

Walking With The King Session 15: Delivered From My Enemies (Ps. 18)

David sings about the triumphs the Lord gave him over all his enemies.

- A variation of this Psalm appears in 2nd Samuel, near the time of David's death
- It powerfully displays the Lord coming to David's rescue.
- It is warlike, and shows God as a warrior.

1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:

- David is described as a servant and not as a king. There's a good lesson for us there, especially all of us who are in Christian ministry or who aspire to be.

I will love You, O Lord, my strength. 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.

- David's love is a tender love, something you feel powerfully in the inner man.
- A famous description of God as the helper and deliverer!
 - His strength = God is helping him to hold on.
 - His rock = his hiding place, and his fortress.
 - God is his deliverer = the one who enables him to escape.
 - He will **trust** in his God = literally means to flee for protection.
 - He says God is his shield; that's the small shield, called the buckler.
 - The horn was the symbol of strength, because of animals who had horns.
- David had learned that the way to be saved from enemies is to call upon the Lord.

4 The pangs of death surrounded me, and the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

- David compares the times he was chased to floods of water coming after him.
- David he was surrounded by Hell, and death was right in front of his face.
- He gives us another picture of God ruling in his heavenly temple.

7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, because He was angry. 8 Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet. 10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 12 From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire.

- David uses the language of storms to describe God rising up in his wrath.
- God was sometimes portrayed as riding in his throne, supported by cherubs.
- In this type of poetry God often cloaks his glory in darkness. The Hebrew word “glory” also means “weight,” or “weightiness.”

13 The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. 14 He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. 15 Then the channels of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were uncovered at Your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. 16 He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me. 18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. 19 He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

- God sets the whole course of nature against David's foes. Even the waters were swept away so that the seabed could be seen.
- Verse 18 describes God rescuing David from an ambush in a narrow place and removing him into a broad, open space.
- We need to think about the fact that God delivered David because He **delighted** in David. So, a searching question for us... is God delighting in us?

20 The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 22 For all His judgments were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me. 23 I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. 24 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

- This doesn't mean, of course, that David was morally perfect, but that David set about ordering his life in accordance with God's commands.
- We have a choice: the Word is in front of us, but we can push His statutes away.
- He kept the ways of the Lord. He also kept himself from his iniquity, which most likely means those particular sins to which he knew he was subject.

25 With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 26 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 27 For You will save the humble people, but

will bring down haughty looks. 28 For You will light my lamp; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. 29 For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall.

- David now tells how God deals with men in general. God will bring down pride.
- And then, in verse 29, we see that God has strengthened David for battle.

30 As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. 31 For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? 32 It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.

- God's way is perfect, and He makes our way perfect as well!

33 He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. 34 He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. 36 You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip. 37 I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. 38 I have wounded them, so that they could not rise; they have fallen under my feet. 39 For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

- But despite all the warlike language, David can still say that it was the gentleness of God that had made him great.

40 You have also given me the necks of my enemies, so that I destroyed those who hated me. 41 They cried out, but there was none to save; even to the Lord, but He did not answer them. 42 Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets. 43 You have delivered me from the strivings of the people;

You have made me the head of the nations; a people I have not known shall serve me. 44 As soon as they hear of me they obey me; the foreigners submit to me. 45 The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts.

- Complete and total victory over those who rose up against him. David had rest from his enemies, and his fame spread to the point where potential enemies came and gave him obedience without a fight.
- The last several verses of this part, I think, are actually prophetic of Jesus Christ. He will be the Head of the Nations, and the people will submit to Him.

46 The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. 47 It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; 48 He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. 49 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name. 50 Great deliverance He gives to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore.

- Probably another prophetic reference to God subduing the Gentile nations under Jesus Christ when He returns to set up His Kingdom.
- The salvation of the Lord will continue to bless not only him, but will extend down to his generations for evermore.

David said, *“I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; that’s’ how I will be saved from my enemies.”* And as **you** call upon the Lord, He **will** deliver you, just like He delivered David.
