

PSALM 18

The LORD Praised for Giving Deliverance.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (12-15-93).
- B. This psalm is quoted without significant variation in 2Samuel 22. Therefore we have confirmed by an inspired writer, the superscription.
- C. The first three verses contain eight metaphors that describe God: Strength, Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Trust (Refuge); Shield, Horn, Stronghold (High Tower).
- D. God can provide for our every need.

THE TEXT.

- 18:1** "I love You, O LORD, my strength."
- 2** The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
 My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
 My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- 3** I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
 And I am saved from my enemies.
- 4** The cords of death encompassed me,
 And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.
- 5** The cords of Sheol surrounded me;
 The snares of death confronted me.
- 6** In my distress I called upon the LORD,
 And cried to my God for help;
 He heard my voice out of His temple,
 And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.
- 7** Then the earth shook and quaked;
 And the foundations of the mountains were trembling
 And were shaken, because He was angry.
- 8** Smoke went up out of His nostrils,
 And fire from His mouth devoured;
 Coals were kindled by it.
- 9** He bowed the heavens also, and came down
 With thick darkness under His feet.
- 10** He rode upon a cherub and flew;
 And He sped upon the wings of the wind.
- 11** He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him,
 Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.
- 12** From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds,
 Hailstones and coals of fire.
- 13** The LORD also thundered in the heavens,
 And the Most High uttered His voice,
 Hailstones and coals of fire.
- 14** He sent out His arrows, and scattered them,
 And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.
- 15** Then the channels of water appeared,
 And the foundations of the world were laid bare
 At Your rebuke, O LORD,
 At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.
- 16** He sent from on high, He took me;
 He drew me out of many waters.
- 17** He delivered me from my strong enemy,
 And from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.
- 18** They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
 But the LORD was my stay.
- 19** He brought me forth also into a broad place;
 He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

- 20** The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness;
 According to the cleanliness of my hands He has recompensed me.
- 21** For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
 And have not wickedly departed from my God.
- 22** For all His ordinances were before me,
 And I did not put away His statutes from me.
- 23** I was also blameless with Him,
 And I kept myself from my iniquity.
- 24** Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness,
 According to the cleanliness of my hands in His eyes.
- 25** With the kind You show Yourself kind;
 With the blameless You show Yourself blameless;
- 26** With the pure You show Yourself pure,
 And with the crooked You show Yourself astute.
- 27** For You save an afflicted people,
 But haughty eyes You abase.
- 28** For You light my lamp;
 The LORD my God illumines my darkness.
- 29** For by You I can run upon a troop;
 And by my God I can leap over a wall.
- 30** As for God, His way is blameless;
 The word of the LORD is tried;
 He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.
- 31** For who is God, but the LORD?
 And who is a rock, except our God,
- 32** The God who girds me with strength
 And makes my way blameless?
- 33** He makes my feet like hinds' *feet*,
 And sets me upon my high places.
- 34** He trains my hands for battle,
 So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
- 35** You have also given me the shield of Your salvation,
 And Your right hand upholds me;
 And Your gentleness makes me great.
- 36** You enlarge my steps under me,
 And my feet have not slipped.
- 37** I pursued my enemies and overtook them,
 And I did not turn back until they were consumed.
- 38** I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise;
 They fell under my feet.
- 39** For You have girded me with strength for battle;
 You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.
- 40** You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me,
 And I destroyed those who hated me.
- 41** They cried for help, but there was none to save,
 Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them.
- 42** Then I beat them fine as the dust before the wind;
 I emptied them out as the mire of the streets.
- 43** You have delivered me from the contentions of the people;
 You have placed me as head of the nations;
 A people whom I have not known serve me.
- 44** As soon as they hear, they obey me;
 Foreigners submit to me.
- 45** Foreigners fade away,
 And come trembling out of their fortresses.
- 46** The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock;
 And exalted be the God of my salvation,
- 47** The God who executes vengeance for me,
 And subdues peoples under me.

- 48** He delivers me from my enemies;
 Surely You lift me above those who rise up against me;
 You rescue me from the violent man.
- 49** Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O LORD,
 And I will sing praises to Your name.
- 50** He gives great deliverance to His king,
 And shows lovingkindness to His anointed,
 To David and his descendants forever.

COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1-3]**
- B. **[v4-6]** The “temple” of verse 6 does not refer to Solomon’s temple, but to God’s throne or heaven.
 Psa. 11:4 “The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord’s throne is in heaven...”
- C. **[v7-14]** The scriptures often use descriptions of physical calamity to describe political and spiritual change. Remember Joel’s description of the pouring out of God’s Spirit with the coming of the Kingdom as quoted by Peter on Pentecost (Ac. 2:17-21).
- D. **[v15-17]** These verses remind us of the parting of the Red Sea as the Children of Israel came out of Egypt.
- E. **[v18-24]** What are some of the words that David uses to describe his condition when God saved him that are true of a Christian when he receives salvation? Is David saying that he was saved by his own righteousness in 18:24?
- F. **[v25-29]** How is God “foward” or “shrewd” in v26? What does David mean by “leap over a wall” in v29?
- G. **[v30-33]** How could God make David’s way perfect in v32? What was David’s position in his family and tribe? How were his feet “like hinds’ feet?” (KJV, ASV)
- H. **[v34-39]** These describe the skills of warfare. God had enabled him to be a formidable foe to his enemies.
- I. **[v40-42]** God gave him the victory.
- J. **[v43-47]** How was David the “head of many nations” in 18:43? He gives credit for his victories to God, and praises Him for all of his good fortune. All vengeance belongs to the Lord.
- K. **[v49,50]** We should always remember to give praise to God for our blessings and give Him credit for our accomplishments.