

David, King of Israel

- I am David, King over Israel.
- I am David, the shepherd, David, slayer of the giant Goliath, David the warrior, David the musician and poet.
- I am David, who once authored these words:
 - > The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
 - > The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
- But I do fear!
 - > When I faced the Philistine, my heart raced!
 - > When King Saul sought to kill me, I fled.
 - > When the prophet Nathan confronted my sins, I wept.
- Yes! I have fears—sometimes desperate fears!
- And now I am more fearful than ever before.
 - > I am not afraid to die! I am afraid of living this way!
 - > I am growing old and feeble.
 - > In my youth, I danced; now I dotter.
 - > I once commanded, now I convalesce.
 - > My hearing is failing, but I hear the whispers challenging my competence.
 - > My sight is failing, but I can see the plots and intrigue all around me.
 - > I have been ruler, but now others make the decisions that rule my life.
- But the words that I spoke and sang while plucking the strings of the lyre are still true.
 - > When I am fearful, I bring my fears to the Lord.
 - > If I bare my fears with an open heart,
God brings me consolation.
 - > In spite of my unworthy soul, the Lord brings me salvation.
- If a hungry dog howls, it may be silenced by throwing it a scrap. But after the scrap is consumed, it will continue to howl.
- If that dog is fed substantially, it is satisfied.
- The world offers our fears only scraps!
- The world uses fear to seduce us with pleasures, blind us with pride, and stifle us with self-deception.
- The Lord gives us substantial sustenance, to console the Spirit and calm the fearful waters.
- And so, I have prayed: Lord, dispel my fears! Lead me by your light! Show me your salvation!
- I have called out to the Lord, and he has not failed me.
- The Lord shined a light on my fears, and led me to speak out loud my deepest fear:
 - > That the world is now better off without me.
 - > That no one needs me anymore.
- It struck me, then, so clearly:
 - > All my life, I have felt needed!
 - > Family, friends, troops, my country
 - > I was needed.
- Now I need others. But God has shown me:
 - > They want to feel needed, also.
 - > You see, they NEED me to NEED them!
 - > My wife, Bathsheba, my son Solomon, my faithful friends, my loyal servants!
- I am still needed! They NEED me to NEED them.
 - > How can I allow my pride and my delusions to steal from them their time to be needed!
 - > How can I rebel against the opportunity God has given me to be gracious and humble.
- This is God's natural plan! I am not unique!
 - > Mighty King David has been humbled!
 - > It is now my turn to let go
and to let God fill my needs.
- This is God's gift to me if I make it my gift to others!
- My fears are quenched, my spirit is fed.
- What are your fears? Bring them before the Lord!
 - > Revel in God's word!
 - > Repeat often the truths of our faith!
 - > Listen when the Lord responds!
- May you learn sing out these words with joy!
 - > The Lord is my light, and my salvation!
Whom shall I fear??!
 - > The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid??!