

Trusting God in Adversity

Psalms 3 4 5 November 27, 2011

Psalm 3 A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom.

- 1 O LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
- 2 Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”
- 3 But you are a shield around me, O LORD;
you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.
- 4 To the LORD I cry aloud,
and he answers me from his holy hill.
- 5 I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
- 6 I will not fear the tens of thousands
drawn up against me on every side.
- 7 Arise, O LORD!
Deliver me, O my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.
- 8 From the LORD comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.¹

Psalm 4 For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

- 1 Answer me when I call to you,
O my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress;
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
- 3 Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD will hear when I call to him.
- 4 In your anger do not sin;
when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent.
- 5 Offer right sacrifices
and trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are asking, “Who can show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have filled my heart with greater joy
than when their grain and new wine abound.
- 8 I will lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O LORD,
make me dwell in safety.

¹The Holy Bible: New International Version. 1996, c1984. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

1. David's Problem

2 Samuel 15-18

"Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom." 2 Samuel 15:14

A. Actions

Ittai	Unexpected allegiance	2 Samuel 15:13-23
Zadok	A spy and good theology	2 Samuel 15:24-29
Hushai	An answer to prayer	2 Samuel 15:30-37
Ziba	Lies and Recklessness	2 Samuel 16:1-4
Shemei	Vindictive and indecision	2 Samuel 16:5-14

- † Who are the people David trusts the most? Where are they in physical proximity to him?

B. Trust

2 Samuel 15:25, 26

It's up to the LORD

C. Prayer

2 Samuel 15:31

First overt recognition things are beyond David's control

2. Psalm 3

I lie down and sleep;

I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. Psalm 3:5

A. Prayers

Psalm 3:1-3

It looks really bad
But you...To the LORD I cry out

- † Where have you seen God completely change a situation in your life that can only be explained as his work?

B. Statements

Psalm 3:5,6

Sleep not just resting on his bed

C. Prayer

Psalm 3:7

Arise, O LORD! Numbers 10:35

D. Statement

From the LORD comes deliverance

- † In a crisis where do you look for your help? At what point does an appeal to God in prayer factor in?

An analysis of literary structure:

A¹ (vs 1-2) Need: no deliverance

B¹ (v 3) Affirmation: divine protection

C (vs 4-6) Prayer: Rested and Sustained

B² (v 7) Action: divine deliverance

A² (v 8) Solution: deliverance²

² Adapted from Carson, D. A. *New Bible commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

*Behold this, O Christian: let faith teach thee how to sleep, and how to die;
while it assures thee that as sleep is a short death,
so death is only a longer sleep;
the same God watches over thee, in thy bed and in thy grave.³*

3. Psalm 4

*I will lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O LORD,
make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8*

A. Pray

Psalm 4: 1-3

Strong emotion with four imperatives
The people around David not all they should be

Know

Psalm 4:3

Answers the complaint
Expresses confidence – see verse 1

B. Restrain

Psalm 4:4, 5

Who is David talking to?
Offer right sacrifices – starts with a right heart

- † If you are awake at night and churning in bed you do not want revenge, vengeance, harm, evil, getting even, pay back. So then what do you want?
- † Look at Ephesians 4:25-28; what Paul has drawn from this psalm?

C. Confidence

Psalm 6:6-8

There is the news – what is the response?

*Every evening I turn my troubles and my worries over to God.
He's going to be up all night anyway. -unknown*

“The rest of your life depends on the rest of your nights.”

Look to God and for his favour and direction
Confidence finds its fulfilment in sleeping in peace

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| | An analysis of literary structure |
| A. | Prayer (v. 1) |
| B. | Call for Trust in the Lord (vv. 2–5) |
| A'. | Prayer (vv. 6–7) |
| B'. | Expression of Trust (v. 8) ⁴ |

³ *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary* (Ps 3:4). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems 1997.

⁴ VanGemeren, W. A. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

2. Psalm 5

*In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait in expectation. Psalm 5:3*

- A. Confidence in the LORD through Prayer Psalm 5:1-3**
David still needs God's help
It's a new day, same trouble
Deuteronomy 17:20 Lamentations 3:23
- B. Consistency of the LORD toward evil Psalm 5:4-6**
God has not changed his mind about evil or sin
- C. Confession of our need and responsibility Psalms 5:7-8**
I cannot... I will...
Worship and obedience: Come, Bow, Lead Follow
- D. Contrast with the 'others' Psalm 5:9, 10**
Lies, destruction, deceit, guilty, schemers, sin, rebellion
- E. Congregation of the righteous Psalm 5:11, 12**
Not alone
Protection and favour
Psalm 30:5

An analysis of literary structure:
A¹ (vs 1–3) Requests: Prayerful Expectation
B¹ (vs 4–6) Affirmation: The LORD rejects evil
C (vs 7–8) Commitment: To the LORD's righteous way
B² (vs 9–10) Action: Declare them guilty, let them fail
A² (vs 11–12) Results: Refuge, Blessing and Joy in the LORD ⁵

An analysis of literary structure:
A. Prayer for God's Justice (vv. 1–3)
B. Affirmation of God's Hatred of Evil (vv. 4–6)
C. Hope in Fellowship With God (v. 7)
A'. Prayer for God's Righteousness (v. 8)
B'. Affirmation of Evil (v. 9)
C'. Hope in God's Righteousness (vv. 10–12) ⁶

Trusting God in Adversity

Take responsible action

Identify actions, attitudes and behaviour that lead away from God

Seek the Lord specifically in prayer, worship and obedience

Identify actions of faith: Hope, Trust, Anticipation, Heard, Sleep.

⁵ Adapted from Carson, D. A. *New Bible commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

⁶ VanGemeren, W. A. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.