

Psalm 3 - Notes

Background:

1. This is a psalm of David. The title tells us it was written as he fled from Absalom.
2. It is a Trust Psalm, a Lament Psalm, and a Prayer Psalm.
3. It is a strophe psalm. Logos breaks it apart into three sections (1-3, 4-6, 7-8).
 1. Olbricht breaks it into: The opposition recognized (1-2), Depending on God and help (3-6), Appeal for vindication (7-8).
 2. Waycaster breaks it into: The calamity (1-2), the confidence (3-4), the courage (5-6), the call of action (7), the comfort (8).
4. Key words in this Psalm: Lord (Yahweh) 6x; Deliverance/Salvation (yesua; ys) 3x; God (elohim) 2x; Rise (qwm)
 1. The Lord God will Rise up and Deliver me!

VV. 1-2 - THE EXPRESSION OF ANXIETY

1. Notice how David refers to God in making his appeal: Lord and God.
2. Notice in verse one how alone and outnumbered he feels.
3. Notice in verse two how David is saying, "Are you hearing this God?"
 1. Do you want to jeopardize your reputation by not helping?

VV. 3-4 - THE EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE

1. Notice the military man using a military word - Shield (3:3; 18:35; 28:7; 33:20; 35:2; 47:9; 59:11; 76:3; 84:9, 11; 115:9, 10, 11; 119:114; 144:2)
2. He also calls him the lifter of his head. When I have lost strength before, you have been there!
3. Cry = Pain
4. Holy Mountain = Mt. Zion, the place of the Ark of the Covenant

VV. 5-6 - THE FEELING OF CONTENTMENT

1. How do you lie down and sleep without trust and faith.
 1. Knowing God loves us gives us peace - Phil. 4:6; Jn. 14:27
2. David will not let fear paralyze him.
 1. The righteous always have many enemies (Jn. 7:7, 15, 18-20; I Jn. 3:13)

VV. 7-8 - THE REFLECTION ON PAST DELIVERANCE

1. David may be remembering past events in which God deliver him.
 1. Or, he could be so confident that he speaks as if it already happened.
2. Salvation belongs to the Lord, but most of the times in Psalms it is not salvation from sin.
 1. Usually it is the idea of salvation from the present crisis.