

PSALM 18

Intro: The historical setting for this Psalm is 2 Sam. 22. Psalm 18 repeats 2 Sam. 22 with minor variations.

Verses 1-3 God is everything to David and, therefore, worthy of praise.

- A. Rock - see Is. 26:4 - without change; immovable.
- B. Horn - Has the strength and power to save. See Lk. 1:69.

Verses 4-6 David's circumstances and need.

- A. Sheol can refer to (1) the resting place for a person's remains; (2) the realm of the dead, both righteous and the unrighteous. Consider our term, "the hereafter"; (3) hell.
- B. "Cords of death" - referring to those things that were bringing his earthly existence to an end.
- C. "From his temple he heard..." - At the time of David the "Temple" refers to The Tabernacle; God's dwelling place on earth. Consider Jn. 1:14 ("dwelt" - *eskanosen* - *tabernacled*), then Jn 2:18-21, then Eph. 2:19-22).

Verses 7-12 The LORD enters David's situation.

- A. Reminds us Ex. 19:16-20; Dt. 4:11.
- B. "bowed the heavens" - made an opening and entered into David's situations.
- C. "rode on a cherub" - not literally but pictured as riding a cherub. Gets our attention, doesn't it?

Verses 13-15 The LORD makes His attack.

- A. "Channels of the sea" - the foundations.
- B. Ex. 14:21-31.

Verses 16-19 The LORD rescues.

Verses 20-24 Rewarded David according to his righteousness.

- A. This is not self-righteousness (sinlessness); that he is deserving of God's love and forgiveness. This is crying out as God's child regarding those who are oppressing and working to destroy the child.
- B. Remember Ps. 51:1-5; Rom. 7:18-8:1; 3:21-22a; Gal. 3:10-11.

Verses 25-30 Protects the humble. Phil. 4:13.

- Verses 31-42 Earthly destruction of God's enemies might cause the sentimental to cry the cry of, "If God is love then why would he do such a thing?"
- A. So, here we go: "If man is so lovable and Godly then why does man do the things he does?"
 - B. Catastrophes are truly foreshadows, pictures, and reminders of God's impending and final judgement!
 - C. After all, have you taken note of how God is really viewed by this world; this world's wars, atrocities? It's despising of morality, decency, love and protection of life? Have you examined any supposed reverence and respect this world lifts up to God?

Verses 43-45 The LORD causes submission and repentance.

Verses 46-50 God gets all the glory! Remember Ps. 139.