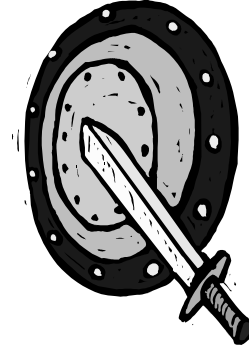


## Reading Through Psalm - My Thoughts and Comments

### Psalm 3: 3; 8

#### **New International Version**

But you are a shield around me, O Lord; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head.  
From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.



#### ***The Message***

*But you, God, shield me on all sides;  
You ground my feet, you lift my head high;  
Real help comes from God.  
Your blessing clothes your people!*

You must know the purpose of a shield, such as used by the armored knights and even in modern times for crowd control. Consider not one metal shield but the "shield of faith" that protects you from things that would "deliver" you from harm and danger - this is a full-body shield! As with the knight clad in armor, the shield helps buffet those blows and strikes that would otherwise hurt you; what's more, this shield will deliver you altogether and intact - ready to take-on the next challenger or foe.

God is a "stronghold in time of trouble" and a refuge for the oppressed and the down-trodden; which means that God is indeed the shield for those who seek and serve him. Unlike the metal shield or even the modern materials, the shield of God protects us from the things we cannot see - the things that are not necessarily visible or evident. When Jesus was in the wilderness, the shield of God protected him from the temptations of Satan. Each time Satan offered a temptation, a Bible verse was the response from Jesus (instead of giving-in and accepting Satan's offers).

I have called to God in times of trouble and have given thanks when he has delivered me from danger. Oh, that you will know how much God loves you and cares for you. He is the rock, the sword, and the shield - all of which is offered to you.

H. Kirk Rainer