

THE UNRESERVEDNESS OF FAITH --- Psalm 3

Background for this Psalm is 2 Samuel 12-18

- David had several wives one of which was Bathsheba with whom he was immoral
- David arranged for the death of Bathsheba's husband Uriah.
- Nathan the prophet went to David with a hypothetical story paralleling his actions with Bathsheba and Uriah.
- The story required David to choose between alternatives --- one wrong and one right.
- David's choosing made him desire the right course and take sides with the righteous.
- Nathan told David you have despised the unrighteous and that pictures your behavior with Uriah (2 Sam 12:7)
- David knew he had sinned and used Nathan to call him on it.
- This is the setting in which we learn a great lesson about babies who die.
 - They are ushered into heaven (2 Sam 12:24).
- Three children later appear on the scene --- Absalom, Amnon, and beautiful Tamar.
- Amnon was immoral with his beautiful sister Tamar and his death was orchestrated by Absalom.
- This sinful mess caused an angry rift between David and Absalom.
- Absalom fled to a distant area for three years --- eventually David's heart was comforted (2 Sam 14:1).
- Absalom established himself as a perceived leader in Israel and stole men's hearts (2 Sam 15:6).
- Eventually there was enough support to drive King David from Jerusalem in a revolt.
- David saw the developing political storm and fled to the wilderness.
- Absalom entered Jerusalem and basically declared himself king.
- This is the setting that will help us appreciate the dire circumstances David faced in writing Psalm 3.

Psalm 3 is the first time we see the word SELAH

- Selah is a word from the wonderful world of music.
- It seems the composer used this SELAH word to call for a pause --- a rest --- a hush.
- It is in these SELAH intervals where the composition takes on special meaning.

THE THREE SELAHS OF PSALM THREE

SELAH # 1 --- THE ADMISSION OF _____ (Psa 3:1-2)

- David is not the object here --- he had admitted his terrible sins
 - the object in verse 2 is _____ and what the world thinks of Him.
- SELAH = Now just stop and _____ of that.

SELAH #2 --- THE AFFIRMATION OF _____ AND _____ IN THE LORD (Psa 3:3-4)

- A "shield" (3) is that which encases the child of God.
- David's head was hung over in sorrow --- he loved Absalom --- he loved God --- He was struggling to reconcile the two thoughts --- but deep down he knew Who the _____ was.
- David knew that when in the depths of despair and we cannot even hold up our heads --- God is there to lift it for us
 - to encourage us and let us know that we can _____ on Him.
- Yes silent prayers are heard --- but even good men of faith at times find themselves verbalizing _____
 - when they feel the urgency and extremity of a special need.

SELAH #3 THE ANTICIPATION OF VICTORY (Psa 3:5-8)

- David realized the danger --- he was no fool --- but his faith in God kept him strong and unafraid.
- Smitten in the cheek and teeth shattered (7) --- Add it all together and the enemy is now
 - humiliated and powerless to inflict injury.
- Salvation is not of man --- Salvation is not by man
 - David saw victory completely as the Lord's doing (8 --- Rom 9: 15-16, 18)

God wants His people in similar circumstances to come to Him in _____.