

PSALM 38

- Intro: Circumstances unknown. It is a Penitential Psalm. Concerning David as author of this Psalm, which has been questioned, H. C. Leupold writes: "For it is the nature of the conscience and of the weak faith of man to raise the question of the finality of absolution, especially in the case of more grievous sins. So it is quite possible that the historical sequence may be this: Ps. 51, 32, 38, each reflecting a new phase of the writer's experience." (Leupold, "Expositions of the Psalms, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1969, p. 308).
- Verses 1-2 A plea for deliverance from God's wrath: "arrows have sunk into me..."
A. Lam. 3:1-13.
B. Ez. 5:15-16.
- Verses 3-4 The burden of sin and iniquities. Jer. 10:19-21.
A. Physical chastening - "no soundness in my flesh...no health in my bones."
B. Sin is an oppressive ruler! - "my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me."
- Verses 5-10 The earthly consequences of sin. Corruption of the body because of sin and its consequences. Worry, anxiety, guilt. Facing the pursuit and consequences of corrupted thinking and doing = physical, emotional, mental afflictions. "Wounds stink and fester."
- Verses 11-14 Suffers alone. Abandoned by family and friends. Absalom? 2 Sam. 15-19.
A. Verse 12 His enemies - false witnesses who condemn the innocent. Sheba? 2 Sam. 20.
B. Verses 13-14 Deaf and mute. This is a court setting where answering the charges of false witnesses becomes futile for the witness. The witness is confronted by pre-arranged lies and charges. Cf. Is. 53:7; Mt. 26:57-68.
- Verses 15-16 Waits for the Lord.
- Verses 17-20 Again, confesses sin. Sees the strength of his enemies. Jn. 16:33.
- Verses 21-22 Final cry to God for help. Keep in mind the promise of God to deliver His people; that He is our salvation!