

PSALM 4

Intro: The following was written by John F. Brug from his commentary on The Psalms:

If you ever feel your situation is hopeless, if you ever ask yourself, “What’s the use of being a Christian?”, if you ever look at the world around you and say, “Who can show us any good?”, remember this beautiful prayer of David. Even in the dark night of suffering, the light of God’s favor will shine upon us. He will show us the goodness of his grace and deliver us in due time. (David F. Brug, *Psalms, People’s Bible Commentary*, CPH, St. Louis, 1992, p. 54).

- A. Psalm 4 similar to Psalm 3 in its plea for God’s help.
- B. For example, compare 4:1 to 3:7 - 4:2 to 3:1,2 - 4:3 to 3:3,4 - 4:8 to 3:5.
- C. Think of the repetitive nature of our prayers. Recall Matt. 26:42-44.

Verse 1 “O God of my righteousness” has also been translated, “O my righteousness God.”

- A. “God of my righteousness” - God who, by His grace, has made, or reckons me as righteous, and, consequently, I can do those things that please Him. We are reckoned as righteous through faith in Christ. We belong to Him.
- B. “Righteous God” - which He is. The One Who deals with us without mistakes; without error. Is just.
- C. The plea is along the line of, “Please do something quickly to help me as you have done so in the past!”

Verse 2 This is understood to be the basis for this Psalm which is directed to David’s son, Absalom, and his lies and deceit in an effort to take the kingdom from his father: “How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?” See 2 Sam. 12:9-15; 15:1-6,13,14; 16:20-22. 2 Sam. 18 is the account of Absalom’s death.

Verse 3 “...the Lord has set apart the godly for himself...” - the person who lives in a faith relationship with God. Trust in Him above all things; especially salvation.

Verse 4 “Be angry”, as in tremble - points to an emotional agitation that can be caused by fear (Is. 32:11), awe (Ps. 99:1), grief (2 Sam. 18:33), joy (Jer. 33:9).

Verse 5 “right sacrifices” - see Ps. 51:17. All others fall under Is 1:13.

Verse 6 “Who will show us some good?” - those looking for material blessing. The “good” is understanding Rom. 8:28: “...for those who love God all things work together for good.”

Verse 7,8 “Joy” even in the bleakest moment! Will sleep in peace - Phil. 4:7. The Lord is always there for His people.