

Responding With a Godward Focus to The Storms of Life

Passage: Psalm 4

Introduction

- This Psalm is written by King David of Israel during this flight from Jerusalem following Absalom's takeover. Absalom, David's son, betrayed his father and sought to take his throne and dignity. This Psalm is written as a response to these events, which are some of the most tragic and darkest days that King David ever faced.
- Two attributes of God stand out in the Psalm: God's sovereignty and God's grace. These attributes are weaved throughout the message of David's psalm which would be sung and proclaimed for generations to come.

I. David Addresses the Lord – vs. 1

- A. David recognizes God's _____ – vs. 1a
- B. David recognizes God's _____ over his circumstances – vs. 1b
- C. David recognizes God's grace in answering his _____ – vs. 1c
 - i. Grace enables prayers to be declaratory
 - ii. Grace enables prayers to be grounded in genuine faith (trust)

II. David Addresses the Enemy – vs. 2–3

- A. David exposes the enemy's depraved state – vs. 2a
 - i. "O men" can be translated as "men of earth" or "exalted ones." These men, though exalted in earthly power, are nothing compared to the sovereign God. Their weakness is their own spiritual depravity. They are not just David's enemies; they are the enemies of God.
- B. David emphasizes the enemy's _____ – vs. 2a
 - i. "How long shall my honor be turned to shame (insulted)?" is a rhetorical device. His question infers that the enemy will not be able to persecute God's servant forever.
- C. David expresses his _____ over the enemy's sin – vs. 2c
 - i. David is agonizing because of his _____ for the enemy.
 - ii. David is hurting because his enemy is _____ by sin.

D. David publicly and boldly proclaims his faith in God to the face of the enemy – vs. 3

i. David trusts that God, in his sovereignty, will protect and continue to sustain his servants – vs. 3a

ii. David trusts that God _____ to his prayers – vs. 3b

III. David Addresses Himself – vs. 4–5

A. David reminds himself not to _____ against the enemy – vs. 4

B. David exhorts himself to continue to obey and trust in the Lord – vs. 5

i. Faith and obedience during dark times are made possible by our meditation upon who God truly is.

ii. Faith and obedience during dark times are made possible by knowing and trusting in God’s Word. It is essential that we permit God’s divine revelation through the Scriptures to speak into our situations.

1. The Word of God brings _____ in response to confusion.

2. The Word of God brings _____ in response to pain.

3. The Word of God brings _____ amid chaos.

IV. David Again Addresses the Lord – vs. 6–8

A. David requests that God’s blessing be upon him – vs. 6

B. David praises God for the fulfillment of his _____ – vs. 7

C. David’s trust in the Lord brings peace to his soul – vs. 8

i. This peace stems from recognizing and trusting in God’s _____

ii. This peace stems from recognizing and trusting in God’s _____

Concluding Thoughts

- As one Bible scholar writes, “Life should be lived with the assurance of God’s sovereignty, knowing that he rules over everything for his glory. Even when it seems as if the ungodly have dominated the scene, believers should remember that God has chosen the godly for himself and will not forsake them.”
- The central message of this Psalm provides a Godward focus amid life’s storms. Properly focusing our thoughts and hearts upon Christ and his divine revelation helps clean up the confusion, pain, and suffering that stems from the attacks the enemy hurls at us. Praise God for his enduring sovereignty and grace experienced in the lives of believers!