

“The Lord Our Savior”
(Psalm 3)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Psalm 1 reminded us of the blessing upon those who walk according to God's standards:
 - a. If we don't listen to the world's ideas and accept their standards.
 - b. If we don't live selfishly and seek our own welfare.
 - c. If we don't reject God's standards and make fun of those who do.
 - d. But delight in God's ways, meditate on His Law, live the life He calls us to live, through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - e. Then, we will be like fruitful trees, full of God's Spirit, bearing the good fruits of righteous works.
 - f. It asks us, will you be a fruitful tree or dry chaff with the angel of the Lord driving you on?
 - g. Surely, by God's grace, we all want to be a fruitful vine in the vineyard of the Lord.
 - h. The way to get there is to trust and obey.
2. Psalm 2 reminded us of the same thing from a different perspective:
 - a. It was God's plan to set up His King.
 - b. The nations opposed Him, but couldn't withstand Him.
 - c. He set His King up in heaven, ruling, reigning, raising up and tearing down.
 - d. He rules with a scepter of iron.
 - e. The question is: How will we respond to that rule?
 - (i) Will we resist Him? If so, the King will become angry, His scepter will fall and shatter us like clay pots – individually, corporately and nationally.
 - (ii) But if we worship the Lord, rejoice before Him, fear Him, and kiss His King, then we will be blessed – individually, corporately and nationally.
 - (iii) Surely, by God's grace, we desire His blessing.
 - (iv) The way to receive it is to bow to the Lord and serve Him with all our heart, again in the way of faith and repentance/obedience.
 - (v) For the church, we must do this as a church.
 - (vi) For the nation, to do this as a nation.
 - (vii) We need to pray for revival.

B. Preview.

1. Our psalm this morning tells us something of this blessing: what it is.
 - a. The psalmist/David is in trouble.
 - b. Adversaries are multiplying and coming against him.
 - c. Man can't save him, but God can.
 - d. And so he looks to the Lord, his King, and takes refuge in Him.
 - e. And here he finds blessing: the safety that he desires.

2. Safety, peace, blessing is something we all desire.
 - a. Uncertainty, conflict, danger are things that make life hard.
 - b. We want stability, to know that everything will work out alright, to know that we'll make it through this world and that there is a world full of blessing waiting to greet us on the other side.
 - c. How do we get these things our souls crave?
 - d. It comes by trusting and obeying the Lord.
3. This morning, I want us to see three things:
 - a. Our problem: we have many enemies.
 - b. The solution: we have a King to protect us.
 - c. The application: we must call out to Him.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, the problem: we have many enemies.
 1. Certainly, this was true of David. "A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son."
 - a. The titles are considered reliable:
 - (i) Absalom killed his brother Amnon for raping his sister and then fled.
 - (ii) David later brought him back at Joab's request, but wouldn't see him.
 - (iii) Finally, David accepted him back; but he immediately went to work on overthrowing his father.
 - (iv) Eventually, he won the hearts of the people and entered Jerusalem, while David fled into the wilderness.
 - (v) It was in this context the psalm was written.
 - b. He first describes the problem:
 - (i) Those that set themselves against David had increased/rising up against him. "O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, 'There is no deliverance for him in God'" (vv. 1-2).
 - (ii) Hebrew poetry has frequent use of parallelism: a what's more b; b tends to emphasize the situation more. This one has a c section which emphasizes the difficulty all the more.
 - (a) My adversaries are growing in number.
 - (b) They are rising up against me.
 - (c) What's more, many are saying there is no deliverance for me in God.
 - (d) They mean either that God can't or won't do it.
 - (iii) David is in danger: his enemies are many, they have come against him, and they are taunting him.
 2. This situation is not peculiar to David. We also have many enemies.
 - a. If we're not Christians, they are many, particularly God.
 - (i) God is angry with the wicked every day.

- (ii) He is at war with them, at the same time He is kind and does good to them.
 - (iii) The only way to be saved from this enmity is to trust in Christ.
 - b. If we're Christians, we have enemies.
 - (i) Satan and his demons.
 - (ii) The world: the system and those who dwell in it.
 - (iii) Our own sins.
 - (iv) Sadly, sometimes even members of our own household, and of the Lord's household.
 - (v) We will have enemies as long as we're in this world and sin is at work in men.
 - (vi) When God's kingdom finally comes, then it will cease.
 - (vii) But until then, we are in danger.
- B. Second, the solution: we have a King to protect us.
1. What did David do in this situation? He looked to God.
 - a. God was his confidence: They might say God can't save him, but David knows He can. "But You, O Lord, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head" (v. 3).
 - b. There was a three-fold problem, but God is his three-fold solution.
 - (i) a: My adversaries are growing in number, but none can get to me through God. God is a Shield about me: a protection, one no one can penetrate, God's infinite strength.
 - (ii) b: Many are rising against me, but God will raise me up over them. God is the One who endows me with honor.
 - (iii) c: They are saying there is no deliverance for me in God, but God will give me the victory: My head will be raised up, but my enemy's will be bowed down in disgrace.
 - c. And so David looked to the Lord: "I was crying to the Lord with my voice, and He answered me from His holy mountain" (v. 4).
 - (i) "They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed" (Psalm 34:5).
 - (ii) "Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion which cannot be moved, but abides forever" (Psalm 125:1).
 - (iii) "I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies" (Psalm 18:3).
 - d. He was so certain that the Lord would help him, that he had peace in the middle of the danger: "I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustains me" (v. 5).
 - (i) a: He lay down.
 - (ii) b: He slept.
 - (iii) c: He awoke again: no one killed him in his sleep.
 - (iv) Because the Lord was the One who sustained him.

- e. If there were more enemies, he wouldn't be afraid: "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about" (v. 6).
 - f. The Lord is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.
2. The Lord is our shield against our enemies.
- a. Though we have many enemies, the One who is for us is mightier than those against.
 - b. Satan and his demons cannot harm us.
 - c. The world will not deceive us; those who live in it cannot hurt us.
 - d. Our own sins will not condemn us.
 - e. If we must be separated from our family members, we have a larger and more permanent family.
 - f. Whatever the conflict in God's house, He will work it out.
 - g. Our King will subdue our enemies.
 - h. He has unlimited strength: no one can ward off His hand or successfully resist Him.
- C. And so (the application): when we are in danger, we must call out to Him.
1. David calls out to the Lord to save: "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" (v. 7).
 - a. He asks the Lord to rise up to his aid, to save him.
 - b. He does so either on the basis of what He has done, or what He does.
 - (i) a: God has struck (or strikes) them on the jaw.
 - (ii) b: God will shatter (or shatters) their teeth: remove their ability to hurt.
 - (iii) You've seen someone who hits hard enough to break someone's teeth.
 - (iv) The Lord strikes hard enough to shatter them.
 - (v) He subdues them, takes away their ability to hurt.
 2. He gives credit where credit is due: "Salvation belongs to the Lord" (v. 8).
 - a. Those who hope in men or anything else will be disappointed.
 - b. But those who hope in the Lord will never be put to shame (Psalm 34:5).
 3. Finally, he asks for the Lord's blessing upon himself and his people. "Your blessing *be* upon Your people" (v. 8)!
 - a. The Lord says we have not because we ask not (James 4:2).
 - b. Sometimes we ask and don't receive because we ask with the wrong motives.
 - c. But if our heart is right and we call on the Lord, He will save us.
 - (i) He will strike the jaw of those against us.
 - (ii) He will shatter their teeth and take away their ability to hurt us.
 - (iii) But we must ask. We must call on Him, trust Him, walk with Him.
 - (iv) Nothing can harm us with God as our shield.
 - (v) Nothing can take us away from Him.
 - (vi) Trust in the King and cultivate faithfulness and righteousness. Amen.