



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Psalm 38

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 38.

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### Topics.

- LORD, rebuke me not, for your arrows have sunk into me.
- LORD, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.
- My friends, companions and nearest kin stand aloof from my plague.
- LORD, my salvation! Do not forsake me, be near and haste to help me.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

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### PSALM 38:1-6

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A Psalm of David, For the Memorial Offering.

### **O LORD, Rebuke Me Not, For Your Arrows have Sunk into Me.**

- **Psalm 38:1-6:** O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath! <sup>2</sup>For your arrows have sunk into me, and your hand has come down on me. <sup>3</sup>There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin. <sup>4</sup>For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. <sup>5</sup>My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, <sup>6</sup>I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning.

It mattered not to David what his circumstance were (good or bad) God was always the praise of His heart and God's Spirit and love was what sustained Him and what he most sought after. David's was a king who had abundant riches and wealth, a harem of the most beautiful women and was a mighty warrior, a man full of courage who faced the most horrific bloodthirsty battles and yet within was not only a humble man before God whose greatest treasure was God's love dwelling within his heart and mind, but also a man who was deeply hurt and remorseful when convicted of any sin he had committed before God. Whether David was prospering and full of joy; in despair and depression; surrounded by his enemies; lying on his bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death he always spoke honestly to God of how he felt, and always ends his Psalms, his prayers and his petitions with praising the name of the LORD, the Most High God.

**Your arrows have sunk into me** (v2) refer to David's sickness and pain. He is suffering some kind of extremely painful sickness or disease which is all too much for him to bear. Since God called David as his anointed King to shepherd the flock of God, he understands the LORD would be angry with him because of his foolishness and sin.

**NOTE:** it should be mentioned here though David views this sickness and the extreme pain associated with it as coming from the hand of the LORD it does not mean every sickness men and women suffer is a result of personal sin. David is very aware that he has committed some gross sin before the LORD, he does not have to go hunting within to see if there is some hidden sin lying within, he knows what he has done and that whatever it maybe it was a great offense to God. All sickness is a result of the fall and the curse of universal sin which permeates the fallen corrupted body that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam.

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## PSALM 38:7-10

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### **Lord, all my Longing is Before You and My Sighing is Not Hidden.**

- **Psalm 38:7-10:** For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. <sup>8</sup>I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. <sup>9</sup>O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you. <sup>10</sup>My heart throbs; my strength fails me, and the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

David's words, "My strength and the light of my eyes has gone from me," show that this sickness could easily end in death especially when it is considered these ancient generations did not have the medicine, pain killers, and doctors, hospitals that we have today this type of extreme pain and suffering would have been quite common. The thing to notice is this Psalm is David's great faith, though he is in extreme pain he not only holds no bitterness or resentment toward God, but ends this Psalm pleading for God to stay near to him and exalting Him as the LORD of his salvation. In contrast to this great faith of David many turn bitter against the LORD and others turn away all together when faced with such magnitude of suffering and pain.

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## PSALM 38:11-14

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### **My Friends and Companions Stand Aloof from my Plague.**

- **Psalm 38:11-14:** My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague, and my nearest kin stand far off. <sup>12</sup>Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long. <sup>13</sup>But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear, like a mute man who does not open his mouth. <sup>14</sup>I have become like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

The wounds of David's body are open and festered so badly that they stink (v5) so naturally his friends and companions don't want to be anywhere near him (probably afraid of catch the same illness). As if this is not bad enough his enemies who see that his strength is drained from him and he is weak are aggressively plotting how they can bring him and his kingdom to ruin by speaking words of hurt, deceit and lies against him.

**Now here is the amazing thing:** this is great faith to the max, David not only shuts his ears to all their lies, deceit and hurtful words and acts like a deaf man, but he also refuses to respond to their evil accusations. The following verses show that he chooses to wait upon the LORD and trust He will answer his prayer. Now when it is considered David is most likely near death, has no human comforter and many enemies plotting his destruction that is great faith.

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## PSALM 38:15-22

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### **O Lord, My Salvation! Do not Forsake Me, Be Near and Help.**

- **Psalm 38:15-22:** But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer. <sup>16</sup>For I said, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!" <sup>17</sup>For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever before me. <sup>18</sup>I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin. <sup>19</sup>But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty, and many are those who hate me wrongfully. <sup>20</sup>Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good. <sup>21</sup>Do not forsake me, O LORD! O my God, be not far from me! <sup>22</sup>Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!

Some think standing in a congregation of worshippers expresses great faith others feel having great Bible knowledge is an expression of great faith while some believe attending church on a regular basis manifest great faith. Though these are all expressions of faith, the greatest expression of great faith is manifested here by David, a man who is under the most extreme of suffering in every way possible refusing to turn against God and choosing to remain in a devoted loving relationship with Him and in prayer telling God He will patiently wait in faith that He will answer his prayer for help. David has committed some sin that is so great he knows he is going to forever regret it, he tells the LORD he is ready to die, but hates the idea that those who boast against him would be able to rejoice and bring his kingdom to ruin if he did die because he has slipped from the right path. For those who travel through David's Psalms it becomes very clear that he had a heart for the poor, the helpless and the oppressed and cared for the helpless in his kingdom. This of course is one of the main reasons he so desperately did not want those plotting to kill him and bring his kingdom to ruin to succeed. Following are the five steps of David's deep repentance:

1. He confesses and acknowledges his iniquity (v18).
2. He repents and says he is sorry for his sin (v18).
3. He shares his heart (his enemies hate him wrongfully, because he has been good to them and only hate him because he follows what is good (v19-20). Perhaps they want to impose more taxes on the poor, oppress the helpless and compromise God's laws to attract more into the kingdom and increase their riches, wealth and power.
4. He pleads for God to always be near to him and not forsake him (v21).
5. He confesses God is his salvation and asks Him to quickly help him (v22).

God will forgive us, but we will suffer the consequences of our sin. If a person cheats on their tax, or commits adultery and they are found out God will forgive if there is genuine and honest repentance, but in this life they will suffer the consequences of their sin. Forgiveness is not a delete button to consequences. If a teenage Christian girl indulges in sexual activities and falls pregnant, she may repent of her transgression and God will forgive, but she will still be pregnant and have to deal with all the consequences of how her pregnancy is going to affect her life. This is why David so often says, "The law of the LORD is his refuge," because if we stay within its boundaries, we will not suffer the consequences of going beyond them.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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