

## Psalm 18

# Praise to Yahweh for Deliverance from Enemies

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For the choir director. A *Psalm* of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his **enemies**<sup>1</sup> and from the hand of Saul. And he said,

### A1 DAVID'S CRY FOR HELP 18:1-6

#### B1 His Preview of His Deliverance 18:1-3

- C1 His Love for Yahweh: {1} "I love You, O LORD, my strength."
- C2 His Affirmation of Yahweh as His Sole Support
  - D1 {2} The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
  - D2 My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
  - D3 My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- C3 His Successful Call upon Yahweh for Deliverance: {3} I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my **enemies**.

#### B2 His Distress and Cry for Help 18:4-6

- C1 His Distress 18:4-5
  - D1 {4} The cords of death encompassed me, And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.
  - D2 {5} The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.
- C2 His Cry for Help 18:6
  - D1 His cry: {6} In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried to my God for help;
  - D2 Yahweh's hearing: He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.

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<sup>1</sup> Superscription: enemies -Emphasis on the word *enemies* here and throughout the psalm is mine, illustrating thematic development.

## A2 THE RESPONSE OF YAHWEH 18:7-27

### B1 The Enormity of God's Response 18:7-19

#### C1 His Cosmic Action! 18:7-15

- D1 His seismic jolts! {7} Then the earth shook and quaked; And the foundations of the mountains were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry.
- D2 His devouring fire! {8} Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it.
- D3 His descent among storm clouds! {9} He bowed the heavens also, and came down With thick darkness under His feet.
- D4 His supersonic flight! {10} He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He sped upon the wings of the wind.
- D5 His concealment among dark storm clouds: {11} He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.
- D6 His glory evoking hail-storm and lightning: {12} From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, Hailstones and coals of fire.
- D7 His speaking through thunder, hail-storm and lightning: {13} The LORD also thundered in the heavens, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.
- D8 His lightning scattering David's foes: {14} He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.
- D9 His torrential rain flooding and hurricane-force gale rending the earth: {15} Then the channels of water appeared, And the foundations of the world were laid bare At Your rebuke, O LORD, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

#### C2 His Deliverance of David from His Strong Enemy 18:16-19

- D1 His rescue of David from drowning under a sea of enemy attack: {16} He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.
- D2 His deliverance of David from his hateful, too-powerful enemy: {17} He delivered me from my strong **enemy**, And from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

D3 Yahweh's timely protection of David: {18} They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my stay.

D4 His deliverance of David into a safe haven because of His delight in him: {19} He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

**B2 Yahweh's Response to David Conditioned on His Personal Integrity 18:20-24**

C1 Yahweh's Reward of David's Righteousness: {20} The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

C2 David's Listing of His Righteous Deeds 18:21-23

D1 He has kept Yahweh's ways: {21} For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.

D2 He has observed Yahweh's ordinances and statutes: {22} For all His ordinances were before me, And I did not put away His statutes from me.

D3 He has blameless kept himself from iniquity: {23} I was also blameless with Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

C3 Yahweh's Consequent Reward of David's Righteousness: {24} Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.

**B3 David's Generalization of How God Responds to Different Kinds of People 18:25-27**

C1 To the Kind: {25} With the kind You show Yourself kind;

C2 To the blameless: With the blameless You show Yourself blameless;

C3 To the Pure: {26} With the pure You show Yourself pure,

C4 To the Crooked: And with the crooked You show Yourself astute.

C5 To the Afflicted: {27} For You save an afflicted people,

C6 To the Arrogant: But haughty eyes You abase.

**A3 DAVID'S DETAILING OF THE GREATNESS OF YAHWEH, WHO HAS EMPOWERED HIM FOR VICTORY OVER HIS ENEMIES 18:28-45**

- B1 David's Extolling of the Virtues of Yahweh His God, Who Has Empowered Him for Battle 18:28-36
  - C1 Yahweh's Provision of Perspective and Skill 18:28-29
    - D1 Yahweh's illumination: {28} For You light my lamp; The LORD my God illumines my darkness.
    - D2 Yahweh's provision of prowess: {29} For by You I can run upon a troop; And by my God I can leap over a wall.
  - C2 David's Characterization of God 18:30-31
    - D1 His faultlessness: {30} As for God, His way is blameless;
    - D2 His reliable Word: The word of the LORD is tried;
    - D3 His protection of those who seek it: He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.
    - D4 His incomparable stability: {31} For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,
  - C3 Yahweh's Equipping of David to Fight His Battles 18:32-36
    - D1 Strengthening him: {32} The God who girds me with strength
    - D2 Preserving him from moral defect: And makes my way blameless?
    - D3 Providing him mobility and speed in battle: {33} He makes my feet like hinds' *feet*, And sets me upon my high places.
    - D4 Providing Him skill in combat: {34} He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
    - D5 Protecting him: {35} You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.
    - D6 Preventing him from making mistakes: {36} You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped.

## **B2 David's Great Victory over His Enemies, Empowered by Yahweh 18:37-45**

- C1 His Successful Pursuit 18:37-38
  - D1 Pursuit: {37} I pursued my **enemies** and overtook them, And I did not turn back until they were consumed.
  - D2 Annihilation: {38} I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet.
- C2 The Reason for His Success -- Divine Enablement 18:39-41
  - D1 God's empowerment of David: {39} For You have girded me with strength for battle;
  - D2 God's subduing of his enemies: You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.
  - D3 God's causing his enemies to flee before him 18:40-41
    - E1 Their flight: {40} You have also made my **enemies** turn their backs to me,
    - E2 Their destruction: And I destroyed those who hated me.
    - E3 His enemies' unsuccessful cry to Yahweh for help! {41} They cried for help, but there was none to save, *Even* to the LORD, but He did not answer them.
- C3 The Totality of His Success: {42} Then I beat them fine as the dust before the wind; I emptied them out as the mire of the streets.
- C4 His Marveling at the Success God Has Given Him 18:43-45
  - D1 Delivering him from strife: {43} You have delivered me from the contentions of the people;
  - D2 Making him head of nations unknown to him: You have placed me as head of the nations; A people whom I have not known serve me.
  - D3 Causing foreign nations to submit to him 18:44-45
    - E1 Their submission: {44} As soon as they hear, they obey me; Foreigners submit to me.
    - E2 Their surrender: {45} Foreigners fade away, And come trembling out of their fortresses.

**A4 DAVID'S CONCLUDING PRAISE TO GOD FOR DELIVERING HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES 18:46-50**

**B1 David's Acknowledgment of Yahweh as the Stable Source of His Salvation:** {46} The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation, **18:46-48**

C1 For God's Vengeance and Subjugation: {47} The God who executes vengeance for me, And subdues peoples under me.

C2 For God's Deliverance of David from His Enemies: {48} He delivers me from my **enemies**; Surely You lift me above those who rise up against me; You rescue me from the violent man.

**B2 David's Vow of Praise among the Nations:** {49} Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O LORD, And I will sing praises to Your name. **18:49-50**

C1 For Yahweh's deliverance of His king: {50} He gives great deliverance to His king,

C2 For Yahweh's eternal loyal love to his anointed, David and his descendants: And shows lovingkindness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 18  
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November, 2009

Published Online by [WordExplain.com](http://WordExplain.com)  
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