Intro: 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer! 2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah* 3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. 4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah* 5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. 6 There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!” 7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. 8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

• This Psalm was sung in the evening time. Many differ though on what David was doing to write such a beautiful song. Some feel that David wrote it as a continuation of Psalm 3. While Psalm three was written while David was running away from Absalom to the city Mahanaim, Psalm 4 was written while he was in Mahanaim. Others feel that there is nothing in this Psalm that would lead that David had written this psalm while he was in Mahanaim, others believe David just wrote a wonderful song on having confidence in God. Whichever interpretation you take, it is still a powerful song.

I. David is trusting in God to answer his prayer –1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

a. He calls out to God (v.1a)

• The word “answer” carries the meaning “hear favorably.” The meaning is “hear me and grant me what I ask.” In the Hebrew it carries the meaning of importance. Like a mother would hear the call of her child, or a husband takes a phone call from his wife while in a board meeting.

b. He asks God to take away his distress (v. 1b)

• David is relying on God to come and deliver him from distress. David has called on God before and now he is calling on God again to have that same mercy.

c. He asks the Lord to have mercy on him (v. 1c)

II. David urges his enemies to trust in God –2 O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies? *Selah* 3 But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. 4 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah* 5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

• There is no doubt that David is addressing these verses to his enemies. He then asked them to turn from their personal attacks and praise and worship the King of kings.

a. There are two questions that are being asked by David concerning “sons of men”:

1. How long will you turn my glory into shame?

• The phrase “you turn my glory into shame” can be translated “you dishonor my Glorious One” which would be referring to God. This refers to the rebellion at the time of Absalom. The fact is that David enemy (Absalom) was after his throne, his crown, and was ready to reduce him from the most power man in the world to a lowly beggar begging for his life.

2. How long will you love delusions and seek lies?

• The idea is that men will love to find inconsistencies in the God of truth. Things like Jesus isn’t God, the Bible is full of errors, God is not real, I can go to heaven without Jesus, delusional thinking like this, and then will turn right around and will fall for lies like, I’m not that bad of a sinner, my sin isn’t going to matter much to a loving God, who are you to judge me.

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

b. David assures his enemies that God will hear his prayer *(v. 3)*

• In Psalm 3 David’s enemies, Absalom, and the men of Israel, said that God had left David, and that God was not going to hear him no longer. Here David assures them that God has not left him he will hear him when he calls.

c. David advises his enemies to search their hearts *(v. 4)*

• Here we find David crying out for Absalom to not let his anger destroy him. That he should not let anger gain control over his heart. The phrase “stand in awe,” could be translated “in your anger.” David is challenging Absalom not to allow his anger to take over him. He should control his anger not his anger controlling him.

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

d. David pleads with his enemies to turn to God *(v. 5)*

1. By offering a just and right sacrifice --- repentance

2. And trusting in God

• Instead offering anger, hatred, and other sins, Absalom is challenged to offer a righteous sacrifice. That is sacrifices prompted by right motives and in accordance with the law of God. Absalom is to turn from his evil ways, confide in God, and submit to Him.

III. David testifies of God’s goodness –6 There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!” 7 You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

• David goes from addressing, Absalom and his army, returning to God, to testifying of God’s goodness. You may think what does testifying of God’s goodness and trusting in God have in common. The answer lies in verse 6-8. Many are looking for some good in this world, and David said listen I know of what really is good, I call on Him, I am a witness of what He can do, and when I sleep, I know He will take care of me.

a. Many have asked to see some good *(v. 6a)*

• I don’t care what the poles say, I don’t care what Presidents say, there are still men and women that are looking for some good and the good will always win in the end. Now the answer to this question lies in God Himself. Some will place it in wealth, some in honor, some in palaces, some in social programs, some in literature, and some in entertainments. But David placed the goodness in the favor and friendship he had with God.

b. David is a witness to God’s goodness *(v. 6b, 7)*

1. He calls on the light of God

• The phrase “lift up the light of Thy countenance” is a reference to the sun rising up free in the morning over the clouds and darkness, seeming to smile upon the world (*Barns Notes p. 38)*. The meaning is that God is in favor and a friend to David, though he has faced his enemies, God has not left him, just as the sun overcomes the darkness and smiles on the earth each morning God is going help David overcome his enemies and be there for him in his darkest days.

2. God has put joy and happiness in his heart *(v. 7)*

• The is a difference between being joyful and being happy. Joy is given to us to be the fruit of the Spirit. Happy is an emotion that is given to us at birth. That is why you can have joy and not be happy. Are you happy with how things are going in our world today? Does that take away the joy God has given you in your relationship to Him? No.

IV. David will trust in God when things are out of his control – 8 In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

a. David trusts God even in his sleep *(v. 8a)*

• The same idea that was in 3:5 applies here. When things seem hopeless, out of control, and that’s when you and I need to trust God the most. When everything is out of control, he turns it over to the one who controls the stars, and thousands of galaxies.

b. God’s protection surrounds David *(v. 8b)*

There are two lessons here:

° There is confidence that he would abide in safety

° he committed his safety to the Lord.

*Conclusion: This Psalm teaches us that during troubled times we should put our trust in God*.