

**TRUTH B-P CHURCH**  
**Adults Sunday School**

**PSALM 18 – PRAISING GOD WHO DELIVERS! (Part 1)**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The preface reads: To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. This psalm was written by David after he became king of Israel. Verse 50 is the indicating verse for this position. Although he is king, he is still a servant in the eyes of God. As such, he positioned himself as the servant of the LORD. What humility!

If David is already king, why the mentioned of Saul in the preface? David was only made king after Saul died. I believe the mentioned of Saul over here serves as God's greatest deliverance of David from the hand of Saul. The focus was God's deliverance of David. King Saul was the one who made David's life most difficult. David certainly did not deserve such treatment from the king, yet he wanted him dead. If not for the Lord's deliverance, David could have died in the hands of Saul.

The background of this psalm can be found in 2 Samuel 22. This psalm is a psalm of victory which is why David is praising God who delivers. On hindsight, we know David must be delivered and not killed by his enemies. If he is killed by the enemies before he became king, how will the Messiah come? This is God's highest purpose why He must deliver David from all his enemies.

**II. PRAISING GOD**

**Verse 1, "And he said, I will love thee, O LORD, my strength."**

The psalmist begins with his pledge of love for God. The reason was because God has delivered him from all his enemies, and this is therefore the most logical reaction as a child of God to declare to his heavenly Father. He pledged, I will love thee, O LORD. Love is the tender affection of the heart. Such a love is not blind but full of knowledge. David knew the God whom he loves. There are at least 9 descriptions of who the Lord is to him. And each begins with a personal pronoun "my" in verses 1 and 2. It emphasizes on David's personal relationship with God.

**My Strength.** David experienced the strength of the Lord whenever he faced his enemies. The Lord's strength can be seen in how David continued to trust in God in the most hopeless situation. This strength is definitely not physical but spiritual. It strengthens his soul and enables him to keep pressing on and not give up. The Lord as his strength was repeated again in verse 2, though it is a different word in Hebrew.

**Verse 2, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."**

**My Rock.** Rock symbolises stability and steadfastness. David is firmly leaning upon God and that is why David is very stable and remained steadfast all the way to the end. God can be trusted upon and He will never fail.

**My Fortress.** Fortress symbolises security and protection. The reason why David is safe even in the midst of danger is because God is his fortress. He remained secured and protected while the enemies surrounded him. Surely no harm and danger will befall God's people without His permission.

**My Deliverer.** There must be danger which is why the psalmist needs to be delivered from. And it is not money or men who delivered David but God and Him alone. David acknowledged that God is the one who delivered him. There is always a way of escape because God delivered him.

**My God.** The use of God (Elohim) signifies the power of God that is emphasized here. By way of comparison, the use of LORD (Jehovah) signifies the covenantal relationship. The psalmist acknowledged God is all powerful. There is no enemy who can win over Him. What a great assurance that our God is powerful!

**My Strength.** This was repeated from verse 1. Strength is the power from the powerful God. It allows the psalmist to press on, fight on without giving up. No matter how great and powerful the enemy is, a believer who is strengthened by God will be able to go through victoriously.

**My Buckler.** It is a shield. It is a symbol of protection and prevents one from getting hurt easily. Many a time, we could have fallen or be destroyed by our enemy. But God is the One who shields us from all the fiery darts of the evil one.

**Horn of my Salvation.** Horn is an emblem for power. The horn of salvation means a powerful and efficient salvation.

**My High Tower.** It acts more than defense. It is a place where dangers are discovered. One can look far and enable him to be well prepared when danger approaches.

**Verse 3, “I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy to be praised*: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”**

David knew his God and so when danger approaches, it is natural that he will call upon Him. There is no reason for him not to do it. David had a strong and good relationship with God. And this is most needful for every child of God to have in order to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. Many would rather trust in themselves, their own wisdom and power and not the invisible God whom they cannot see. That’s why faith is important. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

The dangers that the David faced were real and destructive. And David is not taking for granted that God must definitely help him. He knew he has to do his part to cry out for His help. This indicates the trust that the psalmist had with God. If there is no trust, why would David cry to God in the first place? In fact, David is building upon past victories that God gave him and by faith and with confidence he knew that God will deliver him out this time from his enemies as well.

### III. CRYING OUT TO GOD

**Verse 4, “The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.”**

The psalmist had a brush with death. It was described as the sorrows of death. The word sorrows gives the idea of a cord that ties closely and in this case here, it ties closely to death. The psalmist almost died in the hands of his enemies, if not for God’s mercies and protection.

The ungodly men here were literally translated from Belial. It means without profit or worthless. These are worthless men. And they came in floods which means that they came rushing and in overwhelming numbers. No wonder the psalmist was afraid. He was truly being intimidated right there and then. He would need to recover from that and look up for the One above is definitely stronger than what he has seen before him.

**Verse 5, “The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.”**

Death and hell can mean the same thing which every man will end up in life. No one can escape from dying. The fear and bondage due to death is also very real. It is frightening when you do not know when death will knock on your door. One by one, we see people around us taken by death, and there is absolutely no one who can stop death from approaching. Doctors may try to prevent death and prolong life. But even doctors themselves do not know for sure if they can save every patient from dying. Death alone can make us frightened already.

Snares are like nets that are thrown over wild beasts to bind them. Death is that to us. Death and us are bound together tightly. There is no way we can loosen it. This is how scary death is.

**Verse 6, “In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.”**

David called upon God when he was in distress. Being in distress literally means being trapped in a tight place. The “called upon” here is the same as in verse 3. It refers to a general crying out with sound. The use of the name, “the LORD” is clearly an appeal to the covenantal relationship that he had with God. David literally shouted out loud in great distress. However this time the name was changed from “the LORD” to “my God”! The word “cry” here is a stronger word than the previous one. The different usage of the word that David used to address God highlights the intensity of his situation.

The personal pronoun “my” added to God makes it even more personal! David was confident that the LORD heard him out of His temple. The “temple” here refers to the holy temple in heaven that was mentioned in Psalm 11:4. This is not the temple of Solomon since it was not built yet. The Lord heard him out of His temple means that he heard David from His throne in heaven. In other words, it means that David’s cry ascended beyond the roof of his palace, pierced through the sky and reached to God! It was not in vain. The tears shed were all seen and remembered by the Lord. This is not a hopeless cry, but a cry full of hope that God will surely deliver him.

(To be continued)