**Psalm 3:1-8 (NKJV)**

In verses 1 and 2, in great distress, David complains to God about the increased number of David’s enemies. David also complains about the criticisms and reproaches his enemies make toward him in claiming he has been forsaken by God:

**1  LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many *are* they who rise up against me.**

**2  Many *are* they who say of me, "*There is* no help for him in God." Selah**

**Psalm 3:2 (AMP)**
2  Many are saying of me, There is no help for him in God. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!

David’s enemies longed to see David’s total destruction. When people seriously want to destroy you emotionally, they go for those things and people nearest and dearest to you:

* Kidnappers kidnapping a family member such as a wife or child
* Hateful and evil people who want to intimidate you into submission and break your will by bombing your house while your family is inside asleep at night.
* Terrorists threatening an elementary school teacher to kill one child a minute until the teacher gives them what they want.

For David, whose heart was toward God, his enemies went for the jugular in declaring that even David’s God had forsaken him. Beyond the fact that his own son Absalom had turned against him, and his enemies were increasing; now David is told that not even the sustainer of the universe can help him.

This was all designed to cause David to stagger in his faith in God. If we allow circumstances in our lives to bring us to the point of questioning God’s love for us and His power to sustain us, any hope and joy we may have had gushes out like blood flowing from a deep stab wound.

Yet David knew in his own conscience that he had given them some ground for this exclamation; for he had sinned against God in committing adultery with Bathsheba and then attempting to cover it up by having her husband Uriah murdered.

But, despite David’s initial complaint, David expresses confidence that God will be his protector:

**3  But You, O LORD, *are* a shield for me, …**

In verses 4 and 5, David tells us of his prayers and supplications, and how God heard him:

Observe David’s employment of the word, “But.” In the face of great adversity and harsh attempts to emotionally discourage and destroy David, David expresses his confidence in God.

In the original Hebrew, the word for “shield**”<4043>** signifies more than a shield; it means a buckler round about, a protection which surrounds a man entirely. In other words, it is the idea of a shield which protects from **above**, **beneath**, **around**, **without** and **within**.

**Psalm 18:2 (KJV)**
2  The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler **<4043>**, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

**Psalm 18:30 (KJV)**
30  *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler **<4043>** to all those that trust in him.

**3  … My glory and the One who lifts up my head.**

David acknowledges that although his head may have been hanging downward in distress, anxiety, concern, and loss of strength, God is the one who will lift up his bowed down head, and restore unto him his joy and thanksgiving in God.

**4  I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah**

Here, David says he prayed audibly to the Lord, not silently. Certainly, God hears silent prayer as much as He hears audible prayers; and therefore, audible prayers are never for God’s benefit. Instead, they are for the benefit of the person praying or for the benefit of others listening as the Lord speaks through the person praying.

**5  I lay down and slept; …**

Here, David tells of his peaceful rest while sleeping, because of his confidence in God’s sustaining power.

David's faith enabled him to *lie down.* Anxiety, worry and fear would have kept David awake, constantly watching for an enemy. Yet, David tells us that God allowed him to sleep, even while in the midst of trouble, being hunted by men seeking to destroy him:

**Psalm 127:1-2 (NKJV)**
1  **Unless the LORD** builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; **Unless the LORD** guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.
2  *It is* vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; *For* so He **gives** His **beloved** sleep.

**5  … I awoke, for the LORD sustained me.**

**6  I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set *themselves* against me all around.**

David does not attempt to under-estimate the number or cunningness of his enemies. In fact, he speaks of them as if they were 10,000! David may perhaps be exaggerating in terms of the actual number, but he expresses, in essence, how the number of enemies appeared to himself. His point is that everywhere he turned, it seemed an enemy was staring him in the face. His circumstance, by appearance, seemed to be insurmountable. Given the number of his enemies, in the natural, ruin seemed to be the sure outcome,

David views his enemies as being skillful hunters whose plans are to hem him in by surrounding him the way skillful hunters do a deer. They surround a deer on all sides so there is no escape route.

But David says that although his enemies may attempt to trap him, **he will not be afraid.** David is confident that God will either open a way for him to escape, or, God will sustain him and not let his enemies harm him even though they may surround him.

If only we would be like David, in our times of trouble, when opposed by overwhelming odds, and be able to stand firmly and declare **“I will not be afraid.”**

**7  Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God!**

David has such confident hope in God until he believes that all God has to do is “arise” and he will be saved from his enemies. For David, the Lord simply needs to “stand” and David knows that all will be well.

David then goes on to compare his enemies to wild beasts, and he declares that God has broken their jaws, so that they could not injure him:

**7  … For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.**

Although David’s enemies seemed as if they would devour him with their teeth, like wild animals would do their prey, David says that God has broken their teeth. Therefore, they can say what they want, because their toothless jaws can do him no harm.

To disarm a wild beast, a hunter would first break the beast’s jaw. This would then render the beast helpless.

**8  Salvation *belongs* to the LORD. Your blessing *is* upon Your people. Selah**

**NIV -** 8  From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people. Selah

**NLT -** 8  Victory comes from you, O LORD. May you bless your people. Interlude