought with truth! We do not fight our battles by ourselves. Look at verse 7.

***Psalm 3:7***

***<sup>7</sup> Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.***

David has already said he is not going to fear, and he is going to go into battle once again. He calls on the Lord to go with him and to fight with him. Just as he has arisen to go to battle, he cries out, “Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! Now David is speaking from experience here! God has protected him and delivered him numerous times from dangerous situations in his life.

Turn to 1 Samuel Chapter 17. This is going to be very familiar. The Israelites were in a battle with the Philistines. This is where Jesse, David’s father, had sent him to the battlefield to check on his brothers. David brought along with him some bread for his brothers and some cheese for the commanders. What did he find when he arrived? This giant, Goliath, out in the middle of the battlefield, taunting and challenging the Israelite army with some colorful language.

David was wondering if anyone was going to go out and challenge this uncircumcised Philistine. As we know David goes out to meet Goliath. Let’s read where they come face to face. 1 Samuel Chapter 17 verse 43 to 47.

***1 Samuel 17:43-47***

***<sup>43</sup> And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” <sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.”***

We all know what happened next! David with his slingshot embeds a stone right in the forehead of Goliath and killed him and ended up cutting Goliath’s head off with Goliath’s own sword. What did David realize though from the beginning? The battle was the Lord’s! Yes, David was having to confront the enemy, but the Lord was there with him and to fight for him.

There is another man that used that same terminology. Turn to 2 Chronicles Chapter 20. We are going to see a man called Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was King of Judah and the Moabites, Ammonites, and the Meunites were coming up against Judah to destroy them. This put fear in Jehoshaphat. Again, in certain circumstances, fear can come upon us. Satan can use that to cripple us. Jehoshaphat’s fear brought him to seek out the Lord. He brings the whole nation of Judah together to pray and ask for the Lord’s help. 2 Chronicles Chapter 20 verses 13 to 15.

***2 Chronicles 20:13-15***

***<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. <sup>14</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. <sup>15</sup> And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.***



So is the same for us! What is your battle right now! You are not alone. Don't try to fight it alone! Yes. We are in the midst of the battle. But we have our shield up fighting off those fiery darts!

I want to make a point here about God's actions upon his enemies from verse 7. The open handed striking of someone on the cheek is an act of humiliating the person being struck or slapped. Arrogance and pride are the essence of all sin.

As Tim taught last week, ultimately all our sin is against God. It is pride and arrogance that brought Goliath down, it is pride and arrogance that brought the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites to destruction before Jehoshaphat. It is pride and arrogance that is going to bring Absalom down. If we do not take heed in our own lives, it is arrogance and pride that can bring us down.

It is pride and arrogance that will be sending a lot of people to Hell! Because they are just like those described coming after David. Their belief system says, "There is no salvation for them in God!"

But David reminds us of this. Verse 8

***Psalm 3:8***

***<sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!***

We see the word salvation in verse 8, as we saw in verse 2. It is the word, yeshooaw, meaning deliverance. Whether it be a deliverance from a trial or a spiritual attack or from the very fact we need salvation from our sins. It is all accomplished through the sovereignty of God.

I mentioned that we can see parallels between David fleeing from Absalom and what he went through and our salvation from our sin.

There is a battle for our souls. Satan wants to destroy each and everyone of us. It begins with our souls. We hear from people around us, friends, and maybe even family members. There is no salvation in God through Jesus! But if we look honestly at our lives, we see how desperate we are for needing to be saved! We call out to God to save us and that initial peace of surrendering of our lives to the Lord comes upon us.

Satan is not going to leave us alone. He may not have your soul, but he can try bring discouragement and fear upon you. Lift up your head! The battle is not yours alone, it is the Lord's! Though it may seem a thousand, ten thousand are coming after you. The Lord is right there with you! Humble yourself before the Lord and he will exalt you!

Salvation is from the sovereign hand of God! God's faithfulness is a shield that surrounds us as we await Jesus' return!