

PSALM 18

Psalm 18, for all its length, is clear and logical and vibrates with energy. The original title is included and offers us a glimpse into the historical setting of this song-poem. We find a duplicate in II Samuel 22:1-51.

This particular psalm serves as a good example to remind us that there are three possible ways to look at many of the psalms - 1) the historical implications of the content, 2) the personal application that the truth has to my life and 3) the way that some of the references can point to Jesus Christ as God's ultimate Anointed King.

As the title tells us, David wrote this song, this prayer, in response to God's delivering him from the hands of Saul and the real people of the surrounding nations who were a threat to his life. The event took place in space and time - it's history.

Also much in this psalm "agrees better with Christ," as Calvin said, than with David. A good example is verse 49 which Paul quotes in Romans 15:9 as part of a prophecy of Christ Jesus, the Messiah.

We will study Psalm 18 primarily to see how it applies to our lives today. *I am not* a warring monarch fending off hostile nations. Nevertheless, *I am* engaged in a battle and the enemies of my soul, though unseen, are real and formidable. So are yours! Things like despair, frustration, insecurity, self-indulgence. The Deliverer - God of David is the same to you and to me in our realm of warfare. He wants to use David's experience to equip and encourage us. Let's go for it!

Read Psalm 18 through at one sitting. ___ (Remember that we read straight through to capture the full intent of the author. This is the way to approach any literature. This approach is especially essential with the Bible since the primary author is God, speaking through His various servants. We want to see what He is really saying.)

Memorize Psalm 18:17-19. (*Begin* early in the week. *Read* the section aloud several times. *Write* it out two or three times. *Work* on it in small segments and then the whole. *Test* yourself. *Say* it to someone else. *Use* it in appropriate circumstances you face to remind yourself of the truth. *Review* it EVERYDAY. *Share* it with a friend.)

Read Psalm 18 all the way through again. (It takes 4 or 5 minutes.)

1. How is David described in the title of this psalm? What does that mean?

2. Would you want to identify yourself the same way or not? Why?

Read verses 1-3. (Notice from the verbs that he is speaking to God in the present tense.)

3. Describe the feelings you see David expressing in these verses.

4. List the characteristics of God David sets forth.

Read verses 4-6.

5. What was David feeling in verses 4 and 5 and why?

6. What did David do about his situation?

7. Do you ever feel "entangled," "overwhelmed," "coiled around," and "confronted"? (Sure you do. *We all do!*) *What kinds* of situations can produce these reactions in you? (Think of *specific* situations but write more *generally* if needed to protect others.)

8. What is the first thing God wants us to do?

Read carefully verses 7-15. The imagery used here should grip us with an overall picture rather than preoccupy us with details.

9. What picture does the imagery of these verses convey to you? How does it make you feel?

Read verses 16-19. ("Sent" in the American Standard Version should be "reached" as in Psalm 144:7.)

10. What do these verses say happened?

11. a. What impresses you about God when verses 7-15 are considered alongside verses 16-19?

b. According to verse 19, *why* does God bring you into a broad or spacious place, a place of safety?

Satan is our enemy who wants to tear us apart as I Peter 5:8 says. (People in our lives are *not* the enemy and we shouldn't regard them as such. They may be used by Satan to hurt us, but Satan is the enemy.)

12. What kinds of "booby-traps" does Satan set to cause you to be defeated?

13. How can you use the concepts in these verses to counterattack?

Read verses 20-24.

14. Righteousness has to do with attitudes, intentions and actions. There's a suggestion in these verses to direct us toward righteousness. What is it? (Psalm 51 is the "way back" to righteousness when we've blown it.)

Read verses 25-45.

15. In what ways is God our enabler?

Read verses 46-50. Substitute *your* name for "descendants" in verse 50.

16. Psalm 18 gives us many things we can do in our struggle with Satan. List as many as you can find and give verses.

17. In what areas can you claim verses 37 and 38 for today? For tomorrow?

18. Seeing how verses 1-3 and 46-50 were written in response to God's actions in 4-45, *read aloud* with feeling verses 1-3 and 46-50 and tell God you mean the words as David did.

19. Pray through this psalm, making it your own. Especially acknowledge the delight God has in *you!*

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