**A Shield About Me**

*Psalm 3*

**Introduction**

1. At times, a Christian can feel overwhelmed physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
2. It can seem as if we are surrounded by enemies, and we are desperate for deliverance.
3. We can take solace in the fact that God is THE great protector and provider – One in whom we can invest our full trust.
4. It is only by trusting Him that we can endure anything, most especially the advances of our Adversary, the Devil.
5. Absalom Usurps the Throne **(2 Samuel 15-18)**
6. Absalom Commits Treason
   1. Absalom murdered his brother Amnon after he raped his sister Tamar, and fled to Geshur in fear of his father, king David.
   2. After 3 years of Absalom’s absence in Jerusalem, David is convinced to bring him back, but still does not want to see his face.
   3. After 2 years back in Jerusalem without seeing his father, Absalom sought reconciliation.
   4. **David agreed to see him, and to all appearances, Absalom and his father were reconciled. Though, Absalom had ulterior, and malevolent motives 🡪**
   5. **It was Absalom’s plan to rebel against David, and usurp his throne:**
      1. ***“So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel” (2 Samuel 15:6b).***
      2. **2 Samuel 15:10-12** – Absalom’s supporters grew to the extent that David had to flee 🡪
7. David Flees from Absalom
   1. **2 Samuel 15:13-14** – David was in danger because of Absalom’s advances, and fled from Jerusalem.
   2. **2 Samuel 15:30** – David and those loyal to him ascended the Mount of Olives – it was a time of great sorrow, and danger.
   3. **At one moment David had the kingdom, and at the next he was fleeing for his life in fear of his traitorous son.**
8. Absalom is Defeated
   1. Ultimately, Absalom’s revolt was ended because it was not God’s will, and David found favor in His sight.
   2. Absalom was killed against the wishes of David.
   3. **2 Samuel 18:33** – David heard the news of his son’s death and wept bitterly.
   4. **From start to finish this period in David’s life was bitter and trying to say the least.**
9. **Psalm 3** – A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.
10. Surrounded by Adversaries **(vv. 1-2)**
    1. This cry of David’s was not simply a feeling he had, but it was a fact.
    2. Much of Israel had turned against David and were loyal to Absalom.
    3. Others were not happy with David to begin with and were pleased to see his plight with Absalom. **Of such was a man named Shimei:**
       1. **2 Samuel 16:5-8** – Shimei not only cursed David, and threw stones at him, but blamed him for Saul’s and his sons’ deaths.
       2. He claimed that God caused this to fall on him as punishment – ***“Many are they who say of me, ‘There is no help for him in God’” (Psalm 3:2).***
    4. **Not only was David’s son, and kingdom against him, but he had a voice telling him that God was not with him and would not help!**
    5. ***All those who oppose the truth of God will oppose us who are sanctified by it. No doubt, from skeptics to apostates, the claim will be that God is with them, and not us.***
11. Shielded by the Lord **(vv. 3-6)**
    1. **(v. 3)** – Despite the great trouble of the time, David remembered God, and the protection provided by Him in the past.
       1. **Shield** – ***“But You, O Lord, are a shield about me” (NASB).***
          1. The Lord encompasses those who trust in Him with protection.
          2. “***Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him” (Proverbs 30:5).***
       2. ***“My glory”*** – As his kingdom was taken from him, it would seem David would have no honor, nothing to glory in.
          1. However, God was his glory – any glory or honor for David was tied up in God – if he had God, he was okay.
          2. ***“But ‘he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends” (2 Corinthians 10:17-18).***
    2. **(vv. 4-6)** – No matter the opposition, if God is with us we will be sustained.
       1. **(v. 5)** – **sleep – literally and figuratively** – sustained by rising from physical slumber rather than being slain, or upon death, rising to be with the Lord in triumph.
       2. (**v. 6)** – If we have God, we have no need to fear.
    3. ***Despite the immense opposition we may face in the world, our God will not fail us. He will protect us, and sustain us if we glory in Him, and trust in Him.***
12. Salvation Belongs to the Lord **(vv. 7-8)**
    1. **(v. 7)** – God can save us from anything, because He has the power over any.
       1. No enemy of God’s will triumph. So, if we are on His side, we will be saved from such.
       2. ***“the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me” (John 14:30).***
       3. ***“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5).***
    2. **(v. 8)** – Salvation belongs to God (***Author of salvation***); thus, He is the only one who can offer it. Those who are His will surely receive it.
    3. ***No amount of opposition, or affliction that it might bring, can keep us from obtaining salvation if we trust in God. He can be overcome by none; thus, none can overcome His.***
13. A Shield About Me
14. On the Journey of Faith
    1. Jesus calls us to endurance – **Hebrews 10:32-39** – The Hebrew audience was showing signs of drawing back in hardship, but they had need of endurance.
       1. Salvation does not come from one moment of faith, but a lifetime of faithfulness.
       2. **Hebrews 12:1** – run the race with endurance.
    2. Jesus calls us to patience – **James 5:7-8 –** as the farmer.
    3. It is certainly a journey, and we must view it as such to be successful. Else, we will grow impatient and fail to endure.
    4. Along the way we are faced with myriad obstacles designed by Satan to throw us off the path – temptation, suffering, adversity of any kind, sorrow, etc.
       1. It can seem like everything is against us in this journey at times – **Psalm 3:1-2**
       2. But we must remember that even if that is the case, God is with us – **Psalm 3:3**
    5. Paul finished the race – **2 Timothy 4:6-8** – how could he have such success?
       1. **2 Timothy 1:12** – He had committed His life into the hands of the One who was able to protect Him.
    6. God is our shield and protector on our journey that ensures our victory, but we must hide behind the shield in faithful obedience:
       1. **1 John 5:4** – faith is the victory. Consider context:
          1. **(vv. 1-5)** – identified as children of God if you believe Jesus is the Son of God. Part of believing is loving other disciples, and that includes keeping of commandments.
          2. Especially in contrast to false teaching – **1 John 4:1-3**
             1. Victory that has OVERCOME WORLD – Faith. **(5:4)**
             2. **1 John 4:4-6** – overcoming involves abiding in the truth – faithful obedience.
       2. Jesus protected His disciples, and prayed that God protect them when He left – **John 17:12-13**
          1. **(vv. 13-19)** – the way they would be kept from the evil in the world was through abiding in the truth.
          2. This is how God protects us!
15. In the Face of Death
    1. **Hebrews 9:27** – it is appointed for us to die.
       1. Such is an intimidating thing to think about.
       2. But God has provided protection even in this universal matter of mortality.
    2. **Hebrews 2:14-16** – we are released from the “fear” of death because of Christ’s victory over death.
       1. **(v. 10)** – described as a captain. He rushed the enemy Himself head on in order to defeat Him for us.
    3. We don’t have to fear death – **Psalm 3:3-6**
       1. We know God is a shield **(v. 3).**
       2. We call upon Him and rely upon Him **(v. 4).**
       3. We are not afraid to sleep, for He will sustain us (**v. 5**). (EVEN IN THE FIGURATIVE SLUMBER OF DEATH – WE WILL AWAKE)
       4. So we have nothing to be afraid of **(v. 6).**
    4. **Psalm 116:15** – the death of a saint is precious in God’s eyes.
    5. Because there is rest for those who have labored in spite of all who worshiped the Beast – **Revelation 14:6-13**
    6. Because there is victory – **1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 50-58** – but we must be steadfast in our faith.

**Conclusion**

1. There is no enemy too great in strength or number that can defeat us if God is for us.
2. No doubt, there will be times when we feel overwhelmed, but we, like David, must trust in the Lord!
3. ***“But you, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head” (Psalm 3:3).***