

Psalm 18: Equipping the End-Time “David Generation”

I. INTRODUCTION

19... He delivered me because He delighted in me. (Ps 18:19)

35... Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. (Ps 18:35)

- A. Three primary applications of Psalm 18—to David, the end-time Church, and to Jesus at His return. We will focus mostly on what David experienced to inspire us to respond like David did. This psalm gives significant insights for the end-time “***David Generation***”—when the Spirit raises up leaders with a heart like David (Jer. 3:15). David is a model for the end-time Church (Isa.55:3-5).
- B. ***5 seasons of the life of David:*** Bethlehem, Gibeah, Adullam, Hebron, Jerusalem.

II. THE SEASON OF COMPROMISE AND DELIVERANCE

- A. ***Ziklag:*** The context of the deliverance is seen in 1 Samuel 21-26. During the last 16 months of the “Addullam season” there is a season of compromise when David flees to Ziklag. 1 Samuel 21-26 reports several of David’s compromises before his crisis in Ziklag (1 Sam. 30:1-6). *David disobeyed God’s command to stay in Judah (22:5) by fleeing to Ziklag.*

1 David said in his heart, “Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines...” (1 Sam. 27:1)

8 Then David said to Achish, “If I have found favor in our eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?” 6 So Achish gave him Ziklag that day...7 Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months. (1 Sam 27:8-7)

- B. ***1 Sam 29:*** As the Philistines gather at Aphek to fight Israel, *David and his men march with Achish king of Gath.* The other Philistine commanders do not trust David, fearing he might turn against them in battle to regain favor with Saul. Although Achish defends David’s loyalty, the Philistine lords insist David be sent back. Achish reluctantly orders David to leave early the next morning, and David returns to Ziklag, keeping him out of the battle where Saul will die.
- C. ***1 Sam 30:*** David returns to Ziklag to find it burned and his *people’s families taken captive* by the Amalekites. While his men consider stoning him, ***David strengthens himself in the LORD*** (vs 6) and seeks God’s guidance. ***The LORD directs him to pursue*** the Amalekites. David attacks from twilight into the next day, defeating the Amalekites and recovering everything and everyone.

- D. ***1 Sam 31:*** Israel is defeated by the Philistines at Mount Gilboa. Saul is critically wounded by archers and his sons including Jonathan are killed. Fearing abuse by the Philistines, Saul asks his armor-bearer to kill him; when he refuses, Saul falls on his own sword.
- E. *1 Samuel 30* and *Samuel 31* happen on the same day or very close to the same day. The title of Psalm 18 informs us that David wrote this on the day that God delivered him from Saul.
- F. Last week we looked at Davids response and leadership to Saul’s death. He wrote a song called “*The Song of the Bow*” (*2 Sam 1:19-27*). In *Psalm 18*, we see another song of David regarding the same events but with additional perspective.
- G. David spares Saul life in 1 Sam 24 and refuses to take matters into his own hands. 1 Sam 24 we see Davids response to Saul’s pursuit to kill him. David refuses to lift his hand against Saul.

12 Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you. 13 As the proverb of the ancients says, “Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.” But my hand shall not be against you... 15 Therefore let the Lord be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand. (1 Sam 24:12-15)

- H. According to 1 Chronicles 10:14, God killed Saul.

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. 14 But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. (1 Chronicles 10:13)

- I. Psalm 18 is important to the Church in this hour:
1. *To understand what David experienced with God (18:1-3) to inspire us to see and experience the Lord in a similar way in the face of trouble.*
 2. *To see how God wants us to respond as revealed to David (18:25-27).*

III. DAVID TESTIFIES WHY HE LOVES GOD - 7 FACETS OF GOD’S LEADERSHIP

- A. In Psalm 18:1-2, David experienced 7 facets of the LORD’s loving leadership. David was empowered to love God by experiencing God’s loving leadership over his life in 7 ways.

1I will love You, O LORD, my strength. 2The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer...my shield... my salvation, my stronghold...(Ps. 18:1-2)

- B.** *I will love you:* This is the only time in the Bible where someone directly says, “I love you, God.” As David testified about what he experienced with God, he kept slipping back to talking directly to God (18:1, 15, 25-29, 35-40, 43, 49).
- C.** *O LORD:* He is the LORD, or the majestic God. David’s love for God grew as he saw how much he was loved by his majestic God. David valued seeing both God’s majesty and His affection.
- D.** *#1 The Lord is my strength* (18:1, 2, 32, 39): David was empowered not to quit when in pain and pressure. When under great pain and pressure, the most common compelling temptation in human experience is to draw back in our pursuit to walk in “the fullness” of God’s purpose in our life. This is very different from totally giving up on our relationship with God. When we are in pain and under great pressure, our natural main focus is to seek relief from the pain.
1. Here, on the first day after he experienced God’s favor after Ziklag burned (1 Sam. 30), David looked back retrospectively, knowing the Lord had “kept him” by sustaining him to reach to go deep in God. The Lord gives us grace to renew our vision for this regularly.
9...for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace... (Heb. 13:9; NAS)
 2. Jesus spoke of “keeping” His disciples throughout His earthly ministry (Jn. 17:12). He kept them from quitting even after they stumbled (Mt. 26:31; Lk. 22:32; 24:36-45).
12“...I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept...” (Jn. 17:12)
31...“Simon...Satan [will]...sift you as wheat. 32But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” (Lk. 22:31-32)
- E.** *#2 The Lord is my rock* (18:2, 31, 46): We have a solid rock to stand on. It is the only reliable foundation of truth. Thus, we can know the right narrative of our life and determine what truth is.
- F.** *#3 The Lord is my fortress* (18:2): Jesus is our safe resting place—even our home (Jn. 14:23). The walls of a fortress make it possible for people inside to rest and to put their guard down even being at home. It is a place they can relax, eat, sleep, feel secure, and even enjoy elements of family life. Our place of true rest is found in our conversations with the Lord.
- G.** *#4 The Lord is my deliverer* (18:2, 43, 48, 50): There are a few days in our life when we experience a major deliverance. That’s when God delivers us from the primary people or pressures that cause us much trouble. Such days result in significant changes in our life. (David was delivered from Saul that day). God delivers us from personal struggles, addictions, financial pressure, legal troubles, etc.

- H. **#5 The Lord is my shield** (18:2, 30, 35): We use a shield against specific attacks. Even after we are delivered from our primary troubles, demonic powers attack us with “fiery arrows” (Eph. 6:16). We are now in the position with authority in Christ to use the shield of faith to quench specific attacks. After Saul died, David still had to face residual attacks from people in Saul’s governmental structure who resisted and accused him. Even after a deliverance, there are residual attacks against our mind, emotions, body, finances, relationships, ministry etc. We can resist each demonic arrow.

16...the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. (Eph. 6:16)

- I. **#6 The Lord is my salvation** (18:2, 35, 46): God will give us grace to *walk out* our vision to press in for “the fullness” of His salvation in multiple areas in our life—especially to go deep in God. At the end of Paul’s life, he continued to *press* for *the prize* of walking in the fullness of all that God ordained for him (Phil. 3:14). God desires to complete the work that He began in us (Phil. 1:6).

12I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ...laid hold of me [fullness of destiny]...14I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God... (Phil. 3:12-14)

6...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus... (Phil. 1:6)

- J. **#7 The Lord is my stronghold (high tower)** (18:2): In a high tower one could see things that were far away. As “my high tower,” the Lord empowers us to see His “big picture” plans for our life that are rooted in His “billion-year plan” for our life. When we are anchored in the paradigm of eternity, we see things from a very different view. Our spiritual life is strongest as we cultivate an eternal perspective (2 Cor. 4:17-18). The enemy cannot overwhelm our heart when we are anchored in transcendence. Men can put us in prison and even kill us, but if we are anchored in the truth of eternity and transcendence, then our heart can be strong, at peace with hope.

17Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...which are...eternal. (2 Cor. 4:17-18)

1. A high tower symbolizes a place one can gain a much clearer perspective.
2. Some translate “stronghold” in 18:2 as “high tower” (American Standard, English Revised; International Standard Version; JPS Tanakh 1917; Literal Standard Version; Webster’s Bible Translation; World English Bible; Young’s Literal Translation; New Heart English Bible)