

Treasure Hunt

- What is the pinnacle (central) psalm of Psalms 3-14?
- What sets it apart from those around it?
- What theme permeates the entire section?
- How is this theme marked?
- What common theme do we find in Psalms 3-6?
- Why is this theme appropriate for David's flight from Absalom (3:1)?
- How are Psalms 3 and 4 alike?
- How are they different?

Groups of Psalms in Book 1 (Robertson & others

Book 1: 1-41

1-2: Opening

3-14: ???

15-25: Kingship

15:1 Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
2 He that [keeps the law...]

19: 2nd Torah Psalm

24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?
or who shall stand in his holy place?
4 He that [keeps the law...]

26-32: Regal Dwellingplace Psalms
Centered on Ps 29

33-41: Psalms of the Sufferer

34-37: The Innocent Sufferer

38-41: The Guilty Sufferer

Psalms 3-14: God Delivers the Weak

3-7: Laments

Distinctive theme: **sleep** (3:5; 4:4, 8; 5:3; 6:6)

Paired terms and themes:

- God's **temple** (היכל, Strong 1964), 5:7
- **God** brings suffering, Ps 6
- Wicked words (5:5, 9) and verbal remedies (5:3, 11)
- "Arise, O LORD" קום יהוה, 3:7; 7:6

7:17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness:
and will **sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.**

8: Hymn—Victory over Goliath

1 O LORD our Lord, **how excellent is thy name** in all the earth!...

4 **What is man, that thou art mindful of him? ...**

9 O LORD our Lord, **how excellent is thy name** in all the earth!

9-14: Laments

9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee:

I will **sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.**

Distinctive theme: the **poor** (עני, Strong 6041), 9:12, 13, 18; 10:2, 9, 12; 12:6; 14:6

Paired terms and themes:

- God's **temple**, 11:4
- **God** brings suffering, Ps 13
- Wicked words (12:2-5) and verbal remedies (12:6)
- "Arise, O LORD" קום יהוה, 9:19; 10:12

Overview of Psalms 3-14



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Psalms for Sleepers

Evening:

Psa 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

During the night:

Psa 6:6 I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water **my couch** with my tears.

Morning:

Psa 3:5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.

Psa 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; **in the morning** will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

Common Structure of Psalms 3 and 4

	Psalm 3	Psalm 4
To the Lord	<p>1 LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many <i>are</i> they that rise up against me. 2 Many there be which say of my soul, <i>There is</i> no help for him in God. Selah. 3 But thou, O LORD, <i>art</i> a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.</p>	<p>1 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me <i>when I was</i> in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.</p>
To Others	<p>4 I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah. 5 I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set <i>themselves</i> against me round about.</p>	<p>2 O ye sons of men, how long <i>will ye turn</i> my glory into shame? <i>how long</i> will ye love vanity, <i>and</i> seek after leasing? Selah. 3 But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. 4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.</p>
To the Lord	<p>7 Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies <i>upon</i> the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. 8 Salvation <i>belongeth</i> unto the LORD: thy blessing <i>is</i> upon thy people. Selah.</p>	<p>6 There be many that say, Who will shew us <i>any</i> good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. 7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time <i>that</i> their corn and their wine increased. 8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.</p>

Texts Illustrating Psalms 3-4

3:1 “many are they,” 6 “ten thousands of people”:

1Ki 19:10, 14 I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

4:1 “God of my righteousness”:

Jer 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and **justice** in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

4:5 “offer the sacrifices of righteousness”:

Psa 51:16 For **thou desirest not sacrifice**; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 **Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness**, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

4:6, “LORD, **lift thou up** the **light** of **thy countenance** upon us”:

Num 6:22 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 23 Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, 24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: 25 The LORD make his face **shine** upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The LORD **lift up his countenance** upon thee, and give thee peace. 27 And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.

4+, “Nehiloth”:

1Sa 26:19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; **for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD**, saying, Go, serve other gods.