

PSALM 3



GOD, MY EXCEEDING JOY
A JOYFUL JOURNEY THRU THE PSALMS

Many are Rising Against Me

November 12, 2023 PM

I. IMPACT

- A. **Example:** Ps 3 is a brief but powerful lament, showing how we can express our anguish and uncertainty in times of stress to the Lord.
- B. **Encouragement:** David's ability to find sleep in the midst of crisis shows the power of faith in God's care to give us a peace that passes understanding.
- C. **Confidence:** The psalm ends on a note of confident prayer that the God who has fought for His people in the past will deliver them from their new distresses. God has not changed!

II. GENRE

- A. Psalm 3 is a classic example of a song of **lament**. Most of the elements commonly found in laments are present here.
 1. Address to Deity: v. 1a, "O LORD"
 2. Lament Proper: vv. 1b-2
 3. Confession of Trust: vv. 3-6
 4. Petition (with Expression of Confidence): vv. 7-8
- B. The one common feature of lament not found in Ps 3 is a Vow of **Thanks**, a promise to give a thank offering after deliverance.

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HEADINGS V. 0 Song Type "Psalm," a song intended for musical accompani- ment Authorship David Occasion David's Flight from Absalom (2 Sam. 15- 18)	LAMENT: DAVID'S CONCERN ABOUT MOUNTING OPPOSITION VV. 1-2 The Multiplication of Enemies: A Helpless Situation v. 1 The Assessment of Onlookers: Divine Abandonment v. 2 [Selah]	PURPOSE: David trusts in Yahweh's care during the tumultuous time of Absalom's rebellion. While he is concerned about mounting opposition, he is confident in Yahweh's protection and ultimate vindication.
CONFIDENCE: DAVID'S TRUST IN YAHWEH'S PROTECTION VV. 3-6 Exclamation of Trust in Yahweh's Care VV. 3-4 Yahweh's Protection of David's Person & Honor v. 3 Yahweh's Answer to David's Prayer v. 4 [Selah] Steadiness of Mind thru Prayer VV. 5-6 Yahweh's Presence thru the Night v. 5 David's Confidence against in His Enemies v. 6	PETITION: DAVID'S PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE & BLESSING VV. 7-8 Prayer for Victory: Divine Defeat of David's Enemies v. 7 Battle Cry of the Ark v. 7a Recollection of Divine Deliverance v. 7b Prayer for Blessing: The Deliverer's Blessing on the Covenant People v. 8 [Selah]	TYPE: Psalm of Trust with Lament AUTHOR: David DATE: After 990 BC (2 Sam. 15-18) SETTING: David on the run during Absalom's rebellion GROUPING: Pss 3-6 each refer to morning & evening

III. SETTING

A. Authorship: David (v. 0).

1. This is the first psalm with a heading.
2. This is the first of 13 psalms which have historical notes.

B. Background: Absalom's **insurrection**. 2 Sam. 15-19.

1. Absalom was the oldest (remaining) of David's **18+** sons. He plotted to overthrow the kingdom, temporarily dethroned his father, and attempted to hunt him down.
2. David fled to the hill country of Gilead on the other side of Jordan until the coup collapsed. Jewish tradition says David wrote this psalm early in the escapade. **2 Sam 15:13-17**.

IV. PLACEMENT

A. The Beginning of Book 1.

1. At some point late in the period of the OT, the order of the Pss were rearranged into their present sequence and divided into 5 books (1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-106, 107-150).
2. Pss 1-2 are technically anonymous and seem to have been placed at the beginning of Psalms as an **introduction**.
3. Pss 3-41 are all written by David. (**Acts 4:25** credits David with Ps 2). No other book in Pss is so dominated by David.

B. The Beginning of a Collection.

1. Pss 3-6 are a small collection of pss in which each speaks of either morning or evening. **Ps 3:5; Ps 4:4, 8; Ps 5:3; Ps 6:6**
2. All of these psalms contain laments.

C. Backward & Forward: Ps 3 has connections with the Pss 2 & 4.

1. The Holy **Mountain**

- a. Ps 3:4 rejoices that Yahweh has heard David from His Holy mountain.
- b. Ps 2:6 declares that Yahweh has ordained the Davidic king to reign at His holy place, Mt. Zion.

2. Peaceful Sleep. Both Ps 3:5 and 4:8 declares David's ability to rest in the knowledge of God's care for him.

V. FEATURES

A. TIME OF COMPOSITION. While the psalm grew out of the events of 2 Sam. 15-19, it is possible that David composed the piece at a later date. The song, then, would reflect the prayers and feelings he had during that time. Cf. v. 4b.

B. A SONG FOR INSTRUMENTS. The term "Psalm" in the heading suggests this song was intended for musical accompaniment.

C. SELAH. This is the first psalm to contain the somewhat mysterious term "Selah." Vv. 2, 4, 8.

D. WAR. Ps 3 contains many terms for warfare (vv. 2, 3, 7, 8).

1. The battle cry in v. 7a is borrowed from **Num. 10:35** where the **Ark** went with the people into battle. This is striking when one remembers that David refused to take the ark with him when he left Jerusalem. **2 Sam. 15:25-26**.

2. The striking imagery in v. 7 suggests the LORD is smashing David's enemies in the face with a mace.

E. THEN AND NOW. The Ps switches sometimes between troubles in the present and deliverance God has brought before (as in v. 7b). Thinking on God's past help brings hope in the present.