

*ASSURANCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY*

*Psalm 3*

*Psalm 3:1 - ...O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me.*

*2 Sam 15:12 - ...the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom.*

*2 Many are saying of my soul, 'There is no deliverance for him in God.' Selah.*

*2 Sam 16:7-8 Get out, get out, you man of bloodshed, and worthless fellow! The Lord has returned upon you all the bloodshed of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. And behold, you are taken in your own evil, for you are a man of bloodshed.*

***SPURGEON** – If all the trials which come from heaven, all the temptations which ascend from hell, and all the crosses which arise from earth, could be mixed and pressed together, they would not make a trial so terrible as that which is contained in this verse. It is the most bitter of all afflictions to...fear that there is no help for us in God.*

**Keys to having assurance in the face of adversity...**

**I. TRUST IN THE WISDOM OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE**

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***GOD'S WISDOM IS SEEN...***

***A. IN HOW HE PROTECTS***

***3 Thou, O Lord, art a shield about me.***

Gen        Gen 50:20  
R        Rom 8:28

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***B. IN HOW HE VINDICATES***

***3...my glory***

*1 Pet 5:10 - And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

*1*

*1 Pet 2:23*

*Col 1:24*

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***C. IN HOW HE ENCOURAGES***

***3...the One who lifts my head.***

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**II. REST IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S CARE**

*4 I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain.*

*Psa 116:1 - I love the Lord, because He hears my voice and my supplications.*

*Eze 34:12 - As a shepherd cares for his herd...so I will care for My sheep...*

*1 Pet 5:7 - ...(cast) all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.*

*5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.*

*Matt 6:34 - So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

*Rom 8:31 - ...If God is for us, who is against us?*

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

*1 Cor 10:13*

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**III. HOPE IN THE PROMISE OF GOD'S VICTORY**

### III. HOPE IN THE PROMISE OF GOD'S VICTORY

#### A. *GOD'S ULTIMATE VICTORY IS GUARANTEED*

*7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked.*

*Psa 68:1 - Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; and let those who hate Him flee before Him.*

*Rom 2:4-5 - Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath...and righteous judgment of God.*

*2 Pet 3:1-9 - In the last days mockers will be saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?"*

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### **III. HOPE IN THE PROMISE OF GOD'S VICTORY**

***A. GOD'S ULTIMATE VICTORY IS GUARANTEED***

***B. GOD'S ETERNAL DECREES ARE UNALTERABLE***

***8 Salvation belongs to the Lord.***

*Isa 46:10-11 - My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure...*

*Heb 1:2-3 - Christ upholds all things by the word of His power...*

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*8 Salvation belongs to the Lord.*

*Eph 1:11 - ...having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...*

*8...Your blessing be upon Your people! Selah.*

*1 Sam 30:6 - ...David was greatly distressed...but (he) strengthened himself in the Lord...*

MAURICE ROBERTS – in The Thought of God

*The mere thought of God should end all anxiety.*

*When the dark cloud of trouble first looms up on the horizon of our thought, then is the time to apply our theology in downright earnest. For it is not outward circumstances that can drag us down, but our own reaction of despair to them, when we fail to perceive the hidden hand of God in all events.*

*It is our folly that we allow ourselves to look at life's problems as if they were somehow isolated from God.*