

**Rhema Christian Center
Journey Through the Bible
September 21, 2021
Psalm 18
Carolyn Johnson, Teacher**

Psalm 18---Historical Background

We know exactly when this psalm was written, for David tells us in the inscription.

It was composed when the Lord rescued David from all his many enemies, including from the brutality of Saul. You find the text of this psalm almost completely reproduced in 2 Samuel 22, and it later became part of the congregational worship of Israel.

David's days of hiding and running from Saul were over. He now has the right to the throne. No longer an outlaw, he is king. His enemies were defeated; nothing now stands in his way to promotion, and the entire nation has crowned him as their leader.

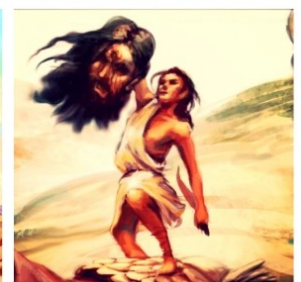
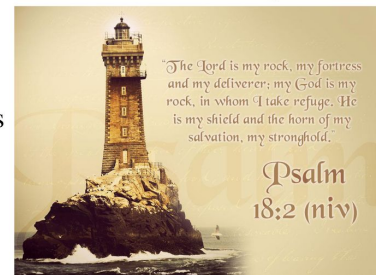
All the years of being an outcast have left David humbled and prepared for leading the nation of Israel as its king. Whenever he received a new victory, it deserves a new song of praise to our LORD.! Each time the LORD brings you out of trouble, sing your praise to Him and give thanks. This psalm is full of David's praise to Yahweh. It is full of answers to prayer, and full of miracles.

David's Reflection

As David wrote Psalm 18, I believe he was reminiscing many of his experiences, at the time he was a shepherd boy, when he killed a lion and bear, slaying Goliath, the giant, to running from King Saul, and escaping death.



¹ David spoke the words of this song to the Lord after the Lord delivered him from the power of all his enemies and from Saul.



Personal Reflection

Have you ever looked back over the years the LORD has preserved you, saved you from harm, or performed miracles on your behalf. I guarantee, if you do, it will prompt you to give thanksgiving and praise to Our LORD and Savior, Jesus.

Allow me to mention three of my experiences. First, when I was a teenager, a new Believer in Jesus, the LORD rescued me from being raped. As the attacker approached me, The LORD prompted me to ask this question, **“Do you know Jesus?”** The man dropped his hands from around me and answered, he use to go to church. Through tears, he apologized for what he was about to do to me.

Second, the LORD intervened for me to receive scholarships for both my undergraduate and graduate programs. With 3 children, my husband and I could not afford tuition for me to attend school. But GOD, He opened doors for me, and I received a four year scholarship to cover my undergraduate program and afterwards, I received a fellowship to attend Ohio State University. My tuition was paid and I received a stipend for living expenses. That blessing led my family and I to Columbus.

Thirdly, while I was playing in the waters in the Bahamas, I experienced a vertigo attack and almost drown. While in that water, I was not afraid. I prayed, LORD, you will either take me home to be with YOU, or you will send someone to rescue me. When I could not hold my breath any longer, I felt two men lifting me out of the water. **How can I help but love Him, when He loves me so?** So rejoice over your experiences with the LORD. If you choose to reminisce His blessings in your life, you too will be moved to praise and bless His name.

So, back to David's psalm 18; it is classified as a Royal Psalm of Thanksgiving. Indeed, David had many reasons to give thanks to God, and we do too! The big idea of Psalm 18 is: **Praise to the God who Delivers from All Enemies.** That's what David is engaged in and it should give hope to all believers, that Yahweh sees, hears, and responds to His children when we call out to Him.

Psalm 18 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord, who addressed the words of this song to the Lord on the day when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:

Another version of this song can be found in 2 Samuel 22

- To God -

- 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.



You Are My
Rock

- 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;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
5 the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.



Engulfed
by
the Enemy

- 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.
7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.
8 Smoke went up from his nostrils,
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.



God Responds;
The Earth Quakes

- 9 He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.
10 He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.
11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,
thick clouds dark with water.
12 Out of the brightness before him
hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.



The Rescuer

- 13 The Lord also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice,
hailstones and coals of fire.
14 And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.
15 Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare
at your rebuke, O Lord,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.



The Voice of God

About God

I Love You, My Rock, My Fortress

Psalm 18:1-2

“**Love**”, the word David used in Hebrew is “Erachamka” is not the normal word usually used for love, that word which is usually used is “Ahavath”, the word love when used, often bears a covenant meaning. Such as in the two verses:



Jeremiah 31:3 The Lord has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you”.

Also, Deut. 7:8 “But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

Now, “Erachamka Na Adonai” is a rare verb, formed from a word group that expresses tender intimacy. David’s choice of words were intended to express very strong devotion, such as when Jesus spoke to Peter, in John 21:15.

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”.

This concept, “Erachamka”, although difficult to convey in English, carries the thought of embrace and touch. It could actually be translated “Lord, I want to hug you.” Have you ever felt that way towards Jesus ?

Amy Grant sings, **El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai** [means "God Almighty, God Almighty"]

El-Elyon na Adonai [means "God in the highest, Oh, Lord"]

El-Shaddai, El-Shaddai, Erachamka na Adonai ["We will love You, Oh, Lord"]

vs. 2. My Rock, My Fortress, My Deliverer, My God,

The first image we are given is that of a **Rock**. God is pictured as a **rock**, a **shield** and a **fortress** (a military stronghold). The idea here is that God is so solid that David's enemies can not conquer him; they are broken against Him.

Engulfed

Psalm 18:3-6. Passion Translation

V. 3-6) All I need to do is to call to you, singing to you, the praiseworthy God. When I do, I'm safe and sound in you. For when the ropes of death wrapped around me and terrifying torrents of destruction overwhelmed me, taking me to death's door, to doom's domain, I cried out to you in my distress, the delivering God, and from your temple-throne you heard my troubled cry. My sobs came right into your heart and you turned your face to rescue me.

This scene is a poetic portrayal of how God answered David's prayer in the midst of the scenes of death. Yahweh heard Him and shook the planet as thick clouds covered the sun. Let's read verses 7 and 8, Yahweh's response.

God Responds

Psalm 18:7-8

The description of God in this passage is so awesome, His active intervention. It reminds you of Yahweh's appearance to Moses at Mount Sinai, with earthquakes, thunder, darkness, and lightning. (Exodus 19:16-20) God hears David's cry He responds with such force that the ground shakes at His anger.

Applying this psalm to the cross of Christ, we recall the earthquake that happened when our Savior was crucified. All of nature shook violently, as a convulsion, when men murdered the Messiah. Even the sun hid its face in shame.

The Rescuer / The Voice of God

Psalm 18:9-15 Passion Translation

9-10

He stretched heaven's curtain open and came to my defense. Swiftly he rode to earth as the stormy sky was lowered. He rode a chariot of thunderclouds amidst thick darkness; his steed was a cherub, soaring on outstretched wings of Spirit-Wind.

11 Wrapped in the thick-cloud, darkness, his thunder-tabernacle surrounded him. He hid himself in mystery-darkness; the dense rain clouds were his garments.

12 Suddenly the brilliance of his presence broke through with lightning bolts and hail—a tempest dropping coals of fire.

Suddenly! We serve a God of “suddenlies”. David’s suddenly came as he prayed and praised. Have you been laying the groundwork for your suddenly? Some of us are praying for the nations, America, Israel, and the troubled nations in the world. We are waiting for God, when in actuality, He is waiting for us, to make a loud sound by calling upon His name, YAHWEH , deliver.

13 The Lord thundered; the great God above every god spoke with his thunder-voice from the sky. The Most High uttered his voice!

In Hebrew, thunder means "Voice." In other words, thunder represents the voice of God, it is the powerful voice of God that is heard from His throne. The Lord unleashes His roar of vengeance in this passage. In the presence of powerful enemies. God releases His powerful voice! His voice alone releases fire, thunder, hail, and lightning. Everything flees in the quake and wake of His mighty roar.

14 He released his lightning-arrows, and routed my foes. See how they ran and scattered in fear!

God comes and He is to our enemies, a thick darkness, a blazing inferno of fury. He is simultaneously a light and shield to His people, and a cloud of blinding confusion and fear to our foes. He lights up the path of the righteous as He hides us in His cloak of darkness from those who would seek to harm us. Who is like our God.

15 Then with His mighty roar he laid bare the foundations of the earth uncovering the secret source of the sea. The hidden depths of land and sea were exposed by the blast of his hot breath.



16 He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.
17 He rescued 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 support.
19 He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.



The Rescue

20 The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.
21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
and have not wickedly departed from my God.
22 For all his rules were before me,
and his statutes I did not put away from me.
23 I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from my guilt.
24 So the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.



God Rescues the Righteous

25 With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
26 with the purified you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.
27 For you save a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.
28 For it is you who light my lamp;
the Lord my God lightens my darkness.
29 For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.



You Are the Just Judge

30 This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all those 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 equipped me with strength
and made my way blameless.
33 He made my feet like the feet of a deer
and set me secure on the heights.
34 He trains my hands for war,
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.



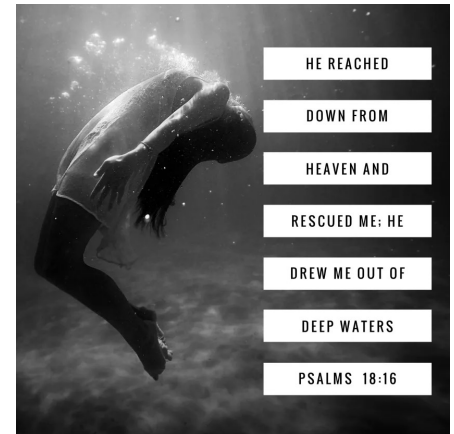
This God is YHWH

The Rescue / God Rescues the Righteous

Psalm 18:16-24

God reaches down and pulls David out of the engulfing waters and places him on solid ground.

In verse 20, David claims that it is because of his blamelessness that God rescued him. At first this seems wrong. How could David claim to be so perfect that he was blameless before God? Blameless does not mean sinless, but sins forgiven.



I don't think David here is claiming that he has no sin, only that he has faithfully followed God. David is blameless in that he has done his best to do what is right and when needed he confesses his wrongs. He is not perfect, but because of God's mercy, ([Psalm 18:25](#)) and David's faith, David is seen as blameless in God's eyes.

You Are the Just Judge

Psalm 18:25-29

David now changes from talking to the people about God to talking with God. He acknowledges that God is perfectly just in His actions - giving strength to the humble and destroying the proud.

It is at this halfway point, verse 25, that we find the meaningful center:

***“With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;”***

This God is YHWH (YAHWEH)

Psalm 18:30-34

Who is David's rescuer? YHWH, the only true God! Let's read David's description of Him, in the Passion Translation.

Psalms 18:30-31 Passion Translation

“Yahweh, what a perfect God you are! All Yahweh's promises have proven true. What a secure shelter for all those who turn to hide themselves in you, the wraparound God. Could there be any other god like Yahweh? For there is not a more secure foundation than you.” What does YHWH mean?

To God

About God - To God - About God

35 You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.

36 You gave a wide place for my steps under me,
and my feet did not slip.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them,
and did not turn back till they were consumed.

38 I thrust them through, so that they were not able to rise;
they fell under my feet.



You Make Me
Great

39 For you equipped me with strength for the battle;
you made those who rise against me sink under me.

40 You made my enemies turn their backs to me,
and those who hated me I destroyed.

41 They cried for help, but there was none to save;
they cried to the Lord, but he did not answer them.

42 I beat them fine as dust before the wind;
I cast them out like the mire of the streets.



You Give Me
Victory

43 You delivered me from strife with the people;
you made me the head of the nations;
people whom I had not known served me.

44 As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me;
foreigners came cringing to me.

45 Foreigners lost heart
and came trembling out of their fortresses.

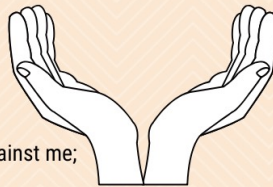


You Exalted Me

46 The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation—

47 the God who gave me vengeance
and subdued peoples under me,

48 who rescued me from my enemies;
yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me;
you delivered me from the man of violence.



I Exalt God

49 For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations,
and sing to your name.

50 Great salvation he brings to his king,
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his offspring forever.



I Praise You

Verse 49 is
quoted in
Romans 15:9

Meaningful Center: Verse 25

You Make Me Great

Psalm 18:35-38

David recognizes that all he has is from God. It is God who trains him, strengthens him, protects him and defeats his enemies. It was only because God "condescended", and came down to earth. It is only because God stooped down that David became great. It was God's mercy that lifted David from the mire of his life and placed him on the Solid Rock. Isn't this a perfect picture of our relationship with God? Our only hope is in the mercy of God!

You Give Me Victory

Psalm 18:39-42

David is only victorious because of God's power. David, the famous warrior, takes no credit for his victories.

You Exalted Me

Psalm 18:43-45

Through God's merciful rescue, David is now exalted as king over many people.

I Exalt God

Psalm 18:46-48

God has exalted David and now David responds by exalting God. To highlight this concept, the last two lines change from talking about God to talking to God. **"Yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from the man of violence."**

I Praise You

Psalm 18:49-50

David closes the psalm by praising God for salvation. Another sudden change of address makes the last verse function as a summary of the psalm and bringing it to a close.

"Great salvation He brings to His king, and shows steadfast love to His anointed, to David and his offspring forever."

God loves to rescue His children. Cry out to Him and wait for His deliverance.

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