

PSALM 3

Memorize Psalm 3:3. ___ Yes!

Almighty God and Loving Father, I know Your invisible hand is holding me, caring for me and directing my heart to seek Your face. As I draw near to You, deliver me from a cold heart and a wandering mind. Give me clear thoughts and kindled affections that I may learn of You and worship You in Spirit and in truth. I come in Jesus' name. Amen.

Read Psalm 3 _____. God has spoken to *us*! Psalm 3 is part of His communication.

Read it again _____.

The superscriptions "A Psalm of David, etc." were added after the psalms were originally written but are still *very* old and used as authentic by the New Testament writers. (Mark 12:35-37; Acts 2:29ff.)

1. According to the superscription of Psalm 3 what was David's personal grief when he wrote this psalm? (Read also II Samuel 15-17:22.)

2. From Psalm 3, beyond David's personal grief what wider issues were pressing upon King David, God's anointed monarch?

3. How would you describe:
 - a. the tactics of the opposition?

 - b. David's view of the situation?

 - c. David's course of action?

Re-read verses 3-6.

4. In verse 3 "but" is a connecting word that ties together and also contrasts two ideas. What is the first idea (in verses 1 and 2) and what is the second (verses 3-6)?

5. List a few words that describe *the tone* of David's statements about the Lord.

6. In one column, note the specific characteristics and actions of the Lord that David proclaims. Beside each item you made note of, tell what it means.

7. It has been said that actions speak louder than words. What actions did David take in these verses (3-6) that make you think he meant what he said about his God?

Re-read verses 7-8.

The psalms are poetry. One literary device used repeatedly in the psalms is the comparison of the enemy with wild animals. This is probably the idea in verse 7. (See also Psalm 7:2). The verbs are probably best rendered in the present tense as does the NIV and marginal note of the NASV.

8. What two things does David ask for in these verses, and *for whom*?

9. Do you think David's pleas for deliverance were entirely self-serving? Why?

Now let's get personal. Although this psalm was written by one man in his own historical dark hour, the ultimate author is God and His intent is to instruct and enlighten His children of all ages. Today none of us is the God-appointed ruler of a theocracy (a nation governed by God) nor can we expect to see justice done every time we are attacked in this world. Jesus taught and exemplified the opposite. BUT, we do have spiritual enemies of the soul which rise up against us and taunt us. And for these enemies we may - indeed we must - use the same principles David used with his enemies.

10. Below are listed some of the opposition we face today. Complete the list and explain in what ways you think each might conquer us.

Enemies of the soul

How each might conquer us

a) Fear

(ex) Immobilize us; keep us from doing what's right

b) Pride

c). Self-pity

d) Jealousy

e) Self-indulgence

f)

g)

h)

i)

j)

