

“God Our Rock – Part 2”
Psalm 18
(Preached at Trinity, January 31, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we saw last time, **Psalm 18** is a great psalm of deliverance. For David it was a psalm of praise and thanksgiving.
All of us as Christians have faced times of difficulty and all of us have gone to God in prayer and all of us have found Him mighty. He has been a mighty Rock when everything else seemed to be crumbling.
2. This is the focus of this Psalm.
David had seen many times of trouble in his life, many enemies, many battles, many brushes with death. Yet God always came as his great Deliverer.
3. The **18th Psalm** is divided into several sections:
In **Verses 1-3** David sings forth his great praise to God for God’s great deliverance
In **Verses 4-19** David describes his deliverance using rich poetic pictures and symbols
In **Verses 20-28** David states with confidence that God’s acted justly in delivering him
In **Verses 29-45** David again describes his deliverance and anticipates future deliverances
In **Verses 46-50** David concludes by once again singing forth the praises of God. This last section also has Messianic overtones.
4. Last time we focused only on the first section. In **Verses 1-3** David sings forth his great praise of God for delivering him from all his enemies.
David used seven metaphors to describe God as his great military strength and might. It was God who sustained him and protected him.
The chief element in these first verses was David’s great love of God.
Psalm 18:1 – “I will love thee, O LORD”
 - A. There is no higher statement. David loved God. And even sweeter, God loved David.
 1. We read in the previous psalm
Psalm 17:7-8 – “Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust *in thee* from those that rise up *against them*.⁸ Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,”
 2. David was the apple of God’s eye.
 - B. David had a relationship with God. Notice in **Verse 2**
Psalm 18:2 – “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God . . .”
5. Tonight I want to continue by looking at the other four parts of **Psalm 18**

- I. In **Verses 4-19** David describes his deliverance using rich poetic pictures and symbols
- A. David begins by describing his brushes with death
1. His enemies sought his life – **Verses 4-6**
 2. They surrounded him and there was no way of escape – **v.4**
The word for “compassed” or “encompassed” means to surround
The dangers were so great he was terrified
 3. In the height of his distress he cried out to God and his cry was heard.
David’s cry went into the very throne room of God
Verse 6 – “he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.”
 - a. What an encouragement to prayer. He hears. Our prayers come before Him.
 - b. This was Joshua’s great amazement when he prayed and the sun stood still for a day.
Joshua 10:14 – “And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.”
- B. David describes God’s deliverance in poetic terms
1. All of nature trembled at God’s fury
Verse 7 – “Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.”
 2. In this section David describes God’s mighty power in fighting his battles in terms of earthquakes, thunder, storms, and lightning.
 3. There is no record of David ever experiencing such a literal display of God’s presence. Of course, this doesn’t mean it didn’t happen.
 4. But these descriptions follow the accounts of God’s great manifestations in Egypt, on Mount Sinai, and in Canaan during the days of Joshua.
 - a. In **Verses 7-11** we find language that directs our attention to God’s great revelation of Himself on Mount Sinai with the earth shaking, smoke and fire, and darkness.
 - b. In **Verses 12-14** we are reminded of God’s intervention during Israel’s battles in Canaan when God rained down hailstones
Joshua 10:11 – “. . . the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: *they were* more which died with hailstones than *they* whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.”
 - c. In **Verses 14-15** we are reminded of God’s powerful deliverance of Israel through the Red Sea.
 4. David’s point is the God of Moses, the God of Joshua, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is his God.
Look at **Verse 2**
Psalms 18:2 – “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God . . .”
 5. David had a covenant relationship with God. The promises belonged to him. He had witnessed the same great deliverances that God’s covenant people can expect. This is what David is saying in **Verses 16-19**
Psalms 18:16 – “. . . he took me, he drew me out of many waters.”

- C. This is the inheritance of all of God's people
NAS **Isaiah 54:17** - "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD."

The word for "heritage" means: "possession, property, inheritance"

1. The same Mighty God that delivered Moses and Joshua and David is our God
2. Do you pray with confidence? Are you surprised when God proves Himself mighty?

II. In **Verses 20-28** David states with confidence that God's acted justly in delivering him

A. David describes why God delivered him

Psalms 18:20 – "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me."

1. David had walked blameless before God. He is not claiming sinless perfection; only that he devoted himself to following God – **Verses 21-23**
2. Our actions do affect how God interacts with us
 - a. James says it is essential that we pray in faith
James 1:6-8 – "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."
 - b. We must humble ourselves before God
NAS **James 4:4-6** – "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

B. David describes it in several ways – **Verses 24-27** – "Therefore . . ."

1. God rewards a man according to his character
 "Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness"
2. To the merciful God shows Himself merciful.
 The word for "merciful" can also be translated "faithful" or "kind"
3. This implies that to the harsh or hard man God will show Himself harsh
4. With the "upright" man God shows Himself "upright"
 With the "pure" God shows Himself "pure"
 With the "forward" or crooked man, God will show Himself crooked – in other words God will give him what he deserves.
5. **Verse 27** – "but wilt bring down high looks." – Again, as James says, God resists the proud
6. These, of course are general principles and do not rule out the sovereignty of God. Sometimes the righteous suffer to God's righteous end. And sometimes it may appear for a season that the ungodly prosper.

7. God has set forth a principle of sowing and reaping
Galatians 6:7-9 – “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

III. In **Verses 29-45** David again describes his deliverance

This section to the end of the psalm has Messianic overtones.

In fact, Paul quotes from **Verse 49** in **Romans 15** as referring to Christ

- A. David is convinced, God will deliver ALL who trust Him
Psalm 18:30 – “As for God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him.”
 1. Where else shall we turn?
Psalm 18:31 – “For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God?”
 2. David then recalls God’s rich deliverance in his life
 - a. In the previous section David spoke in poetic terms. Now he goes into personal detail
Psalm 18:32 – “*It is* God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.”
Psalm 18:33 – “He maketh my feet like hinds’ *feet*, and setteth me upon my high places.”
 - b. David’s enemies trembled before him
 3. Not only did David conquer his enemies, he ruled over them
Psalm 18:43-44 – “Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; *and* thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people *whom* I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.”
- B. We can see the great throne of Christ
 1. Christ is the fulfillment of the Davidic Kingdom
 2. Jesus is the King of kings. His enemies are being made His footstool
Satan is crushed beneath Him.
 3. He will come in judgment
Psalm 18:40 – “Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.”
 4. There will be no mercy
Psalm 18:41 – “They cried, but *there was* none to save *them: even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.”

- IV. In **Verses 46-50** David concludes by once again singing forth the praises of God.
Psalm 18:46 – “let the God of my salvation be exalted.”
- A. David does what all who know God have done – He praises Him.
Psalm 18:49 – “Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.”
1. David returns to the place he began. The place of praise and thanksgiving towards God. The very heart of God’s people is thanksgiving.
 2. David was a man of thanksgiving
Psalm 100:4 – “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.”
1 Chronicles 29:12-13 – “Both riches and honour *come* of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and in thine hand *it is* to make great, and to give strength unto all.
¹³ Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.”
- B. And again, these verses are Messianic
1. Paul quotes fro **Verse 49** to show that Jesus brought salvation to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.
Romans 15:9 – “And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.”
 2. Jesus has been exalted above all – given a name above every name
Psalm 18:48 – “He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.”
 3. **Verse 15** is a glorious verse that points beyond David to Christ
Psalm 18:50 – “Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.”

Conclusion:

1. God is indeed our great Deliverer. But the greatest deliverance has come through Christ. We have been delivered from sin and death. Death shall have no power over us.
1 Corinthians 15:55-57 – “O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
2. But God also delivers us through the various circumstances of life.
He is our Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Buckler, Horn of my Salvation, High Tower.
Do you pray with confidence in our all powerful God?
3. And do you praise Him? Do you worship and adore Him?
Psalm 18:46 – “The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.”