

Psalm 18, 27

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer...” Ps. 18:2

Day 1

Read Psalm 18:1-19

David's praise

1. From the title, what is the reason David wrote this psalm? (See 2 Samuel 22)

- What does verse 1 indicate about the theme/mood of this psalm?

FYI: “Here an unusual word for love (18:1) is used, referring to compassion as deep as a mother’s love.”

- The Nelson Study Bible (891)

“The word is intensely forcible, the love is of the deepest kind. “I will love heartily, with my inmost bowels.” Here is a fixed resolution to abide in the nearest and most intimate union with the Most High.” - Charles Spurgeon

2. List the metaphors David gives in 18:2 beginning with “my.” What kind of protection do you think these images convey? (Cf. Psalm 91:1-3)

- *My strength*: “the one that empowered him to survive against...his enemies” (David Guzik)

3. Because of God’s loving care, what did David say about his relationship with the Lord? (List the phrases beginning with the word “I”)

- 18:1
- 18:2b
- 18:3a
- 18:3b

Digging Deeper

From 1 Samuel 23:14, 23-29, what had often been David’s experience with rocks and mountains?

David's need for deliverance

4. From David's descriptions in 18:4-5, how endangered had his life been? See 1 Samuel 19:1, 24:2

FYI: "Thus hopeless was the case of this good man...so utterly desperate that none but an almighty arm could be of any service. According to the four metaphors which he employs, he was bound like a malefactor for execution; overwhelmed like a shipwrecked mariner; surrounded and standing at bay like a hunted stag; and captured in a net like a trembling bird."
- Charles Spurgeon

5. What did David do in the midst of these perilous times? 18:6a (What assurance do we have? Hebrews 4:14-16)

- How effective were his prayers? 18:6b (Cf. Psalm 34:17,18)

Food for Thought: "The deliverance of a single soul may seem a small thing, but if the single soul has prayed it is no longer small, for God's good name is involved. (Maclaren)"
- David Guzik

God's deliverance

6. Mark the word "*He*" in 18:7-19 and list the actions that the Lord took to rescue David. What do these descriptions convey about the nature of His response?

FYI: 18:7 "There was no great space between the cry and its answer... Prayer rings the alarm bell, and the Master of the house arises to the rescue, shaking all things beneath his tread."
- Charles Spurgeon

"The OT often speaks of God's power revealed in the forces of nature (see Pss 29; 77:16-19; 104)...
- The Africa Bible Commentary (626)

18:15 "***the channels of the sea***: This culminates the picture of God's turning the universe upside down. Even the most hidden passages of the sea are exposed, as are the elements that hold the earth together. The Lord God does all this to rescue His servant David (vs. 16). All the Lord's fearsome power is used to save the one who worships Him. The passage vividly illustrates why the believer has no reason to fear (see Heb. 13:6)."
- The Nelson Study Bible (892)

7. How did God “feel” about rescuing David? 18:19 (Compare Psalm 147:11; Ephesians 1:5)

Applying the Word: If you were writing about the Lord's protection in your life, what metaphors or pictures would you use?

Day 2

Read Psalm 18:20-50

God's favor

8. List the reasons David gave for why the Lord had “rewarded” him. 18:20-24 (Compare 2 Corinthians 1:12)

FYI: “At times, David suffers...because of unconfessed sin in his life. But there are other occasions where he insists that his present troubles are not caused by any fault in his life. In such a case, he calls upon God to vindicate him.”

- The Nelson Study Bible (890)

“We need to read 18:20-24 not as a claim to perfection but as expressing determination to sincerely follow the ways of God and to keep clean from evil...Those who rely on God and trust in God's promises will find that they are helped to do things that may have seemed almost impossible in human terms (18:29-30).” - The Africa Bible Commentary (627)

9. What attitudes does God reward and what attitudes does He oppose? 18:25-27 (See Proverbs 3:34)

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: “**humble/afflicted**” OT:6041 *anij*; depressed, in mind or circumstances...KJV - afflicted, humble, lowly, needy, poor. - Strong's Concordance

“**poor; humble; mee;** Especially in later Israelite history, just before the Exile and following, this noun came to have a special connection with those faithful ones who were being abused, taken advantage of, by the rich Isa 29:19; 32:7; Amos 2:7.” - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

“**crooked/deviuous**” OT:6141 *iqqesh*; distorted; hence, false. Also translated KJV - crooked, froward, perverse.

“**shrewd/astute**” OT:6617 *pathal*; to twine, i.e. (literally) to struggle or (figuratively) be (morally) tortuous. Also translated KJV - froward, shewself unsavoury, wrestle. - Strong's Concordance

Psalm 18, 27

10. What did David credit God for doing in his life? 18:28-30

- 18:28

- 18:29

11. What did David conclude about God? 8:30

- His way:
- His word:
- His defense:

God's national deliverance

12. What is the answer to David's questions in 18:31? How do his questions impact you? (Cf. Isaiah 40:25)

- How did Moses describe God in Deuteronomy 32:4,31?

FYI: "Vain were the idols of the ancient world, Baal and Jupiter; as vain are those of modern times – pleasure, honour, and profit. They cannot bestow content, or make their votaries happy below; much less can they deliver from death, or open the everlasting doors above." (Horne)"
- David Guzik

"Who is a rock save our God? Where can lasting hopes be fixed? Where can the soul find rest? Where is stability to be found? Where is strength to be discovered? Surely in the Lord Jehovah alone can we find rest and refuge."
- Charles Spurgeon

13. Read through the ways that the Lord did enabled David. 18:32-36 Which, if any, speaks to your heart? (Compare 2 Samuel 8:14b)

Digging Deeper
See Ephesians 6:10-18 for a description of the battle and equipping that the Lord gives us.

IT'S HEBREW TO ME "**Perfect**" (v.32) OT:8549 *tamiym*; entire (literally, figuratively or morally); also (as noun) integrity, truth"
- Strong's Concordance

"*Tamim* may mean incontestable or free from objection."
- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

14. Compare the words “*brought me out into a spacious place*” (vs. 19), “*enables me to stand on the heights*” (vs. 33), and “*broaden the path beneath me*” (vs. 36). What picture does this give you of the freedom and deliverance God wants to give you? Can you think of an example of this in your life?

15. What did God do to David’s enemies? 18:37-42 (*For some of David’s victories in battle see 1 Samuel 17:49; 30:8; 2 Sam. 5:19; esp. 2 Sam 8:14b*)

16. What did God do for David’s reign as king? 18:43-48 (Compare 2 Samuel 7:8-9)

- How did David respond? 18:46

FYI: “*made me the head of the nations; a people I have not known shall serve me*” (18:43) David’s empire was only a picture of the kingdom of God that will one day be governed by David’s great Son, the Lord Jesus.” [Romans 15:12]
- The Nelson Study Bible (893)

17. Underline things we have because the Lord lives.

- John 14:19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. NIV
- Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NIV
- Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

18. To whom would David’s deliverance be a witness? 18:49 (*See Romans 15:8,9 for a future fulfillment of 18:49.*)

- Compare Moses’ witness to the nations in Exodus 7:4,5

Psalm 18, 27

19. Reread David's cry for help in 18:4-6. How would you describe God's answer?

20. How complete was God's victory in David's life? 18:50

- How was 18:50 ultimately fulfilled? 2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:31-33

FYI: The latter part of Psalm 18 can be applied literally only to the Messiah, the "anointed" of Psalm 18:50. Only He will be "head of the nations" (note Psalm 2:8) "for evermore" (Psalm 18:50)."
- Henry Morris

Applying the Word: What other things in life do you cling to like a "rock" for your significance, security and/or strength? What makes it hard to let go of that? What focus/understanding/truth would enable you to let it go?

Day 3

Read Psalm 27:1-6

"The Psalm is a prayer for God's light to guide us and God's power to save us - a prayer of the kind that we often need to make."
- The Africa Bible Commentary (635)

David's confidence in God

21. List the phrases that David used to describe God in Ps 27:1.
(What does the word "my" add to these claims?)

- What effect did this have on David? (Cf. Ps 118:6)

Digging Deeper

What does 1 John 4:18 say about fear and a relationship with the Lord?

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: "**Strength/stronghold** OT:4581 *ma'owz*; a fortified place; figuratively, a defense: also translated KJV - force, fort (-ress), rock, strength, strong (hold)."
- Strong's Concordance

"**Light** indicates deliverance from darkness, which is a biblical symbol of evil."
- The Nelson Study Bible (901)

22. Underline the things associated with *light*.

- Psalm 43:3 Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me...
- Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple. NASU
- John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. NIV
- Romans 13:12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV
- John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." NIV
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. NASU
- 2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. NASU
- 1 John 1:5-7 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all

23. Underline the phrases describing God's *salvation*.

- Psalm 18:35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, NASU
- Ps. 89:26 "He will cry to Me, "You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.' NASU
- Psalm 140:7 "O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation.... NASU
- Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation... NASU

24. List the threats that David faced. 27:2,3.

- What happened to David's enemies? 27:2b (Contrast Psalms 37:23,24)

25. What attitudes did David have in response to these threats? 27:3 (See Hebrews 13:5,6)

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: "**Confident**" OT:982 *batach*; to hie for refuge; figuratively, to trust, be confident or sure"
- Strong's Concordance

"The Hebrew term...does not mean self-reliant or brave, humanly speaking. In Hebrew it means 'to trust', 'to be secure, to have assurance.'...The source of David's confidence and stability was not his own strength - but God. His Lord was his only foundation for rocklike stability."
- Charles Swindoll (99)

26. Where did David turn in the face of fear? 27:4 What does David's request indicate about the relationship he desired to have with the Lord? (Cf. Psalm 23:6; 26:6-8)

- Compare Mary's attitude in Luke 10:38-42.

FYI: "The best answer to distracting fears...: to *behold* (gaze) and to *inquire* (seek); a preoccupation with God's Person and His will."
- Derek Kidner (138)

27. List the ways that David said the Lord would protect/strengthen him. 27:5-6a

- List how David said he would respond? 53:6b

FYI: "*he shall hide me in his pavilion*: He shall give me the best of shelter in the worst of danger...**hide me**. The word used means to hide, to secrete, and then, to defend or protect *Albert Barnes...*
David was by faith so sure of a glorious victory over all those who beset him, that he arranged in his own heart what he would do when his foes lay all prostrate before him."
- Charles Spurgeon

28. Underline the results of the Lord's strength/stronghold in David's life.

- Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. NASU
- Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. NASU
- Psalm 26:1b ...I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide. KJV

Applying the Word: How would you describe your usual response to fear? Does David's example show you any way that your response should change?

Day 4

Read Psalm 27:7-14

David's requests

29. In spite of David's confidence, what concerns did he seem to have? 27:7,9 (Compare Isaiah 59:1-2)

Psalm 18, 27

30. How would you describe David’s mood as he wrote this psalm? (Compare Psalms 42:1-3; 63:1; 119:81-83) What does that say about trust/faith in spite of emotions/doubt/unworthiness?

31. What was the driving force behind David’s prayer? 27::8 (Compare Ps 105:4)

FYI: “Throughout this psalm, seeking the presence of God (His face) was the psalmist’s highest purpose. Enemies might dissuade the righteous from seeking the presence of the Lord. But the psalmist want to know Go’s presence in this life - in the land of the living.” (v. 13)
 - The Nelson Study Bible (903)

32. From 27:10-12, list the requests David made and stressful circumstances/pressures he was under.

	Requests	Stressful circumstances
27:9,10		
27:11		
27:12		

33. What confidence did David show in this psalm about God’s answers to His prayers?

- 27:5
- 27:10b
- 27:13

34. What does Isaiah 49:14-16 indicate about God’s love? (See also Hebrews.13:5,6; Luke 12:6,7)

FYI: *Though my father and mother forsake me* 27:10 “Beyond their breaking-point the love of God would still persist; indeed that it begins where man’s leaves off.”
 - Derek Kidner (139)

“[David] knows that there are times in life when we do not receive help even from those closest to us. Even our parents may neglect us or turn against us...or they may die, leaving us alone in the world. But God is a helper who never sleeps (121:3,4) and who does not change with passing years (Heb. 1:10-12). The psalmist knew the living God as the One who would never fail.”
 - The Africa Bible Commentary (635)

35. What word of instruction did David give? 27:14 (State this in your own words.)

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: **"Wait"** OT:6960 *qavah*; to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect
- Strong's Concordance

"The noun form means 'line, cord, thread.' The literal definition became a word picture involving tension or eager anticipation."
- Charles Swindoll (104)

36. Underline the attitudes, approaches or expectations we should have when we pray.

- Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. NIV
- Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." NIV
- Ephesians 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. NIV
- Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. NIV
- Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NIV
- Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. NIV
- Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. NIV
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NIV
- 1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. NIV

Applying the Word: *"Take yourself out of the grind of fear! Look upon each threatening circumstance as an opportunity to grow in your faith, rather than to retreat. How? Follow David's example.*

First: Call to mind what you know to be true about God.

Second: Express what you need boldly.

Third: Wait. Let the fearful circumstance become God's opportunity to strengthen you."

- Charles Swindoll (105)

What is the most important thing this psalm has taught you about your fears and prayer?