

Psalm 18

- David is running from Saul. Saul has laid traps and ambushes for David who is at that point where he thinks that he's done for. He cries out to God for help and God delivers Him.

V: 1-2 David declares his love for God and that he will continue to love God whom he refers to as his strength.

- When David expressed his love for the Lord, he used a unique word for love that means "to love deeply, to have compassion." It's related to the Hebrew word for "womb" and describes the kind of love that a mother has for her baby or that a father has for his children, the love that the Lord has for His children, His chosen people Israel.
- His rock which is used as a symbol of strength, the Hebrew word being "sela."
- His fortress - the place where he is safe.
- His deliverer, the One who saves him.
- His "God" (H-410) "El" - translated God, god (judge), mighty one, and "hero." God is David's "hero".
- His "buckler" or "shield", his protection in battle.
- The "horn of his salvation" - "horn" speaks of power, a symbol of strength - the power of his salvation
- His high tower: The high tower was always looked upon as that position of strength and advantage over the enemy.
- David sees the Lord as being all these things for him, it's important for us to learn basically the same thing as well, that the Lord is our all in all - that we understand that we have no strength, that our strength so called comes from Him.
- That we don't allow anything lesser to be our rock because we'll be disappointed at some point. That the Lord would be all these things for us because we can count on Him, He is faithful!

V: 3 David has seen the hand of God delivering him from the hand of the enemy, recognizing God's deliverance.

- Saved from my enemies, not by my wisdom, not by my abilities, but by the Lord who is to be praised!
- David expresses his love for God in V: 1, his faith in God in V: 2, and his hope in God in V: 3.

V: 4-6 I thought I was done for, I was surrounded, caught in the trap, the ambush.

⁶In my distress I called upon the Lord, ... He heard my voice...

Psalm 34:18 "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

V: 7-17 God responded to my cry: The Earth shook and trembled, the foundations were shaken, smoke and fire, burning coals - almost sounds like a volcanic eruption.

- The Lord "bowed" or "spread out" or "divided" the heavens and came down to earth riding upon a cherub, a mighty angelic creature.
- Describing the terror and awesomeness of God responding to rescue David from this snare.
- God used an earthquake and a storm to deliver David from his enemies.
- ¹⁶David was overwhelmed, he was drowning - so God drew him out of many waters.
- ¹⁷The enemy was too strong for David - God intervened and saved him.

V: 18-19 They prevented David in his calamity, he couldn't move, he was hemmed in; but the Lord.

- God brought him to a large place as opposed to a confining place, where there was room to move and to run.
- David is acknowledging God, giving Him credit for the "save" as opposed to writing it off as a coincidence or "luck" or some other "natural" explanation.
- I was backing out of a parking space at the hardware store last week, not paying as good attention as I should have, another vehicle had pulled in behind me which I didn't see. I barely missed the other vehicle, it would certainly have been my fault - and the Lord kept me from it, He delivered me! Thank you Jesus!
- There are no coincidences!

V: 20-24 Again we see that this was probably one of David's earlier psalms because he talks a lot about how good he's been, his righteousness, the cleanness of his hands

“²⁴The Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness... according to the cleanness of his hands...”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

- David will have a better understanding of God's mercy and His grace later in life; but as he mentions the keeping of God's Word, the ways of the Lord, His judgments, and His statutes. There is something to be said for doing things God's way, according to His Word, and the benefits and seeming rewards that come from obedience.

V: 25-26 David has been merciful with Saul, he could have killed him at different times but he didn't, even though Saul deserved it. David has been upright in his dealings with Saul and a lot of other people - so he says I know that you'll be merciful to the merciful to me, and with the upright, with me you'll be upright.

Jesus said:

Mathew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

V: 27-29 God is the champion of the afflicted and the down trodden, and he deals with the proud.

- The Lord will light my candle - you keep me alive, you lighten my darkness - you light me up Lord!
- David was a daring dude, and he acknowledges God that through his exploits and adventures, God has always been there for him and enabled him.

V: 30-36 I said it many times that when you come to what you don't know that you have to fall back on what you do know.

- That God is good, that God loves you, that His will is perfect, and that His Word is true.
- David is telling us what he knows to be true:
- That His ways are perfect, that His Word is tried and true, that He is a shield to all those who trust in Him.
- David is saying there is no other God besides our God, there is no Rock, no strength, no security besides our God!

- As David has run through dangerous, treacherous places God has kept his feet like a deers feet on the mountainside, maybe like a billy goat.
- In places like Engedi, David's dessert oasis hide out, you can see the ibexes up on the hill sides in these precarious places and you wonder how they got there and how they're going to get down - David is saying you've kept me like that, You kept my feet from slipping, falling.
- As David has been in battle, God taught his hands how to make war, given him strength for the battle.
- You might be thinking that this is somewhat hard to relate to, sword fights are what you see in the movies, not in real life...

Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

- Our God still teaches His servants how to make war!

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 "3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;"

"35Thy gentleness hath made me great..." David acknowledges the gentleness, the favor of God in his life.

Romans 2:4 "... The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."

V: 37- 43 David has pursued, chased his enemies who fled from him - and overtook them. The Lord has given David the victory.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 7 "1And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." - "7The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways."

- David is describing total victory, there is no second place in these battles, victory or death.
- What David is describing is almost like a picture of salvation, either you are saved, or you're not - there is no middle ground.

Jesus said:

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.” No middle ground, no neutral territory.

V: 44-45 God has given David a reputation which has caused fear in his enemies.

V: 46-48 David again gives praise to God declaring that He is alive, He is the true and the living God - let the God of his salvation, the God who saved him, his rock be exalted!

Harkening back to:

Deuteronomy 32:4 “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.”

V: 49-50 Because of all of that I will give thanks unto Thee, I will do so among the heathen, I will declare your goodness to them and sing praises unto thy name.

- David was anointed to be king, but he's not king yet, he's on the run from Saul. He's declaring that what God has said will come to pass, he is expressing his faith in God's Word.
- You have delivered me, and shown kindness and mercy to me and to my seed who wouldn't ever exist if I were killed.

Psalm 116:17-19 “¹⁷I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. ¹⁸I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in he presence of all his people, ¹⁹In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the Lord.”

- This Psalm begins and ends with praises to the Lord.
- We see David's personal relationship with His creator whom he worships, whom he trusts - particularly in light of the many times his Savior has come through for him, delivered him.