

## Psalm 3

Today as we prepare to examine and pray over God's word, I beseech you to quiet your surroundings. Physically and mentally breathe in and out to clear your lungs, mind, and soul. [Pause](#)

Today we are going to read and look into Psalm 3. Psalm 3 goes hand-in-hand, alongside Psalm 4. They are very short Psalms being only 8 verses each. Psalm 3 is the first Psalm that is ascribed to David. Before we even read the first verse, it reads, "A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom." So we can gather a pretty good context of the Psalm in David's life. We can gather that David is old enough to have a son and that son is old enough to rebel against him. Moreover, his son, Absalom, is bold enough to try to take over the throne and to gather and have the support for this coup. But before I get carried away with all the details and "get my, or our, nerd on," let us read over Psalm 3. I am going to read in the New Living Translation. [Pause](#)

A psalm of David, regarding the time David fled from his son Absalom.

**1** O Lord, I have so many enemies; so many are against me. **2** So many are saying, "God will never rescue him!" *Interlude*[\[a\]](#)

**3** But you, O Lord, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high. **4** I cried out to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy mountain. *Interlude*

**5** I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the Lord was watching over me. **6** I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies who surround me on every side. **7** Arise, O Lord! Rescue me, my God! Slap all my enemies in the face! Shatter the teeth of the wicked! **8** Victory comes from you, O Lord. May you bless your people. *Interlude*

Upon researching this Psalm, I found Bible Reference to assist in the depth of this Book and Chapter. The Bible itself has references in order to further expand upon. Now to get good and nerdy.

Absalom, for real, started a coup, a violent revolution, and according to 2 Samuel 17: 1 -3, Absalom even contemplated sending a 12,000-man army to kill David. One of David's ally, Hushai, prevented this plan as it states in 2 Samuel 17:14 "...For the Lord had determined to frustrate the good advice of Ahithophel in order to bring disaster on

Absalom.” Sidenote, I have trouble pronouncing my own children’s names, let alone Hebrew names. So having taught Children’s Church my trick that I use and teach is to call names Mr. or Ms. So “Mr. Ah” or “Ah Man.” So instead of getting stuck on names, see what God is doing whether in the forefront or in the background. Ruth is a great example as you don't see God in the forefront, but all the laws that help their relationship to commence and flourish, were given from God. Esther is another great example. But enough of this tangent, onto the main path.

So David is feeling alone, rebelled, and hunted by his son, Absalon, and Absalon’s followers. David’s own followers are suggesting that he has been abandoned by God and that he should give up now and face his own fate by his own son. He has Trouble with a capital "T" And that rhymes with "P" and that stands for Peril! In irony news, Absalon means, “my father is peace,” coming from the Hebrew words A and Shalom, father and peace. However, if you have read any of Samuel, Chronicles, or King books, you will see how Absalom’s father, David, didn’t have much peace and had so much bloodshed that God did not allow him to build the Tabernacle. “But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>4</sup>“You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.” <sup>2</sup> Chronicles 22:8. In the great tapestry of God’s work, David is rebelled by his son whose name means David is peace.

But this isn’t the first time David is hiding from someone on the throne trying to kill him. Psalms 54, 57, 59, and 142 are in reference to when David was in hiding from Saul. So this is not his first rodeo, but doesn’t make the danger to him and his followers any less. However, David is able to sleep soundly, knowing God has and will have David in His hands. So despite the ten thousand people against him, David’s faith and conviction remains firm. So David prays for victory; with image-striking, graphic, and gory details. Verses 7 and 8 draws a devastating blow to David’s enemies that shatters them and leaves them incapable of fighting back

But what can we draw from this? Retribution and Revenge? An eye for an eye? Should we embody Clint Eastwood’s Dirty Harry; Liam Neeson’s Taken; or Shaft,”can you dig it?” Or should we embody the confidence and faith David showed that saying his God could and would keep him safe day and night and that God would obliterate his enemies. “But you, O Lord, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high” “I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the Lord was watching over me. I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies who surround me on every side. Arise, O Lord! Rescue me, my God!”

Let us read it Psalm 3 again with this context and read it for your own conviction, in your own circumstances, and with your own victory that is to come. [Pause](#)

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### Long Pause

Next week we will continue to Psalm 4, another psalm during this time that David was under attack from Absalom. In Psalm 3 David refers to waking in safety; in Psalm 4 David speaks that in peace he will lie down. . . but more on that next week. I leave you with a cliffhanger or you can read Psalm 4 with its 8 verses to see its overlying theme of David’s situation. Bum, Bum, BUMMMM!

### Pause

I thank you for the time and dedication you have given today. Despite ten thousand men coming against you, God will shield you, hold your head up high, and watch over you and keep you safe. And he will give you, oh so sweet, victory.