

## The Messiah

### Jesus in the Psalms, Part III

#### Psalm 3

Stuart W. Bryan

## I. Messianic Psalms

### A. David as God's Anointed

Anointed One = \_\_\_\_\_ or Christ

### B. Jesus as God's Anointed (cf. Heb 2:11-12; 10:5)

*According to the witness of the Bible, David is, as the anointed king of the chosen people of God, a prototype of Jesus Christ. What happens to him happens to him for the sake of the one who is in him; and who is said to proceed from him, namely Jesus Christ. And he is not unaware of this, but 'being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants upon his throne, he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ' (Acts 2:30ff). David was a witness to Christ in his office, in his life, and in his words. The New Testament says even more. In the Psalms of David the promised Christ Himself already speaks (Hebrews 2:11, 12; 10:5). These same words which David spoke, therefore, the future Messiah spoke through him. The prayers of David were prayed also by Christ. Or better, Christ himself prayed them through His forerunner David.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## II. A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son

### A. The role of the original context (cf. 2 Cor 3:15-16)

Each psalm has an historical setting in which it was originally written. That historical setting often helps us understand the way in which these psalms find their fulfillment in \_\_\_\_\_ life and ministry. One meaning does not exclude the other; they complement one another.

### B. Calling on God in Trouble

#### 1. The Messiah's Trouble (vv.1-2 cf. 2 Sam 15:12; Acts 20:29-31a)

This psalm was written while David, God's \_\_\_\_\_, was fleeing from Absalom his son and the rebels who had joined him. Hence, this psalm is fulfilled now as \_\_\_\_\_ faces opposition and rebellion while exalted as King of kings and Lord of lords.

## 2. The Messiah's Shield (vv.3-5)

David knew that God was His shield even in the midst of this difficulty and that God would vindicate him. After all, had not God delivered him in the past? He had cried out to God and God had heard him and exalted him as king.

Likewise, God defends the cause of Jesus and will lift up Jesus' head, will exalt His Name in all the earth. How do we know? Because Jesus cried out to God and God heard him. Jesus lay down in the dust of death and slept; he continued under the power of death for a time. But He awoke, for the Lord sustained him. God raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory. God vindicated Him in the face of His greatest enemies. So will he not also vindicate him now in the face of the raging of his enemies?

## 3. The Messiah's Confidence (v.6)

And this knowledge of God's favor, revealed in God's past kindnesses (salvations), gave the Messiah great confidence. He knew that God would not desert him now, would not abandon him or overthrow his kingdom.

## 4. The Messiah's Plea (vv.7-8)

So the Messiah in the midst of this national and personal emergency, this emergency that threatens his reign, calls on God to arise and save him – to grant him victory and vindicate his rule.

### III. Praying the Psalm

#### A. The Body of Christ

How does \_\_\_\_\_ pray this prayer now? One answer is that He prays this prayer through us, through His \_\_\_\_\_. The Church is the Body of Christ and because we are "in Christ", we offer up this prayer as God's anointed people.

#### B. The Christian

But not only can we pray this prayer as the Church, we can also pray this prayer as individual Christians. There are times when our enemies rise up against us – when it seems that we're near to being overwhelmed.

1. Describe the \_\_\_\_\_ accurately
2. Set your \_\_\_\_\_ in God
3. Remember God's \_\_\_\_\_ faithfulness
4. Cry out to God for \_\_\_\_\_
5. Remember \_\_\_\_\_