

Psalm 4 A Psalm of David

To the LORD

¹ LORD, You a good, just, and lawful God, and through all of my years You have enabled and empowered me to live morally pure and treat others fairly. Please hear me now as I pour out my heart to You in prayer. I remember all the ways You have answered my prayers and saved me from troubles in the past, and I am asking You to do the same for me now. Please have mercy upon me and answer my prayer because I really need Your help.

To my accusers

² You people of my own nation who are persecuting me without cause, won't you ever give up? How long will you allow your appetite for things of no value to rule over you? You love to try to shame me and make my name a disgrace by telling lies about me. You must, because you have tried your best to ruin me.

Now stop for a moment and ponder the depths of the truths I just shared with you. Then meditate upon them until you understand the depths of your depravity.

³ Well, guess what? Your little scheme isn't going to work. You see, I am a godly man, and godly men are distinctly special in the sight of the LORD. He takes good care of them, and I know He will hear my prayer and vindicate me as He has done in the past. Of this I have no doubt.

⁴ Now stop and seriously reflect upon all that you have done to ruin my name, because if you people really understood what you were doing you would be shaking in your sandals considering the awesome God you are opposing. Stop lying about me, because you are not only sinning against me, but you are sinning against God. Each of you should search his own heart in the quietness of his own bed, and then abandon your perverted speech designed to destroy me.

Now stop for a moment and ponder the depths of the truths I just shared with you. Meditate upon them until you understand the depths of your depravity.

⁵ Then after you have realized your error, put your trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the Messiah,¹ unto eternal life. Start doing good, just, and lawful things toward all of your neighbors as a sacrifice to our great God.

⁶ Lots and lots of people ridicule me saying, "Who will come to your aid? There is no one who will help you or deliver you from your troubles. It certainly won't be God." These people claim that it is useless for me to trust in Jesus Christ like I do, but I know better. I pray that the LORD will open even the eyes of my enemies to the truth of His love and

favor so that they also can experience the same sweetness I have come to enjoy by trusting Jesus Christ.

To the LORD

⁷ I am at peace now. Thank you for freeing me from the fear of my enemies. You have filled my heart with more joy than I have ever experienced, even more than those times when You blessed Israel with bumper crops of food and drink. ⁸ Since You are my security and my peace, I will lie down and sleep as peacefully as a baby. When I awake, You alone will be by my side as guardian and protector of my soul, the One on whom I can always depend.

Thank you, LORD Jesus,

David

¹ In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used.

JLSParaphrase Copyright © 2002 by Jerry L. Simms
E-mail comments to proverbsguy@gmail.com
See our website at www.jlsparaphrase.org