

# PSALM 3

## **OBSERVATION**

Read Psalm 3.

If you had to label this psalm with one “type,” what would it be? Lament, thanksgiving, hymn of praise, salvation history psalm, psalm of celebration or affirmation, wisdom psalm, or song of trust?

Come up with a title for this Psalm. (Don’t use the one already in your Bible if there is one.)

If you had to break this Psalm down into sections, how would you do it? (You should come up with at least 3 sections, but maybe more.) Give a title to each of your sections.

Where would you say the climax of the Psalm is? Why do you say this?

## **INTERPRETATION**

Who wrote this Psalm? How do you know?

What was going on in the author’s life when he wrote this Psalm? Where can you go in Scripture to find out more about that?

Who do you think the psalmist’s “adversaries” are in verse 1?

Why have these adversaries risen up against him? (There are a couple ways to answer this. Remember who’s writing the Psalm, and what’s special about him.)

## **EVALUATION**

Do Christians have adversaries? Are Christians’ adversaries the same as the author’s? What do the author’s enemies and Christians’ enemies have in common?

## **APPLICATION**

Do you have any adversaries? Who?

Has anyone ever said anything to you like, “There is no help for you in God”?

## **INTERPRETATION**

Who is carrying out judgment in verses 7–8?

Do you think God answered the author's prayer? How do you know? Does it seem like the author expected God to answer His prayer?

## **EVALUATION**

What do you learn from verses 7–8 about what Christians should pray for?

What do you learn about the character of God and how he treats His people?

What gives Christians the right to pray this way? Why should God smite *our* enemies? Should He?

## **APPLICATION**

Do you think your personal enemies are God's enemies? Why or why not?

Is it possible to pray the prayer of verses 7–8 out of love for your enemies? Or are these verses incompatible with Jesus' command to "love your enemies"?

Is there a way God could carry out the request of verse 7, and that His action would benefit your enemy?