

Psalm 4:1-8

**Introduction:** This seems to be a psalm written specifically for bedtime. David remembers that he can't do much about the war around him, but he can do something about the war within him. (Varner) Instead of lying in bed and worrying, he commits himself and his situation to God. Someone entitled this psalm, "Safe and Secure in God's Love in Spite of False Accusations." (Ross)

**It's location:** in book one of the Psalms, that teaches that God is faithful to His Word, and that He is, despite all apparent evidence to the contrary, on the side of the righteous, and that He does fulfill His promise to support His king.

**Superscription:** *To the music director: with stringed instruments. A psalm of David.*

**David's three-fold prayer for God to act—4:1**

- 1) Request—<sup>1</sup> *When I call, answer me, O God of my righteousness!*
  - a) God alone determines if we are righteous or not.
- 2) Past experiences of God's mercy—*You have made room for me in my distress* (narrowness, restriction, being in a bind);
- 3) Restating his request—*show favor (be gracious, generous, and good) to me and listen (respond with appropriate action) to my prayer.*

**David's appeal to the unbelievers around him—4:2-5**

- 1) Two questions that expose their need for repentance—4:2
  - a) Dishonoring God's work—<sup>2</sup> *O sons of man, how long will my glory (dignity and reputation as king) become shame?*
  - b) Pursuing empty alternatives to God—*How long will you<sup>pl</sup> love emptiness and seek after lies? Selah.*
- 2) Six crucial commands that explain the way of repentance—4:3-5
  - a) **Know** the facts of David's unique relationship with God
    - i) <sup>3</sup> *But know<sup>pl</sup> that Yahweh has set apart the loyal one for Himself;*
      - (1) Yahweh graciously made David the king, but David has also remained loyal to God.
      - (2) To try to discredit David is to deny God's love for David. (Ross)
    - ii) *Yahweh listens when I call to Him.*
  - b) **Acknowledge** your sin and repent—<sup>4</sup> *Tremble (be shaken to the core before a holy God), and do not sin;*
    - i) Used in Ephesians 4:26
  - c) **Meditate**—*talk in your<sup>pl</sup> hearts upon your<sup>pl</sup> bed,*
    - i) Ponder your relationship with God
  - d) **Stop** talking—*and be silent. Selah.*
    - i) They should stop trying to shame the loyal one with lies. (cf. 4:2)
  - e) **Worship** Yahweh—<sup>5</sup> *Offer sacrifices of righteousness, (with the right attitude)*

- i) This is actually the result of the next command. This is evidence of genuine faith in Yahweh.
- f) **Trust** Yahweh—and *trust* [בטח] in Yahweh.
  - i) This is what David has done all along.
  - ii) Trying to destroy David is not evidence of worship and trust in Yahweh.

**David expresses a Godward perspective—4:6-8**

- 1) What the skeptics are saying—4:6a <sup>6</sup> *Many are saying, “Who will show us anything good?”* (cf. 3:2)
- 2) David’s prayer
  - a) A request for a renewed awareness of His presence and favor—*Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O Yahweh.*
    - i) Cf. Numbers 6:24-26
  - b) A recognition that God’s goodness bring great joy—<sup>7</sup> *You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their (the unbelievers) grain and new wine abound.*
  - c) A statement of security—<sup>8</sup> *In peace I will both lie down and sleep,* (cf. 3:5)
    - i) Why? *because You **alone** (emphatic), O Yahweh, make me dwell in safety* (cf. 4:5 and “trust [בטח] in Yahweh”).
    - ii) David would not allow his imagination to harass his thoughts through the night. This stands in contrast to his advice to sinners to lay on their beds and meditate about their relationship with God (cf. 4:4)
- 3) “Trusting in the LORD is the only place of safety in this troubled world; and those who cause trouble for the godly must know that the LORD is on the side of His beloved.” (Ross)
  - a) cf. Matthew 5:11-12
  - b) cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:2-7

**Take-home truth:** Trusting in the God of Israel is the only place of safety in this troubled world, especially at night when our imagination tends to run wild.