

THE LORD IS MY ROCK (2) – PSALM 18:25-50

INTRODUCTION

1. The eighteenth psalm is the first long psalm in our study of the Psalms.
2. It is attributed to David and it is also found in the book of 2 Samuel right before what are recorded as the last words of David (**2 Sam. 22:1-51**).
3. In our previous lesson, we noted David's praise and love for God's protection, God's deliverance of David, and the reason God delivered him.
4. Let us consider the rest of the psalm and notice some other things that led David to say, "The Lord is my rock!"

DISCUSSION

I. THE LORD IS JUST & FAIR

- A. As the psalm continues David speaks of God's justice and fairness in dealing with humanity (**Ps. 18:25-27**).
 - i. As H.C. Leupold said, "God very appropriately deals with every man as that man deals with him."¹
 - ii. With those that are humble, merciful, blameless, and pure in their conduct towards Him, God will help them and treat them in the same fashion (**Matt. 5:7-8; 1 John 3:2-3**).
 - iii. However, those who respond to Him in arrogance and rebellion will suffer the consequences (**Ps. 81:12; Prov. 3:34; Rom. 1:28**).
 - iv. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (**1 Pet. 5:5**).
- B. Because of David's conduct towards God, he is confident that God will give him "life, vitality, prosperity, health"² and lead him to safety despite any enemies of obstacles (**Ps. 18:28-29; cp. 119:105**).
- C. Though at times it may seem that the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer, David knows that ultimately, God will deal fairly with him and with all mankind.
- D. How comforting it is to realize that when "we go God's way, God protects and prospers us. We are like the flourishing, productive tree of Psalm 1. The wicked are not like this. They are soon swept away."³
- E. God is the only true and righteous judge (**Jas. 4:12**).

II. THE LORD BRINGS VICTORY

- A. After praising God's justice and mercy, the psalmist reflects once more on how God strengthens him and protects him (**Ps. 18:30-32**).

¹ Boice, J. M. (2005). *Psalms 1–41: An Expository Commentary* (p. 155). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

² Bratcher, R. G., & Reyrburn, W. D. (1991). *A translator's handbook on the book of Psalms* (p. 176). New York: United Bible Societies.

³ Boice, J. M. (2005). *Psalms 1–41: An Expository Commentary* (p. 155). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

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- i. God's ways are perfect and He accomplishes what He wills (**Deut. 32:4**).
 - ii. God's word is sure and He always keeps His promises.
 - iii. God is a sure refuge for all who trust in Him.
 - iv. Because of His nature, one can be completely confident in Him.
- B. Unlike his earlier account, in this section the psalmist describes God's deliverance from his perspective (**Ps. 18:33-36**).
 - i. He speaks in physical terms of how God equipped him for battle in his feet, hands, and arms.
 - ii. He speaks of how God strengthened him, gave him a shield of salvation, and made him great.
 - iii. David says God gave him everything he needed to be victorious.
- C. The psalmist praises God, not only for strength, but for complete and total victory over his enemies (**Ps. 18:37-45**).
 - i. Though David was a great king and a military leader he doesn't take credit for his achievements.
 - ii. He makes it clear that God is the one who gave the victory (**cp. Deut. 8:17-20**).
- D. Whatever our need, God can supply it (**Phil. 4:19; Jas. 1:5; John 14:27**).
- E. Whatever our struggle, God can give us the victory.
- F. We need only be like David and turn to Him and trust in Him.

III. THE LORD IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED

- A. Having reflected once more on the deliverance and victory God has given, the psalmist comes back to where he began in praising God (**Ps. 18:46-48**).
 - i. Notice again the emphasis on God being the rock that David has depended on, took refuge in, and stood firm upon (**Ps. 18:2, 31, 46**).
 - ii. God is the one who won David's battles, subdued nations before him, and rescued him from all his enemies and he wants everyone to know.
- B. David ends by praising God for both past and future victories (**Ps. 18:49-50**).
 - i. By inspiration, David was prophetically speaking of Christ (**Rom. 15:8-12**).
 - ii. In Christ, David's descendant, God would bring the greatest victory, the victory over sin and death for all humanity, to both Jew and Gentile.

CONCLUSION

1. This psalm teaches us many wonderful lessons.
2. That God we serve is awesome and worthy to be praised because of His great love, mercy, and faithfulness and strength which He pours out on us in Christ.
3. But this psalm should also cause us to reflect on how God has delivered us from sin in Christ.
4. It should cause us to be thankful and to be stirred to praise Him as David did so long ago, "The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation" (**Ps. 18:46**).