

Bible Study for Psalms 3 and 4

Psalm 3 and Psalm 4 are often called the “morning Psalm” and the “evening Psalm”. Look at these psalms as a pair. What similarities and differences do you see?

Psalm 3

A psalm of David. When he fled from his son Absalom.

- 1 LORD, how many are my foes!
How many rise up against me!
- 2 Many are saying of me,
“God will not deliver him.”
- 3 But you, LORD, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high.
- 4 I call out to the LORD,
and he answers me from his holy mountain.
- 5 I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
- 6 I will not fear though tens of thousands
assail me on every side.
- 7 Arise, LORD!
Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.
- 8 From the LORD comes deliverance.
May your blessing be on your people.

Psalm 4

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A psalm of David.

- 1 Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you people
turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions
and seek false gods?
- 3 Know that the LORD has set apart
his faithful servant for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- 4 Tremble and do not sin;
when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of the righteous
and trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many, LORD, are asking,
“Who will bring us prosperity?”
Let the light of your face shine on us.
- 7 Fill my heart with joy
when their grain and new wine
abound.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 3 and psalm 4 are both identified as being Psalms of David. What difference does it make to our understanding of these Psalms if we read them as David's words rather than our own?

What does David say about God in Psalms 3 and 4?

In Psalms 3 and 4, how is God's judgment and blessing for His people linked to God's servant the King?

In the Bible Talk on January 10th, Russell was suspicious about people "*reading the story of Jesus back into*" Psalm 3. Russell also said that David was a "foreshadowing" of Jesus, who is "*the real Messiah that David's life and Kingship was just a preparation for*". Is there a difference in these approaches? How would you explain this difference?

As Christians, we are not David's people, but we are people who belong to the same God as David. Our Messiah and King is a greater one than David. Our King is the Son of God, the King of Kings, Jesus. What lessons and assurances can we, as Christians today, take from these Psalms?
