



## The Time Is Now, Preach the WORD (2Tim. 4:2-3)

### Now I Lay Me Down 10-25-2020

IDEA	PICTURE	IMAGE
Late at night <b>awaken by loud siren</b> from next door fire station	I <b>awoke in a panic</b> , heart racing	<b>Convinced I was going to die here</b>
<b>Sleep came hard</b>	Deep <b>rest</b> was <b>impossible</b>	<b>I was in trouble</b>
<b>In time, no longer awaken</b> by shrill of sirens	Able to <b>rest throughout the night</b>	<b>Able to sleep fully</b>
My <b>surroundings did not change</b>	Still sirens shrilled in late night hours	<b>But God gave me peace to rest</b>
<b>Today's siren</b> shrills comes in form of <b>current chaos</b>	Flaring tensions that attacks peace	<b>Yes</b>
The <b>world seems out of control</b> , but God is not	<b>Things seem confusing</b> , but God is not	<b>Science may fail</b> , but God does not
<b>Misinformation, disinformation, faulty opinions</b>  They come & go	But the <b>Word</b> of God <b>endures forever</b>	<b>Who God is</b> , what <b>God says</b> , <b>Whatever &amp; Whenever God does</b> - all are <b>trustworthy</b>
<b>RECITE: NOW I LAY ME DOWN</b>	<b>N.I.L.M.D.</b> No pillow needed	<b>Hospital bed, own bed, no bed - I experience peace</b>
I <b>end with my own variation</b> to the <b>Child's prayer</b>	<b>Call it the adult version</b>	<b>Listen up</b>
"Now I stand for righteous walk  To honor God in all my talk	Should I stumble or misspeak  Remind me Lord, it's You I seek	<b>Correct my faults, and me restore</b>  <b>Live large in me, forever more"</b>
<b>Whichever prayer you recite, Ps 3 or 4 or Child's or mine,</b>	know this, <b>No God, no peace.</b>  <b>In God, true peace</b>	<b>Get firm with self!</b>  <b>NOW I LAY ME DOWN</b>



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If I die before I wake; I pray the Lord my soul to take	If Death arrives in my sleep	I'm confident God will claim my soul
If your children & grands can't remember Bible vv.	Teach the Child's prayer = biblically sound	<i>Now I Lay Me Down</i>
Even you If wrestling w/ sickness,	<i>Now I Lay Me Down</i>	God delivers or raises me up. AMEN
If fearful on how to survive in this pandemic	Know the LORD provides.	Share & help self and others
If depressed, angry, exhausted, or worse	Know God gives His Word & godly people	God gives healing balm for our souls
If you struggle with uncertainties of the future	Know God has a plan for your life	An eternal destination
So, when you declare in your spirit	<i>Now I Lay Me Down</i>	= an unshakeable confidence in God
TO <i>LAY ME DOWN</i> is an expression of Faith in God	= an expression of surrender to His will	= expression of total dependency
To He who declared that we are His people and He is our God	He whose Word declares, "If God is for us who can be against us?"	He who knows what we can bear and makes a way of escape
He that provides a peace that surpasses all understanding	He that died so we may have eternal life	w/ that understanding, <i>Now I Lay Me Down</i>
I believe the last v. of Psalm 3 must be mentioned	Psalm 3:8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing ...	... is upon thy people. Se'-lah.
Salvation is of God alone	Jesus = the way, truth,	& the life
What's the application of today's message?	Permit to share a personal story	TO make the point
COLLEGE: 1 <sup>st</sup> night in new dorm in D.C. for GWU	Uncomfortable, strange surroundings	Eventually. fell asleep



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IDEA	PICTURE	IMAGE
David <b>ends Psalm 4</b> saying... <b>7</b> "Thou hast put gladness in my heart, More than in the time that their corn and their wine increased."	David <b>expresses</b> "Gladness" exceeding his enemies  Expressed is a sense of "Safety"	Thus, as a result, the <b>final v.</b> brings it all home
<b>8</b> "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: For thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."	<b>Because of David's relationship with God</b>	He <b>sleeps peacefully</b> in the safety only God can provide
<b>Now</b> consider a well-known child's prayer  <b>RECITE</b> it with me...	The child says, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake; I pray the Lord my soul to take"	<b>See the similarities with Psalm 3 &amp; 4</b>
<b>Psalm 3:5 (KJV 1900)</b> I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.	<b>Psalm 4:8 (KJV 1900)</b> I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: For thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.	Child's prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep"
<b>Each declares</b>	<b>A determination to lie down &amp; rest</b>	<b>In peace, through trusting God</b>
<b>TRUTH</b> - no peace, no SLEEP	The converse is true	<b>No sleep, no peace</b>
The Child's Prayer states...  <i>Now I lay me down to sleep</i>	= <b>undeniable determination</b> to lie down <b>Now</b>	<b>Now, not later,</b>  = clear declaration
Continuing - <i>I pray the Lord my soul to keep.</i>	<b>Per Prov. 24:12</b> it is <b>God</b> who <b>keepeth our souls</b>	Thereby <b>reinforc'g</b> a trust in <b>God's faithfulness</b>
<b>Faithful</b> - "Not a man who should lie" ( <b>Num 23:19</b> )	<b>Faithful and just</b> to forgive our sins and ...	... cleanse us of all unrighteousness ( <b>1 Joh 1:9</b> )



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### Now I Lay Me Down 10-25-2020

IDEA	PICTURE	IMAGE
David, was <b>imperfect like us</b>	Yet selected, <b>ordained</b>	By God Almighty
In <b>Psalm 3 opening v. ...</b> “LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me.”	Sounds like a <b>complaint, enemies ↓, life ↗</b>  <b>But</b> tone of the entire <b>Psalm 3</b> is “ <b>The Lord protects His People</b> ”	This understanding brings David the ability to <b>SLEEP</b>
<b>Psalm 3:5 (KJV 1900)</b> I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.	<b>David</b> quieted his vexed soul and <b>rested</b>	For he knew upon waking, God had sustained him
<b>Next</b> , let’s move to <b>Psalm 4 = a similar theme</b>	<b>But</b> in this case the tone is	“ <b>Safety in the Lord</b> ”
The <b>opening v.</b> in <b>Psalm 4</b> states,	“ <i>Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness:</i> ”	This prayer invites God to listen
<b>David continues</b> by saying, “ <i>thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress;</i> ”	When David <b>felt constrained</b> , God open up spaces	Imagine someone <b>gripping you so hard</b> that you can’t breathe
Then <b>comes along God</b>	<b>Forces the enemy</b> to relax his grip	Thereby <b>break’g enemy’s hold</b>
<b>David</b> next <b>says</b> , “ <i>have mercy upon me and hear my prayer</i> ”	→ be <b>kind &amp; gracious</b> towards me my God	Hear my prayers O Lord
The <b>following v.</b> <b>David rebukes</b> those that were against him	<b>&amp; revealed</b> David’s view of <b>God’s awesome power</b>	<b>Check out v. 3</b>
<b>v. 3</b> “ <i>But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: The Lord will hear when I call unto him.</i> ”	There is a <b>confidence in sanctification</b> made through God	That God will hear those that are His own



## The Time Is Now, Preach the WORD (2Tim. 4:2-3) Now I Lay Me Down 10-25-2020

IDEA	PICTURE	IMAGE
<p><b>OPENING:</b> The potential for <b>growing fear</b> is present every day. The <b>unknowns</b> can be frightening, and <b>life's stressors</b> may be stealing your peace. And if that isn't enough, <b>lies and rumors</b> of lies seem to flow today like water from a broken fire hydrant. It is getting more <b>difficult to discern</b> who to trust and what to trust.</p> <p>To all of you here for the <b>Homecoming Service</b> whether you are faithful church attendees or have a desire to check-in every now and then. I believe God has a <b>WORD</b> for you <b>TODAY</b> in response to all the crazies of today. I believe, <b>God wants to reinforce</b> who and what you <b>trust</b>. All by way of the <b>Word of God</b> illustrated in a <b>simple child's prayer</b>.</p> <p>Permit me to share a <b>v.</b> from <b>Psalm 3</b> and <b>v.</b> from <b>Psalm 4</b>. Turn w/ me to ...</p>		
<p><b>SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 3:5 (KJV 1900)</b> I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.</p> <p><b>Psalm 4:8 (KJV 1900)</b> I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: For thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.</p>		<p><b>Title: NOW I LAY ME DOWN</b></p> <p><b>PRAY</b></p>
<p><b>Before tying</b> in the <b>Child's prayer</b>,</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> consider overview</b> of <b>Psalm 3 &amp; 4</b></p>	<p><b>Both written by David</b></p>
<p>You know <b>David</b>, the mighty young man that <b>killed Goliath</b></p>	<p>The same anointed to become <b>Israel's 2<sup>nd</sup> king</b></p>	<p>Same referred to as, "a man after <b>God own heart</b>"</p>
<p>Same <b>imperfect man</b> that committed <b>adultery &amp; murder</b></p>	<p>Same that <b>wrote powerful songs &amp; prayers</b></p>	<p>Like <b>Ps 23</b> "The <b>Lord is my Shepherd, ...</b>"</p>
<p>Same <b>vexed</b> by people who sought to kill him, including <b>Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> king</b></p>	<p>Same whereas one <b>daughter was raped &amp; one son murdered</b></p>	<p>Same who had <b>another son attempted a coup</b></p>
<p>Same credited <b>writing</b> both <b>Psalm 3 and 4</b></p>	<p><b>Psalm 3</b> believed <b>written during the coup</b></p>	<p>&amp; <b>David's flight</b> for his life</p>
<p>I'm <b>talking about David</b></p>		
<p>Same who <b>wanted to build</b> God a <b>temple</b> to dwell</p>	<p><b>But blood on his hands</b></p>	<p><b>David had his good points &amp; bad</b></p>



## **The Time Is Now, Preach the WORD (2Tim. 4:2-3)** **Now I Lay Me Down 10-25-2020**

TEXT: Psalms 3 & 4

CIT (Central Idea of the Text): A personal declaration of trust

THESIS (Sermon Focus): Our personal declaration of trust in God

GENERAL OBJECTIVE (Original): To affirm the Psalmist safety in God

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE (Today's): To affirm our safety in God

### BODY SIGNPOSTS:

1. SCRIPTURE: **Psalm 3:5 (KJV 1900)** I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me. **Psalm 4:8 (KJV 1900)** I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: For thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.
2. APPLICATION: 4 Prayers that reminds us to trust in God. Seek the peace He offers, even in troubling times.
3. BENEDICTION: **Jude 1:24**
4. REFERENCES: *Holy Bible*<sup>1</sup>; *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*<sup>2</sup>; *ESV Study Bible*<sup>3</sup>; *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*<sup>4</sup>; *Holman KJV Study Bible*<sup>5</sup>; *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges*<sup>6</sup>; *The Pulpit Commentary*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: King James Version*, Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version. (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2009), Ro 8:26.

<sup>2</sup> Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:888). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>3</sup> Crossway Bibles. (2008). *The ESV Study Bible* (959). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>4</sup> Merriam-Webster, I. (1996). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. (10th ed.). Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster.

<sup>5</sup> *Holman KJV Study Bible*. Nashville, TN, Holman Bible Publishers, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> H. C. G. Moule, *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1891).

<sup>7</sup> H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Genesis*, *The Pulpit Commentary* (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 67.