

Psalm 4 ¹

"Faith Amid Opposition!"

For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of David

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A1 THE CALL FOR HELP 4:1

B1 The Plea for Present Help: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

B2 The Reminder of Past Help: You have relieved me in my distress;

B3 The Plea for Present Help Repeated: Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

A2 THE WARNING TO THE ENEMIES 4:2-5

B1 The Protest to Enemies 4:2

C1 The shame of dishonor: O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? ²

C2 The humiliation of deceit

D1 *How long* will you love what is worthless

D2 And aim at deception? ³ Selah.

B2 The Protection of Yahweh 4:3

C1 Possession -- the Godly are Yahweh's Possession: But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself;

C2 Response -- Yahweh Will Respond to the Cry of the Godly: The LORD hears when I call to Him.⁴

¹ Psalm 4. A song of trust (*Ryrie Study Bible*).

² 4:2 - reproach: The background of this psalm is likely the same as that of Psalm 3; i.e., Absalom's revolt. David appeals to the rebels to have second thoughts about supporting Absalom.

³ 4:2 - deception: "The intrigue of Absalom if this was in David's mind here, was partly an attempt to tarnish David's reputation (2 Sam. 15:3)." (Allen P. Ross, *Psalms, The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, I, 794)

⁴ 4:3 - the LORD hears: It is almost as though David is warning his enemies to leave him alone because he has instant 911 access to the Divine police force!

B3 The Admonition to Trust in Yahweh 4:4-5

- C1 Fear Sin! Tremble, and do not sin; 4:4
- C2 Pause to Reflect! Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
- C3 Offer Fitting Sacrifices! Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, 4:5
- C4 Trust in Yahweh! And trust in the LORD.

A3 THE JOY AND SECURITY FROM TRUSTING IN YAHWEH! 4:6-8

B1 The Pessimism of the Faint-Hearted: Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" 4:6

B2 The Response of Faith in Yahweh: Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O LORD!

B3 The Joy from Trusting in Yahweh 4:7

- C1 You have put gladness in my heart,
- C2 More than when their grain and new wine abound.

B4 The Security from Trusting in Yahweh 4:8

- C1 The evidence of security: In peace I will both lie down and sleep
- C2 The reason for security: For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety!

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 4
Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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WordExplain.com
Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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