

David's Son Absalom Attempts Overthrow Psalm 3

In this setting, David is rightful king of Israel. God put David on the throne. He is God's anointed one. He is a man after God's own heart. However, being king does not shield him from trouble. It seems a man such as David having command over an army would never have to fear any enemy. Yet, the Devil is mean and shrewd. He never sent the Assyrians to attack David. He never sent the Syrians to attack David. At this moment in life, he is not under the attack of the Philistines. His own son Absalom attacks him and attempts to take his throne away from him and set himself as king of Israel.

The Devil knows how to get to, that is, attack every person. Perhaps the Devil did not consider that he could tempt Adam to sin. So, he attacked Adam through his wife Eve. The Devil is wise. He may get to you through your family, through a neighbor, through the government or many other means he has available. Several characters in the Bible were attacked through family. Paul was attacked by his fellow countrymen. He was attacked by religion. He was attacked by the government.

One's family, it would seem, should be people one could count on for support. However, family can be a foe. The Devil went through Moses's brother Aaron to hinder Moses. Lot, nephew of Abraham, turned out to be a thorn in the side of Abraham. In this study, David's son Absalom is attacking his father, David King of Israel. You may read the account of this conflict in II Samuel 15-18.

In some manner, Hitler stole the hearts of the people of Germany. Historians said he used propaganda. He came to power over his people. In a similar fashion, Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel. Upon gaining the support of the people, Absalom used King David's own counsellors to concoct a plan to overthrow his father and take the throne. In this study David is fleeing. Messengers have informed him of Absalom's plight to overthrow him. This Psalm, it is believed, was written by David while he was fleeing for his life. The army of Israel, led by Absalom, was

pursuing him. Absalom had, in fact, seized the throne. The lone task remaining was to assassinate King David.

As he feels the enemy approaching, David turns to the Lord for help. What must it feel like to have your life threatened by your own son? Some Bible scholars have concluded that Absalom was David's favorite son. Few have known the heartache David must feel while under attack by his son and the army of his own kingdom. This is a Goliath-size problem for David, but it is not too big for God.

Outnumbered verse 1

“Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me.”

Throughout history, seems the Devil has had a knack of being able to rally the masses. I think of the crowds assembled to persecute the Apostle Paul. Then, there are the crowds who swarmed the Son of God like starving buzzards. Many are the troops of Satan. He has incredible charm. He has immense drawing power. The Bible speaks in the book of the Revelation of the drawing power of the Devil incarnate, the Antichrist. The churches are empty, but the Devil's house is overflowing. Be not misled by a crowd. The crowd may belong to the Devil.

Discouragement verse 2

“Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah”

Just when you are under attack and in need of help, someone lets you know you are a *loser*. We all know the value of encouragement. The number one reason I miss my father is I miss his words of encouragement. I miss the assignments he gave me simply because he believed in me. This was a great encouragement.

David was surely surrounded by what is known as naysayers. Twelve spies were sent over, and upon return ten gave the discouraging report that the people should not enter the very land God had promised them. We always try to say encouraging things

to one another in our home. Many told David “this is the end.” Some may have said “David, it has been nice knowing you.” Some may have declared “David, the manner in which you are outnumbered makes it impossible for you to win.” Don’t you love being around negative people? When a light bulb flickers, they pronounce that the world is coming to an end.

The word *help* means *salvation* in this verse 2. In paraphrasing this verse: “David you are in such a mess even God cannot deliver you this time.” For sure, Shimei was a discourager to David. As David was fleeing in II Samuel 16, Shimei cursed David and those who accompanied him. Shimei wished upon David “the blood of the house of Saul.” He referred to David as “thou man of Belial.” In other words, he described David as a son of the Devil. Shimei informed David that Absalom was now the rightful king of Israel. That must have been encouraging! Shimei cast stones and dirt at David and his men. As a footnote, Shimei later asked David’s forgiveness and David pardoned him. Reference: II Samuel 19:18-23.

We will live a life ruined by sin if there is no help in God. If there is no help in God, we will perish in a Devil’s hell. We are forever doomed. Yet, we have the encouragement of Psalm 121:1-2 *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

Trust in God verse 3-4

“But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah”

Can God be trusted? Is God for real? Is he dependable? Can his Word be trusted? It is easy to boast in the ability of the Lord when all is well, when the wind is calm, the waves are still, and the sun is shining. How about the times when your family has attacked you and your people have joined forces against you? It is then that our faith is put to trial.

God was the one who had given David the throne of Israel. It was he who had anointed him at a young age to be the one to replace King Saul. The Devil can threaten to take what is yours, but If God gave it to you, God will allow you to prevail. God put David on the throne. At this moment, he is off the throne, but he has the assurance God will allow him to resume his place as rightful king of Israel. Yes, God can be trusted.

Living a Christian life is interesting in many ways. One of the greatest assets a Christian can possess is experiences with the Lord. In verse 4, David reflects back on a time when he needed the Lord. He called on the Lord, and the Lord responded. Some believe verse 4 reflects back on the time Nathan came to David and exposed his sin with Bathsheba. David flung himself before God and asked for forgiveness. (Reference Psalm 51.) God answered. The Lord responded to his plea. Nathan was moved by David's cry for mercy and forgiveness and pronounced as such in II Samuel 12:13 "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die." If God can forgive the very thing he hates to most, SIN, he can deliver from enemies.

No Fear verse 5-6

"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about."

Have you ever gone to bed at night wondering if you would see tomorrow? This seems to be the situation with David in verse 5. The enemy is strong. He estimated the number to be *ten thousands*. He had only a few with him. It is easy to say "God will deliver." Yet, there is the human component to every person. Some have estimated David had substantially less than 100 men accompanying him. Suppose he had 100. How do you like 10,000-to-1 odds? Such odds would make the strongest of men worry about whether or not another sunrise would appear. Despite the odds against him, he lay down and slept. Only God can bring such peace and reassurance.

Like David, Daniel got a good night's sleep in a den of lions. The peace and assurance that God can give is better than sleep-aids.

Victory verse 7

“Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.”

Here, David praises God by faith. The victory has not come. Yet, he praises God by faith for the deliverance that will come. Once again, we relate back to David's experiences with God. First a bear, then a lion, then Goliath, and then Saul had fallen in defeat to David and Jehovah God. God has a good track record. With his faith in God, David had a good track record of victory. The occasion where David did falter with Bathsheba, God was nowhere around. David was out on a limb alone.

Absalom had two men in whom he consulted in preparing to take his father down. One was Ahithophel and the other was Hushai. Absalom seemed torn between the advice of the two men. Ahithophel was certainly an adversary of David. Hushai was David's secret agent in the palace. As David slept on the hillside, God was pulling the teeth of the enemies back in the palace. Did you know God was a dentist?

All Credit to God verse 8

“Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah”

With God, nothing is impossible. God majors in battles men cannot wage. Salvation is not of man. It is not of preachers, priests, or popes. It is not of men with muscle, brawn, or armed. To god be the glory.