

# Getting Up After Being Down & Kicked 1

(1/19/25)

*Have you ever felt that when you were down, someone (human or spirit) kicked you?*

- WHY do they chose this moment?
- HOW do they know we're vulnerable?
- WHERE is God during these times?
- WHAT can we do about it?

Have you ever watched **nature programs**, specifically one where prey animals are migrating from point A to point B? Large herds of buffalo, wildebeest, etc. trudging along and inevitable being stalked by groups of predators like wolves or lions.

**What do the predators do?** What's their tactic? Do they charge the head of the herd being led by the young strong aggressive bulls? No...*they lie in wait*—a phrase we find often in the Bible and always attributed to enemies.

The pride of lions walks alongside the herd, carefully watching and **waiting for the right moment AND the right target**.

**Who is the right target?** The herd animal whose lagging behind because they're injured, sick, too old, too young, or just got careless and separated from the herd.

**Human and demonic enemies do the same thing.**

Let's drill down deeper on this because there's much more. I was reading the Psalms and noticed the **pattern of enemies**. If you and I can discern this, it will help us to do some prevention AND respond better. Before I reveal this pattern, I want to repeat that ***no Christian will ever be completely immune to attack.***

- If Satan attacked Jesus in His first coming, he will attack us.
- If human enemies went after Christ His first time, they will us too.
- Why? Because we're not greater than our Master.

That being said, **we can discern and respond better** so that we don't remain with our faces in the dirt.

The first aspect of an enemy's attack pattern is this: **when they believe God has abandoned us.**

- I did NOT say when God has abandoned us, but when an enemy *thinks* so.
- They attack when they think God has lifted His blessing, provision, and protection from us.
- They come after us when they believe God has cast us out of the herd and we're alone.
- *Until they see this, they "lie in wait."*

**King David faced LOTS of opposition** from his childhood to the day he died and his enemies greatly increased after he became king. Some of the Psalms he wrote were during times when someone was trying to kill him, plotting against him, lying about him, and trying to take his throne. His biggest heartbreak came when his own son Absalom tried all the above and mostly succeeded.

David's enemies all knew one thing about him: **he was Yahweh's chosen.** Please understand that even those who worshipped other gods believed this. The same applied to pagan nations plotting against Israel or unbelievers (organized or not) against the Church. As we read through the Bible, enemies saw the hand of the One True God upon a person or entire nation...**so they would like in wait for an opportunity to strike.** What was said opportunity? *When they believed God had forsaken His chosen.*

**[Psa 70:1-3 ESV]** 1 To the choirmaster. Of David, for the memorial offering. Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! 2 Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! 3 Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!"

David speaks of enemies and look at verse 3: when they say "aha!" In other words "*we have him! Now is the time to strike? His God has abandoned him!*"

**[Psa 71:9-11 ESV]** 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent. 10 **For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together** 11 **and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."**

**Predators have a "natural" instinct to know when their targets are vulnerable** and when they see it, they attack. David is vulnerable here and even he is wrestling with the notion that God has left him. Turned His face away, ignoring him, and blind to his distress.

**Before He went to the Cross**, Jesus' enemies—both human and spirit—wanted to kill Him. One of my favorite scenes is when the temple cops show up at His door to arrest Him and this happens:

**[Jhn 7:44-46 ESV]** 44 Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. 45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" 46 The officers answered, "No one ever spoke like this man!"

A verse previous to this one has Jesus saying ***"my time has not yet come."*** Attempts on His life and even arrest all failed and didn't succeed until Father God allowed it. **Father allowed the enemy to believe He'd forsaken His Son**, then Satan and his human agents attacked.

**In order to "devour" us, enemies will attempt to convince us God has abandoned us.** Why? They're looking for this weak spot. A chink in our Armor of God, a vulnerable spot, an opening. Remember that all enemies are "ravening" which is an old word in some Bibles that means "hungry."

**When we think God is ignoring us, has forsaken us, and doesn't care about us it's a flashing neon sign to an enemy—spirit or human—that says "come get me!"**

**It's us separating from the herd and lagging behind...even when a pride of lions is lying in wait.**

**[1Pe 5:8 ESV]** 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Speaking of human enemies, David said this about his:

**[Psa 22:13 ESV]** 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

**Imagine if animals could talk** and we were watching a National Geographic show about the wildebeest migration. I picture the lions keeping pace with the herd, calling out to them ***"God hates you. You've sinned against Him, you've disobeyed Him, and He's cast you out. He no longer loves or protects you!"***

The enemies of King David and ancient Israel did the same. When a pagan nation would invade Israel they often said the same thing: ***"their God has abandoned them!"***

**In the days of Isaiah, the Assyrian Empire** ruled and Sennacherib was their king. When his vast army marched upon Jerusalem to conquer it, Sennacherib writes King Hezekiah a letter trying to persuade him to surrender peacefully. Look at what the letter says and *see the tactic of the enemy against you, me, and the Church:*

**[2Ki 19:10-13 ESV]** 10 "Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: '**Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.** 11 Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? 12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? 13 Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?'"

Enemies, human and spirit, **will tell us that our God won't do anything to save us.** That we need to just give up and surrender without a fight. That we're all alone and there's no hope.

**What's the truth?** Even in the midst of assassination attempts, betrayals, and his own son stabbing him in the back here is what David said:

**[Psa 71:1-3 ESV]** 1 In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame! 2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me! 3 Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; **you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

**God has given the commandment to save.**

- Did God allow Saul to chase David around for years, trying to kill him, and forcing David to live on the run? Yes.
- Did God let foreign nations to attack Israel when David was King and even occasionally win? Yes.
- Did God allow David's son Absalom to betray his own dad, temporarily take the throne & exile his father, and get killed which shattered David's heart? Yup.

***How did David endure all this?*** Why didn't he fall away from the faith and give up on God?

**Because He knew that God COMMANDED for him to be saved.**

The Hebrew word for “command” is the **same one used at Sinai**: *“to ordain, a divine act, to appoint.”*

- Did God know David would have many enemies? Yes.
- Did God know these enemies would do everything they could to take David out? Yes.
- Did God know these things would devastate David, break his heart? Yup.

**But the greater more heavenly “knowing”** both God and David had was that God commanded his Salvation. I’m not just talking about David’s righteousness, but his appointment as King and everything God wanted him to accomplish.

**The Hebrew word for “save”** in verse 3 is even more fascinating...divinely inspired to the point of goosebumps.

**The word is “Yasa” which is pronounced “Yeh-Shaw” ... the Hebrew name for Jesus.**

Allow me to reword the verse according to alternate translation:

ORIGINAL:

3 Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; **you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

MODIFIED:

3 Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; **you have appointed me to Jesus, for you are my rock and my fortress.**

Under the new covenant, a better one than David was under, **we’ve been assigned to Christ.** We’ve been given to Him. It was a divine act ordained by Father God Himself.

**Whatever enemies may do to us down here, that’s not the end and we cannot believe their lies, no matter what they say.**

*What do they say?* The same thing enemies have said since the start: **that God has broken covenant with us or we with Him. That we’ve been abandoned, forsaken, and that He ignores our suffering.**

## **Do know that the Antichrist does this when he finally shows up?**

Revelation 13 states that he openly blasphemes God and all those who dwell in Heaven. Did you know this verse is tied to people who end up worshipping the Antichrist as a god? This isn't just going to be some angry rant on his part. I think the enemy's playbook is the same in the end as it was in the beginning: *convincing people God has failed them*, let them down, doesn't see them, is ignoring them, and doesn't care about them. And that he will. I propose that this will inspire some to take his mark and worship him.

## **Did you know that even at the end of the Millennial Kingdom,**

after Jesus has been here 1000 years ruling and reigning, Satan is released for a short time? That he's allowed to go into all the nations and talk to people, and he successfully wins a bunch of people to his side? What's he saying that convinces people to side with him even with Jesus here? I think it's the same thing: *"Jesus doesn't care about you, doesn't have your back, and is ignoring you. I'll take care of you instead...be a better god than He is."*

**Psalm 72** shows where the heart of God really is:

**[Psa 72:1-4 ESV]** 1 Of Solomon. Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! 2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! 3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! 4 **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!**

***Please finish this sentence*** from the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor in \_\_\_\_\_ for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

When Jesus declared that He came to preach the Gospel to the poor, **He was referring to the poor in spirit (not money).** What does this mean?

**Poor in spirit means we're feeling distant from God.** That we're struggling with thoughts and feelings that He hates us, is mad at us, and cast us out. That He doesn't see us, ignores our suffering, and won't deliver us from our enemies.

Now look up on the screen to Psalm 72 and then let's read some more verses.

**[Psa 72:12-14 ESV]** 12 For he delivers the needy when he calls, **the poor and him who has no helper.** 13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. 14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

### Look at verse 12:

- Satan and human enemies prey on us when *they* think we have no helper.
- Satan and human enemies prey on us when WE think we have no helper.
- *When we think so, it “confirms” an enemy’s suspicions.*
- **It signals to them that now is the time to strike.**

**When David was surrounded by enemies his response** was to remind himself of God’s goodness and saving grace. We can do the same and can start by remembering the over arching truth: *God has commanded that we be saved.*

We DO have a Helper and He is the Holy Spirit:

*[Jhn 14:26 ESV]* 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

IDK about you, **but I need other believers to remind and encourage me of the same thing.** Did David air his feelings of sorrow and hurt? Yes...but he didn’t stop there. So should we when we seek each other out. *Let’s not merely share our thoughts and feelings, but allow others to remind and refresh us of God’s goodness.*

In Psalm 71 right after David’s enemies declare that God has forsaken him, and that it’s their time to strike, David responds thusly:

*[Psa 71:12-16 ESV]* 12 O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! 13 May my accusers be put to shame and consumed; with scorn and disgrace may they be covered who seek my hurt. 14 **But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.** 15 **My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.** 16 **With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**