

Always A Time To Praise the Lord

The Lord is Worthy to be Praised

Psalm 18

Main Idea: The Lord is worthy to be praised, so love and sing to the God of our salvation!

The context of Psalm 18 is 2 Samuel 22. "And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul" (2 Samuel 22:1, ESV). While this Psalm proclaims the wonderful ways that the Lord was David's rock and deliverer, who saved David and preserved his Kingdom purpose through David, this lesson will only focus on the introduction and the ending of the Psalm, which revealed David's response to the Lord because who God is and all that God had done for his Kingdom and for his servant. These responses remind us of our response to the Lord today. They instruct us on who God is and all that he has done for his Kingdom and for his servants. They remind us of the reasons we have to love and call on the Lord as well as to praise and to sing to the Lord! God alone is worthy to be praised, and God alone is the one whose great salvation and steadfast love is sure and eternal. Ultimately, God's grace in David's life was for God's purpose through David's life: To bring God the Son to earth to defeat sin and death in order to sit in victory on the throne of the Kingdom of God for eternity!

Love and call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised (1-3).

- He is our strength (1).
- He is our rock (2).
- He is our fortress (2).
- He is our deliverer (2).
- He is our shield (2).
- He is our horn of salvation (2).
- He is our stronghold (2).
- He is the one who saves us from the enemy (3).

David opened this Psalm with a declaration from his heart: "I love you, O Lord" When he thought of his life and all that the Lord had done to preserve his life and fulfill his promise for David and the people of Israel, David's heart was filled with love. God was worthy of his love. God deserved his love, and David didn't withhold it. He loved the Lord, and he gave a list of some of the many reasons why he loved the Lord. First, the Lord was his strength. This strength didn't have anything to do with muscles. It had everything to do with help. God was David's help. He was the strength that David needed for anything and everything that he faced – that he could ever face. Second, the Lord was David's rock. Literally, this word means a cliff that is a stronghold. It's a place of safety and defense. The Lord was David's rock. Third, the Lord was David's fortress. Like the rock, a fortress is a stronghold. Like a fort or castle that's built to defend against invasion and provide the advantage for defense, God was David's fortress. Fourth, the Lord was David's deliverer. God was the One who always made the way of escape for David and who also brought David through the dangers and threats that he faced. He delivered David from his enemies. He delivered David from his own sin and the sin of others. The Lord was David's deliverer. Fifth, the Lord was David's shield. God himself provided the cover around David to protect him from the fatal attack of his enemies. He was the shield and buckler that David trusted. Sixth, the Lord was David's offensive strength as God was the horn of his salvation! The horn was a symbol of strength and power; the Lord himself had

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the power to save! Seventh, the Lord was David's stronghold. For the third time in these three verses, David used similar imagery to describe God's protection. From rock to fortress and now to stronghold, God was David's safety and defense. The Lord was where David sought refuge and protection, and the Lord was in whom David found salvation! In all of these ways, the Lord was the one who saved David from his enemies. In all of these ways, the Lord is still the One who saves his people from the enemy.

1. Do you love the Lord? What does it mean to love the Lord? How do you express your love for the Lord?
2. Read through the list of things that David used to describe the Lord. Use the BlueLetterBible app to do word studies to help you understand how these titles relate to who God is and what God does.
 - a. Has the Lord been these things in your life? Share testimonies.
 - b. Which of these descriptors stand out to you most right now? Why?
3. What does it mean to call on the Lord? How do you do that? When should you do that?
4. Is the Lord worthy to be praised? Does your praise and worship both privately and corporately with your church reflect God's worthiness to be praised?

Praise and sing to the Lord, whose great salvation and steadfast love is found eternally in Jesus Christ our King (49-50).

Because of who God is and all that God has done, David declared that he would praise the Lord! His praise won't be limited to those who already knew God and to those who were God's people, but David would openly praise the Lord among the nations. David would sing to the Lord who was worthy to be praised. The great salvation of the Lord and the Lord's steadfast love to his people was something that David saw a gift from the Lord. God had given these things to him. As a result, David's throne was established, which was the evidence that gave David confidence in God's promise that David's offspring would eternally sit on the throne in God's Kingdom! This prophecy points to Jesus Christ, who is the offspring of David who sits on the throne of God forever! Jesus Christ is the great salvation of the Lord which is for people from every nation! Jesus is the steadfast love of the Lord, which was shown by God's gift of sending his only Son to die on the cross even while we were yet sinners. Because of who God is and all that God has done, we – not just David – have every reason to praise and sing to the Lord, whose great salvation and steadfast love is found eternally in Jesus Christ our King.

1. How are you praising the Lord among the nations? How does your church participate in God's plan of redemption that is for people from every nation? Why is this important?
2. What does your singing reveal about your understanding that God is worthy of all praise? God created the voice and singing. God commands that we sing songs and even new songs to him. Why is this important?
3. Have you received the great salvation and steadfast love of the Lord that is found through the true King of God's Kingdom? If not, why not? If so, who can you share that salvation and love with in the coming week? Discuss, and pray!