Intro: In this Psalm David is running from his son, Absalom. Little by little Absalom had won the hearts of Israel. One morning, after winning over Israel’s hearts, he decided to storm the throne of his father David. Then one of David’s servants came to him and told him of the conspiracies of Absalom, and how the people had taken Absalom side, so they fled the palace, left Jerusalem, and are now fleeing to Mahaniam. He wrote this Psalm while on the run. Read 2Sm. 15-17.

I. David sees a hopeless cause ***–*** 1 O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; 2 many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God. *Selah*

• Have you ever been in a situation where it seems like there is no way out. The doctors have said that there was no hope for this kind of illness, or a child has been so rebellious that the parent or a teacher has given up hope for them. Maybe it seems that there is no hope in getting ahead in life, bills, and more bills, just keep piling up. David’s hopeless cause was Absalom.

a. David’s enemies are increasing in number

• What David is saying here is that at one time his enemies where small in number but have increased and now are rising up to destroy Him*.* This is a reference to Absalom winning the hearts of the men of Israel.

b. David’s enemies tell him that his God will not deliver him *(v. 2)*

• Absalom had probably told his men that David’s God had forsaken him. That David had no power in defending himself, and that there was no hope for the king of Jerusalem. David’s God had no intention of delivering him. But, oh how wrong they were.

*Selah: pause and think about what was just said*

II. David see’s hope in God – 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. 4 I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah

• If you like positive role models, David is our man. Everyone has left him, his son is searching to kill him, he is running for his life, the men he once commanded in battle have said that David’s God was no longer with him, and yet David is seeing God in a positive light. He sees a hopeless situation but that is where God works at His best. And I believe David knew that. Let’s note a few things of importance here.

a. David has faith that God will Protect him (*v. 3a)*

• This shows how David is feeling at the time of his darkest day. Enemies and danger all around, his family in disarray, and his oldest son is trying to kill him, and David is calling for the Almighty Shield to protect him.

b. God is the lifter of David’s head *(v. 3b)*

• David had his head bowed low. This was a natural reaction to the trouble he was facing. To lift up David’s head is to relieve the stress, and pain that he was going through. To take away the sorrow that was caused by Absalom. God was the only one that David found to help him in this. He has always found that God is able to help him before. God had never let him down.

c. God hears our prayers of concern *(v. 4)*

• David had the peace of mind to know that God would hear him and would not leave him to his enemies. The “holy hill” is a reference to the city of Jerusalem.

*Selah: pause and think about what was just said*

III. David see’s the peace of God –5 I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.
6 I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

• David saw that his enemies had no peace and could not give him peace. Jesus said it best when He was referring to the Holy Spirit said, “peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

a. David went from being stressful to peaceful *(v. 5a)*

• There is just something about David’s testimony that should make every Christian take a stand and say that we are not going to allow a what seems to be a hopeless situation, get the better of me and my walk with God. Anxiety will lead you away from your family, your job, and most importantly away from your relationship with Jesus Christ.

b. David awakes to a new beginning *(v. 5b)*

• Even while David is asleep God watches over him, protects him from his enemies. God will not leave us to face our enemies alone. The word “again” here is so wonderful. Many times David faced trouble, death, heartache, prosecution, but each time, after finding himself at the end of a hopeless cause, he saw a better day, a new day, a refreshing day, a day of starting over.

c. David is given the strength to face his enemies *(v. 6)*

• It takes a strong Christian to face their worst fears. Their abusing father or husband, their drug addiction, their lifelong depression issues, their phobia’s of any kind. All of these fears take courage to face, and it takes courage to defeat them. But you will never defeat them if you don’t take that first step, and that is to face them. Replace any fear you want with the word “anxiety” and you will see what God is trying to tell us today.

° 25 Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. Proverbs 12:25

IV. David asks for the Protection of God – 7 Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Psalms 3:7

• In verses 3 and 5 we find that David had God’s protection. So, what makes verses 3 and 5 different from verse 7. In verses 3 and 5 David is being protected from his enemies that is doing harm to him, and in verse 7 God is the one doing the harming to David’s enemies.

a. David asked God to save him *(v. 7a)*

• The word save here means “to rescue.” David is still surrounded by enemies, and David is still calling on God’s help. We should never quit calling on God for help. God is always on call for those, who call on Him.

b. God protects David by destroying his enemies *(v. 7b)*

• This is a victory for David. But at a very costly price. The bible tells us that David and his remaining, loyal, small in number of men were going to fight Absalom’s men. That day there was a great loss of life (20,000 men) and the battle spread all over the country and there were more killed by the forest than the sword. Even David’s greatest enemy Absalom, died.

V. David gives Praise to God –8 Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! *Selah*

• David didn’t take a victory lap. He didn’t praise his praises. He didn’t have Israel sing songs to what a great leader his was. Instead, he humbles himself and gave God praise for delivering him from his enemy, his son Absalom. David praises God for delivering him from his enemies, but it was a great personal lose – 2 Sam. 18 as well 51:9-19. What would you have done if you were caught in David situation?

a. David praises God for His deliverance *(v. 8a)*

• The reference here is the deliverance from the dangers that had surrounded David. But it is even true for those who are delivered spiritually. Delivered from the sin (the enemy). In both cases, only God can save.

° 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:37-39

b. David praised the Lord for His blessings on His people *(v. 8b)*

• Remember most of Israel had gone over to Absalom’s side. They had left David and joined forces with Absalom to form a coup against David. This shows leadership beyond what most people can see, welcoming back people and governing people that were once your enemies. This is what I call having “giant faith”. See Pastor Mike for more on “Giant Faith” lesson. Last thing is this, God alone is due praise.

° 8 So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day. Psalms 61:8

*Selah: pause and think about what was just said.*