



1

THE PSALMS AS LAMENT: A CRY FOR HELP

- LAMENT – a cry for help
 - Invocation
 - Complaint,
 - Petition or Request, and
 - Statement of Confidence or Trust
- Psalms 3-7
 - Psalm 3 – Deliverance from Absalom (2 Sam 15-17)
 - Psalm 4 – Deliverance from False Accusations
 - Psalm 5 – Deliverance from Guilt and Shame
 - Psalm 6 – Deliverance from Severe Illness
 - Psalm 7 – Deliverance from Public Scrutiny

2



THE PSALMS AS LAMENT: A CRY FOR HELP

- Psalms 3 - Deliverance from Absalom
 - v. 1-2 – Invocation
 - v. 3-4 – Expression of Trust
 - v. 5-6 – Words of Assurance
 - v. 7-8 – Concluding Prayer for the Psalmist and Nation
- Psalm 4 – Deliverance from False Accusations
 - v. 1 – Summons
 - v. 2-4 – Rebuke and public declaration of innocence
 - v. 5-8 – Assurance of help

3



THE PSALMS AS LAMENT: A CRY FOR HELP

- Psalms 5 – Deliverance from Guilt and Shame
 - v. 1-2 – Summons
 - v. 3-7 – Expression of Trust
 - v. 8-12 – Concluding Prayer of Confidence
- Psalm 6 – Deliverance from Severe Illness
 - Penitential Psalm – 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143
 - v. 1-5 – Summons
 - v. 6-7 – Complaint in weakened condition
 - v. 8-10 – Assurance the Prayer is Heard

4



THE PSALMS AS LAMENT: A CRY FOR HELP

- Psalm 7 – Deliverance from Public Scrutiny
 - v. 1-2 – Summons
 - v. 3-5 – Protestation of Innocence
 - v. 6-9 – Petition for Intervention
 - v. 10-16 – Statement of Trust
 - v. 17 – Promise of Praise