

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 18

Anchored to the Rock

Quote

“One with God is a majority.”

William Carey

I. Introduction

In every soul-testing trial, the believer must find strength in a refuge greater than himself. He must be anchored to a rock greater than the trial in which he finds himself. The only sure fortress is that rock which is highest of all—the Lord himself. This is the **truth** that David discovered and recorded in this psalm.

Psalm 18 is the fourth longest psalm in the Book of Psalms. It contains David’s praise for repeatedly delivering him from all his enemies. The long title mentions that “the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.” Thus, this psalm celebrates David’s victories over all his enemies rather than one specific triumph. Included in these many deliverances is one of his most noted victories—his rescue from Saul. This psalm also appears in 2 Samuel 22; it was recorded after the death of Saul.

Throughout this psalm, God is revealed as a rock (vv. 2, 31, 46), or the all-sufficient protection that David found in God. During the years he fled from Saul, and later Absalom, David escaped to the rocky cliffs, knowing he would be safe there. But in reality it was God who was his fortress of protection, a sure foundation for his soul.

MAIN IDEA

David rejoices in God who has rescued him from all his enemies throughout his life.

A David’s Rejoicing (18:1–3)

18:1–3. David began with a vow to praise God. He was confident of divine protection for his life. He declared, **I love you, O Lord, my strength**, using a word for love (Heb. *raham*) that emphasizes the strong favor and tender intimacy of his heart toward God.

He used seven military metaphors to picture God's love: **my rock**, a foundation of stability and protection; **my fortress**, a high place of refuge and defense when under attack; **my deliverer**, a savior in the **evil** day; **my rock**, a different word than above, meaning a strong defense; **my shield**, a piece of heavy armor to deflect the enemies' arrows and swords; **horn of my salvation**, a description of power in battle; **my stronghold**, meaning God's care for his servant. God was all this to David. This prompted him to call on the Lord when his enemies attacked.

B David's Reasons (18:4–45)

18:4–6. David was in danger as the **CORDS OF DEATH** surrounded him as if he were tied down and unable to escape. Furthermore, the **torrents of destruction** overwhelmed him as if he were drowning. The **CORDS OF THE GRAVE** coiled around him, entrapping him. So strong was their grip that the **snareS OF DEATH** would not yield David, their helpless prisoner. In this perilous situation, he **cried to God for help**, confident that he would hear his **voice**.

18:7–15. The Lord came to David's rescue, intervening dramatically on his behalf. This bursting upon the scene is represented poetically as an earthquake. **The earth trembled and quaked** and **mountains shook** to overturn his circumstances. God **parted the heavens and came down** in wrathful vengeance to deal with David's enemies. Attended by **the cherubim**, God descended from heaven to answer David's prayer like a violent thunderstorm with **dark rain clouds, hailstones, and bolts of lightning**.

18:16–19. In this divine intervention, God **reached down** and **took hold** of David in order to deliver him **out of deep waters**. He rescued David from his enemies who were **too strong** for him—but not so for God. **The Lord was my support**, David testified. He released him out of this tight squeeze into a **spacious place**.

18:20–24. David also declared that the Lord rewarded him. This happened because he walked in **cleanness**, having refrained from **evil**, having **kept** God's **law**, and having been **blameless**. For this, the Lord **rewarded** him **according to his**

righteousness. David did not make a claim for sinless perfection. He simply stated that he had devoted himself to following the Lord, and this had resulted in a godly life.

18:25–27. God rewards man according to his character. To those who are **faithful** to God, the Lord, in turn, is **faithful** (1 Sam. 2:30). Likewise, God shows himself to be **blameless** and **pure** to those who are the same. But those who are **crooked** find God to be **shrewd** to them, meaning that he will judge them in harsh ways. If a person insists on pursuing devious ways, God will reward him accordingly, giving him what he deserves. According to David, the Lord exalts the **humble** but will **bring low** the **haughty**.

18:28–36. Furthermore, David claimed that God caused his life to flourish by his favor. He claimed that the Lord would keep his **lamp burning**; God would cause his life to flourish. With the Lord's **help** he could advance against all opposition, even **scale a wall** in battle. Because God was his **shield** and **Rock**, the Lord enabled David **to stand** with **strength** on the **heights**, a place of victory. David could fight triumphantly because God empowered him supernaturally to **bend a bow of bronze**. God alone sustained him to make him **great** before his enemies. The Lord made David's footing sure on the **path** to victory so David would not fall.

18:37–42. Empowered by divine strength, David defeated all his **enemies and overtook them**; he even **destroyed** and **crushed them**. Clearly, it was God, he testified, who **armed** him **with strength** to utterly beat them. Every victory David won was due to God's empowering him.

18:43–45. Having routed his enemies, David was elevated by God to rule over them. He testified, **you have made me the head of nations**, a position of political and military superiority. These once-imposing foes were now **subject to** and obeyed him because God had given him the victory. So complete was this God-given triumph that they cringed before David and lost **heart**.

C David's Refrain (18:46–50)

18:46–50. With a concluding outburst of praise, David raised his voice to declare, **The Lord lives!** He had witnessed God's intervention in his life. This compelled him to shout, **Praise be to my Rock!** God vindicated David and subdued his foes

who were violent men. David concluded, **I will sing praises to your name** because God had given great victories. So total were these triumphs that they extended not only to David but to **his descendants forever**.

III. Conclusion

David's example in this psalm calls out to every believer to make God his refuge in every trial, trusting him for deliverance. The Lord is an immovable rock who will save those who attach themselves to him. No threatening enemy can overcome God; he is a fortress to everyone who takes refuge in him. With unwavering hope, the righteous should rest in the Lord, assured of his ultimate victory. They should place all their **faith** in God, the rock who cannot fall or falter.

With no confidence in the flesh, the people of God should entrust themselves to the Lord, steadfast in their dependence on him. Even after God rescues from the day of attack, the believer should persevere, knowing that other enemies lurk in the shadows whom God alone can defeat. God alone is our hope and shield.