

Whenever some sports team wins a major victory, such as the World Series or the Super Bowl or the Stanley Cup, there is a huge celebration that takes place not only among the team members, but also in the streets of the city.

Psalm 18 is like that. **Psalm 18 is David's celebration of victory.** As the superscription says, it is a psalm written by David when God had delivered him from "all" of his enemies. By an amazing demonstration of God's sovereignty, God had delivered David from Saul and a united kingdom had crowned him to be king.

It is a psalm in which David pours out his heart to the Lord to thank Him and praise Him. It is a celebration psalm. It is such an important psalm that it is found twice in the Old Testament. John Phillips accurately observed that this psalm is found in II Samuel 22 in the history book of Israel and it is found again in Psalm 18 in the hymn book of Israel (*Exploring Psalms*, p. 137).

What we don't find David doing in this psalm is celebrating with bottles of champagne. What David does do is to celebrate by praising God and worshipping God. The great lesson to see is this:

WHEN GOD GIVES DELIVERANCE FROM ALL OUR ENEMIES, THOSE WHO LOVE GOD WILL PRAISE AND WORSHIP GOD AND TELL HIM THEY LOVE HIM.

Now one thing to observe in the superscription is that David calls himself "the servant of the LORD." This particular title is only used pertaining to a few people. It is used of Moses; it is used of Joshua; and it is also used of Jesus Christ.

This is the kind of psalm that will be sung when Jesus Christ reigns and all enemies are destroyed.

Now there are five praise themes developed by David in this psalm:

PRAISE THEME #1 – David praises God for His protection. **18:1-6**

The opening verses are extremely important. **The first thing David does right up front in verse 1 is to tell God he loves Him.** When you tell someone you love them, you do so because the relationship has gone to a wonderful level. The relationship is no longer at a surface level but at a deep level. David had an intimate relationship with God and through this wonderful relationship he had come to personally know God loved him.

Just how personal that relationship was is clearly described in **verse 2**. Eight times in this one verse, David brings out that God was his own personal God. God was David's own personal protector and David loved God for that. God was David's strength, rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, his horn of salvation and his stronghold. According to **verse 3**, David called upon the Lord and God had protected him and saved him. That is all David did; call upon the Lord. No wonder David loved God, what a wonderful God He truly is.

It is clear when we read **verses 4-5** that David faced terrifying death moments in his life when he literally thought he was going to die. In fact, according to **verse 6**, it was in those very moments when he cried out to God and asked for help that God heard his voice and protected him.

PRAISE THEME #2 – David praises God for His power. **18:7-15**

God had thundered and roared from heaven on David's behalf. He shook the world to save David. God may be powerful, but He is also personal and when David cried to Him, God responded in all of His power and sovereignty.

God does have an angry side and it is seen right here. When God gets angry, no one can stop Him because His ways of judgment are far beyond the protective powers and devices of men. For example, God can send earthquakes (**18:7**); fires (**18:8**); heavy rains (**18:11**); hail (**18:13**); and lightning (**18:15**).

Those who desire to make God a God of total toleration do not know the truth about God. All of these kinds of cosmic catastrophes will be evidenced during the Great Tribulation, when God pours out His wrath.

PRAISE THEME #3 – David praises God for His personalization. **18:16-29**

God took a very personal interest in David. He personally analyzed David's situation and delivered him from all who hated him (**18:16-19**). Now the end of **verse 19** explains one reason why God rescued David—because “He delighted in David.” God took a great delight in David and He rewarded him with deliverance.

When King Henry the 8th spoke and wrote against Martin Luther, Luther replied: “Tell the Henries, the bishops, the Turks, and the Devil himself do what they can, we are the children of the Kingdom, worshippers of the true God.”

There are seven qualities that show up concerning David's life:

(Quality #1) - David lived a life of righteousness. **18:20a**

(Quality #2) - David lived a life that was clean. **18:20b**

(Quality #3) - David kept the ways of God. **18:21a**

(Quality #4) - David did not depart into wickedness. **18:21b**

(Quality #5) - David always thought in terms of God's Word. **18:22**

(Quality #6) - David was blameless in his relationship with God. **18:23a**

(Quality #7) - David kept himself from personal sin. **18:23b**

These are the kinds of qualities that move God to help a person and answer prayer.

Because God saw these qualities in David, there were certain specific actions God did in regard to David. But David expands this beyond just treatment of himself. This is how God operates at all times.

Divine Action #1 - God rewards the righteous with deliverance. **18:24**

Specifically notice that the righteousness and cleanness is not determined by the eyes of man, but by the eyes of God.

Divine Action #2 - God rewards all with reciprocate treatment. **18:24-26**

Because David was kind and blameless and pure, God would treat him the same way. On the other hand, one who is crooked will discover that is not the way God will do business.

Divine Action #3 - God rewards the afflicted by saving them. **18:27a**

Divine Action #4 - God rewards the arrogant by abasing them. **18:27b**

Divine Action #5 - God brings light to the life of one right with Him. **18:28**

Divine Action #6 - God gives supernatural protection and strength to one right with Him. **18:29**

There is no doubt that God takes a very personal look at those who cry to Him for help. If the qualities of David's life are the same kind of qualities He discovers in our life, then we may expect this kind of treatment.

PRAISE THEME #4 – David praises God for His punishments. **18:30-42**

David was strengthened by what God did for him and what God did to his enemies. One by one everyone was destroyed. When those enemies cried for help, God would not listen to them and He would not answer them. There are two phases to the outworking of the punishment of God:

Phase #1 - What God did for David. **18:30-36**

God was David's shield and protection (**18:30-31**). David ran to God and God protected him. He gave him strength to cope and conquer (**18:32a**). He made his way blameless according to God's perspective (**18:32b**). God made David vast in his ability to escape and pursue (**18:33a**). God raised him to high levels (**18:33b**). God gave him the ability to fight and the strength to fight (**18:34**). God gently led David and protected David and kept David from falling (**18:35-36**). God did all of these wonderful things for David. But for David's enemies, the story was completely different.

Phase #2 - What David did to his enemies . **18:37-42**

In the first part of this section, David praises God for wonderful things God gave him the ability to do. Now, in this part, David describes what he specifically did do. There were six actions:

(Action #1) - David pursued and overtook his enemies . **18:37a**

(Action #2) - David did not stop until all enemies were conquered . **18:37b**

(Action #3) - David so shattered his enemies that they were not able to rise . **18:38**

(Action #4) - David was strengthened and used by God to subdue all who were against him. **18:39**

(Action #5) - David was enabled by God to destroy those who hated him. **18:40**

(Action #6) - David took out all enemies and when they cried to God, God stayed on David's side. **18:41-42**

Prayer is such a powerful weapon; even those doing evil will use it but to no avail.

Now remember that David is praising God because God is the one who has done all of these wonderful things. God is the one who does take sides. He took David's side and one by one, every enemy of David was destroyed. Charles Spurgeon said we cannot too frequently ascribe all of our victories to God.

In this Age of Grace, we have the privilege of leaving our enemies to God, knowing that He will fight our battles. God's pursuit of our enemies will be relentless. He will not stop until all are destroyed. Let us keep faithful and keep praising God for His faithfulness.

PRAISE THEME #5 – David praises God for His promotion . **18:43-50**

Not only had God delivered David, but He also promoted David. He made David head of many nations (**18:43**). David was King of Israel and many foreigners willingly submitted to David's authority, which had been granted to Him by God (**18:44-45**). If you know Jesus Christ, you are the most honored person on this earth. The reason is because you are an heir of the Living God.

God delivered David (**48a**). God lifted up David (**48b**). God rescued David from violent men (**48c**).

So **verse 49** says, "I will give thanks to God among all the nations and I will sing praises to Him." Now if we will work on developing the same Davidic qualities, we may expect similar divine action. When we see God do things for us, like David did, then we must be quick to tell God we love Him. We need to thank Him and praise Him forever.