

**Psalm 18 — “Praising God When He Delivers”**

“One with God is always the majority!” (William Carey)!

Psalm 18 is a song of thanksgiving of the King after a Victorious Battle. The abundance of descriptions of God has the “hymnic” character — it begins with God-saturated language! (Hans Kraus).

*Background to Psalm 18*

- David wrote it (nearly identical with 2 Sam 22) - he spoke this song to the LORD when God delivered him from Saul & the enemies (the lengthy narrative of 1 Samuel 19-31).

**The literary structure of the psalm** (called “a *chiasm*”; in biblical Hebrew, the middle section is most prominent)

- A Praise (vv1-3)
- B Remember (vv.4-19)
- >> **C Integrity!!! (vv.20-24)**
- B' Remember (vv.25-45)
- A' Praise (vv.46-50)

**THESIS — Ps 18 teaches you \*how\* to praise God when He delivers. \*5 personal declarations**

1. I love my God sincerely (1-3) (*adoration*)
2. My God protected me mightily (4-19) (*recollection*)
3. I seek to live blamelessly (20-24) (*affirmation*)
4. Behold my God's supremacy (25-45) (*exaltation*)
5. I'll thank my God openly (46-50) (*jubilation*)

## **I. I LOVE MY GOD SINCERELY! (1-3) (*adoration*)**

## **II. MY GOD PROTECTED ME MIGHTILY (4-19) (*recollection*)**

Near death (vv.4-6)

Theophany (a divine appearing/manifestation of Himself) (vv.7-19)

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“A theophany is an awesome display of God’s power as Creator.” (Will Varner)

The theophany of Psalm 18

The earthquake (7-8)

The gathering of clouds (9-11)

The outburst of the storm (12-16)

**III. I SEEK TO LIVE BLAMELESSLY (20-24) (*affirmation*)**

A. V.20, 24 - the summary of Integrity and v.21-23 - specifics to live blamelessly (integrity):

- 1. Keep the ways of God**
- 2. Follow the Word of God**
- 3. Flee from iniquity against God**

**IV. BEHOLD MY GOD’S SUPREMACY (25-45) (*exaltation*)**

v.32-42 — Note the imagery of a warrior in battle

**V. I’LL THANK MY GOD OPENLY (46-50) (*jubilation*)**

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3 lessons from all this:

1. God the King of heaven hears the cries of distressed believers on earth. (v.6, 25)
2. God's heavenly power bows down to the outermost depths of the realm of death and snatches the afflicted ones from danger (v.4, 5, 9ff)
3. God rescues His own victoriously for His own exaltation & for His own glory (v.18, 43ff)

Other **refuge** have I none,  
 I helpless, hang on Thee;  
 Leave, oh leave me not alone,  
 Support and comfort me.  
 All my trust on Thee is stayed,  
 All help from Thee I bring;  
 Cover my defenseless head  
 In the shadow of Thy wing.

Charles Wesley

**Rock** of Ages, cleft for me,  
 let me hide myself in thee;  
 let the water and the blood,  
 from thy wounded side which flowed,  
 be of sin the double cure;  
 save from wrath and make me pure.

Augustus Toplady

### A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God,  
 a bulwark never failing;  
 our helper he, amid the flood  
 of mortal ills prevailing.  
 For still our ancient foe  
 does seek to work us woe;  
 his craft and power are great,  
 and armed with cruel hate,  
 on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
 our striving would be losing,  
 were not the right Man on our side,  
 the Man of God's own choosing.  
 You ask who that may be?  
 Christ Jesus, it is he;  
 Lord Sabaoth his name,  
 from age to age the same;  
 and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
 should threaten to undo us,  
 we will not fear, for God has willed  
 his truth to triumph through us.  
 The prince of darkness grim,  
 we tremble not for him;  
 his rage we can endure,  
 for lo! his doom is sure;  
 one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers  
 no thanks to them abideth;  
 the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
 through him who with us sideth.  
 Let goods and kindred go,  
 this mortal life also;  
 the body they may kill:  
 God's truth abideth still;  
 his kingdom is forever!

**ROCK OF AGES**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
 let me hide myself in thee;  
 let the water and the blood,  
 from thy wounded side which flowed,  
 be of sin the double cure;  
 save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands  
 can fulfill thy law's demands;  
 could my zeal no respite know,  
 could my tears forever flow,  
 all for sin could not atone;  
 thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
 simply to the cross I cling;  
 naked, come to thee for dress;  
 helpless, look to thee for grace;  
 foul, I to the fountain fly;  
 wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
 when mine eyes shall close in death,  
 when I soar to worlds unknown,  
 see thee on thy judgment throne,  
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
 let me hide myself in thee.

**PSALM 18 — *Psalter* (from Isaac Watts, 18th century)**

*Tune: "Jesus Shall Reign" (or, Doxology)*

Thee will I love, O Lord, my strength,  
 My rock, my tow'r, my high defense:  
 Thy mighty arm shall be my trust,  
 For I have found salvation thence.

Great were my fears, my foes were great,  
 Much was their strength, and more their rage;  
 But Christ, my Lord, is conqueror still,  
 In all the wars that devils wage.

Lord, thou hast seen my soul sincere,  
 Hast made thy truth and love appear;  
 Before mine eyes I set thy laws,  
 And thou hast owned my righteous cause.

Just are thy ways, and true thy word,  
 Great Rock of my secure abode:  
 Who is a God beside the Lord?  
 Or where's a refuge like our God?

He lives, and blessed be my Rock!  
 The God of my salvation lives:  
 The dark designs of hell are broke;  
 Sweet is the peace my Father gives.