

## Daily Devotional, July 2, 2020 God Creates, God Saves, God is in Control!

*<sup>1</sup> " Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! <sup>2</sup> Many are saying of me, "God will not deliver him." <sup>3</sup> But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. <sup>4</sup> I call out to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy mountain. <sup>5</sup> I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the Lord sustains me. <sup>6</sup> I will not fear though tens of thousands assail me on every side. <sup>7</sup> Arise, Lord! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. <sup>8</sup> From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people." Psalms 3:1-8 (NIV)*

Have you ever looked up at a magnificent sunset and thought about the God Who painted all those colors across the sky? Have you ever wondered what a skilled artist God must be? He created the whole universe, all by Himself! He is the One Who invented color! He chose the designs and patterns that we see in all the many kinds of animals, all the types of trees and flowers, all the unique faces in the crowds of people in every city, of every country. Not only that, but God has passed along some of His amazing creativity to human beings.

Just imagine if you can, all of the talented musicians, artists, writers, craftsmen, engineers, architects, scientists, and teachers in every time and every place, who have done their work with such skill and imagination. And then all of those who continue to carry on that practice of using the gifts of their creativity and vision to make our world a better place, a place of great beauty and splendor. They all do different things and have different gifts, but God thought up all of them. God gave those people what they have. What an amazing Creator we have!

We can look at creation and believe by faith that it comes from God. We can look around us or look up at that magnificent sunset and say, "That is God's handiwork. God did it!" But do you ever think about what God is *still* doing, or what other gifts come from God? For example, when we look at the gospel of Christ, we should stop and say, "That's God's work! God did this." Only someone as creative and all-powerful as God could think up the plan of redemption and carry it out.

Only God could come in human form, live a perfect life, die to save sinners, and rise again after spending three days dead in a tomb! Only God can give us the understanding and the faith we need to believe what God's Word says about salvation. What a wonderful, creative God we have; God created us, and only God can save us! How blessed we are to have been chosen to be bearers of such a gift!

In Psalm 3, King David is giving a testimony in song about how he called upon the Lord and realized that only the Lord could save him when he was in trouble from his own son, Absalom, who was leading an insurrection against him. Once he realized that God was still with him, David said (Psalm 3:6) that he would not be afraid even of the tens of thousands of people that were attacking him from every side, because he trusted God.

I can imagine that some of us might be wondering why God allows tragedies such as this pandemic to seemingly attack *us* from every side. Some have lost sleep worrying about how to avoid infestation from the virus. We worry over when the spread of the germs will subside or whether an antidote will ever be found. Will life ever get back to normal? If God could create such a beautiful world, why did God also create viruses like this that cause such pain and death?

Anxiety can make us fearful to the point of sleeplessness when facing a crisis. David could have suffered through sleepless nights while facing his son's rebellion. But David slept peacefully. How? David cried out to God and God heard him. The assurance of answered prayer brings peace. It is easier to sleep well when we have faith that God is in control of our every circumstance. The key here is that David had unwavering faith. He trusted God completely with his life.

If you are lying awake at night worrying about circumstances that you cannot change, pour out your every concern to God, and then be thankful that **GOD IS IN CONTROL!** Then sleep will come.

In verse 8, we witness David's humility. He realized that faith in God's timing was the answer to his question as to why the wicked had prevailed against him, yet he had faith in God's deliverance.

God saves. God is the source, the beginning, of all salvation. Are you trusting God's salvation today? God is the One Who saves.

***Prayer: O faithful God, I thank you for this day. You know how worried and anxious I get. Help me to be sensible and to see that worrying about things does not make them any better. Help me to be calm and peaceful and to cast all my worries and anxieties upon you for I know that you care for me. Help me to be confident in your protection, knowing that nothing can separate me from your love. I believe that you surround me as a shield and that only you can bring the peace that the world cannot give and cannot ever take away. In Christ's name, Amen.***