

Psalm 18: Equipping the End-Time “David Generation” (part 3)

I. INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

***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.** Psalm 18 is important to the Church in this hour: *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 To see how God wants us to respond as revealed to David (18:25-27).*
- C.** David testifies why he loves God declaring seven faces of God’s leadership:
#1 The Lord is my strength (18:1, 2, 32, 39): David was empowered not to quit when in pain.
#2 The Lord is my rock (18:2, 31, 46): We have a solid rock to stand on.
#3 The Lord is my fortress (18:2): Jesus is our safe resting place.
#4 The Lord is my deliverer (18:2, 43, 48, 50): We experience a major deliverance when God delivers us from the primary people or pressures that cause us much trouble.
#5 The Lord is my shield (18:2, 30, 35): We use a shield against demonic attacks. (Eph. 6:16).
#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.
#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.

II. FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS (PS. 18:25-26)

***25With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; with a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 26with the pure You will show Yourself pure; and with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.* (Ps. 18:25-26)**

- A.** David highlighted 4 spiritual laws in the kingdom (18:25-26). *Each are in context to how we treat people.* God treats us in ways similar to how we treat others.

- B. ***With the merciful (18:25)***: We must give mercy to others in our attitude, words, and deeds. God often treats a person in the way that they treat others (Lk. 6:38). Showing mercy implies and requires that we see more about who God is and how He sees us and others in His eternal plan.
- 36Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful... 37Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38Give [mercy], and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Lk. 6:36-38)*
- C. ***With a blameless man (18:25)***: In 18:25, David defined what being blameless in this context means. David refused to pay back those who mistreated and betrayed him. He refused to manipulate or scheme in pursuing a position of power or privilege or to gain advantages over others. The Lord promises to lead such a person in ways to help them enter in the fullness of His will for their lives.
- D. ***With the pure man (18:26)***: The pure are those who respond to others with pure motives that seek their best interests as Jesus defined it (Mt. 5:44-48).
- E. ***With the devious (18:26)***: The Lord will show Himself shrewd. He will allow devious people to get ensnared and trapped by their own doings—the hurtful things they did and said about others. God will allow them to draw false conclusions about what they are doing without showing them the harm it will result in. He allows this even with some of His children to wake them up spiritually.
- F. The word translated “shrewd” (sometimes “astute” or “cunning”) does not mean sinful deceit. It means God deals wisely and skillfully with the crooked. God responds to people in ways consistent with *their* character. This does not mean God changes morally. Rather, His unchanging holiness is experienced differently depending on the heart of the person encountering Him.

III. THE FATE OF THE DEVIOUS MAN

- A. God outmaneuvers the deceitful. He turns the schemes of the wicked back on themselves.

12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot carry out their plans. 13 He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them. (Job 5:12-13)

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness” (1 Cor 3:19)

- B. In the book of Esther we read of a devious man named **Haman** and how he meets his end.
1. **Queen Vashti Removed (Chapters 1–2):** King Ahasuerus removes Queen Vashti after she refuses to appear at his banquet. A search for a new queen leads to Esther, a young Jewish woman raised by her cousin Mordecai. Esther becomes queen
 2. **Mordecai’s Loyalty (Chapter 2):** Mordecai uncovers a plot to assassinate the king and reports it through Esther. His loyalty is recorded in the royal chronicles but goes unrewarded at the time.
 3. **Haman’s Rise and Hatred (Chapter 3):** Haman, a high-ranking official, becomes enraged when Mordecai refuses to bow to him. In retaliation, Haman persuades the king to issue a decree ordering the destruction of all Jews in the empire.
 4. **Esther’s Courage (Chapters 4–5):** Mordecai challenges Esther to intervene, famously saying she may have come to the kingdom “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). After fasting, Esther risks her life by approaching the king without invitation. She invites the king and Haman to a banquet. End of chapter 5, the night before the banquet Haman decides to build 50 cubit gallows to hang Mordecai. He plans to suggest to the king, at the banquet, that Mordecai be hanged.
 5. **The Great Reversal (Chapters 6–7):** On a sleepless night, the king reads the royal records and discovers Mordecai had saved his life. Mordecai is honored publicly—the very honor Haman had hoped for himself. At Esther’s banquet, she reveals Haman’s plot. The king orders Haman executed on the gallows he built for Mordecai.
 6. **Deliverance and Celebration (Chapters 8–10):** Although Persian law cannot be revoked, a new decree allows the Jews to defend themselves. They are victorious over their enemies. The Jewish festival of Purim is established to commemorate their deliverance. Mordecai is promoted to a high position in the empire.
- C. Esther was already set in position before the crisis with Haman ever began. Mordecai already displayed His loyalty and His service was recorded (though not acknowledged) before the crises with Haman. In a moment, the lord keeps awake a king and he reads the book of the records and all things change.
- D. In 2 Samuel chapters 13-18 we find the story of **Absalom**. We see his offense and bitterness lead him to rebellion as he engages in a devious attempt to overthrow David.
1. **Amnon and Tamar: (2 Samuel 13)** King David’s son Amnon wanted his half-sister Tamar. He pretended to be sick so Tamar would come take care of him. When she came, Amnon forced her and then rejected her afterward. Tamar was devastated and went to live

with her brother Absalom. When David heard what happened, he was very angry and Absalom quietly waited for the right moment to take revenge. Absalom eventually had Amnon killed to avenge Tamar. After he has Amnon killed he ran away to another land for three years (13:38).

2. **Absalom returns to Jerusalem: (2 Samuel 14).** David missed Absalom but did not bring him back right away. David’s commander Joab arranged for a woman to tell David a story that helped convince him to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem. Even after returning, Absalom was not allowed to see David for two more years (14:28). Finally, Joab helped them meet again, and David welcomed Absalom back.
3. **Absalom’s Rebellion Begins: (2 Samuel 15)** The conspiracy was Absalom’s secret plan to overthrow his father, King David, and take the throne of Israel. It wasn’t just one action. It was a carefully planned rebellion that Absalom built over several years. In chapter 15 we read how Absalom slowly built support:
 - a. Winning people’s favor (2 Sam 15:1–6) Absalom stood at the city gate where people came for legal help. He told them their problems were valid but that no one from the king was helping them. Then he would say: “Oh that I were judge in the land...” (v.4) This made people think he would be a better leader than David.
 - b. Stealing the hearts of the people Verse 6 says: “So Absalom *stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*” He gained their loyalty little by little.
 - c. Using a religious excuse Absalom asked David for permission to go to Hebron to fulfill a vow to God (v.7–9). But this was really a cover for starting the rebellion.
 - d. Secret messengers Absalom sent messengers through Israel saying: “When you hear the sound of the trumpet, say, ‘Absalom is king in Hebron!’” (v.10)
 - e. Recruiting important leaders He invited Ahithophel, one of David’s most trusted counselors, to join him (v.12). Having a respected advisor made the rebellion stronger.
 - f. ***Vs 12 And the conspiracy grew:*** It’s called a conspiracy because it was a secretly organized plan to overthrow the rightful king and built through hidden alliances and deception. Absalom pretended to honor God and respect David, but he was quietly gathering power for a coup.
4. **David is Insulted but Spared: (2 Samuel 16)** While David was leaving Jerusalem, a man named Shimei cursed David and threw stones at him. David’s soldiers wanted to kill Shimei, but David stopped them. He believed God might have allowed the insults.

5. **God Protects David: (2 Samuel 17)** Ahithophel advised Absalom to attack David quickly. If Absalom had done this, David might have been defeated. But another advisor, Hushai, secretly loyal to David, gave different advice. He suggested waiting and gathering a large army first. Absalom chose Hushai’s plan instead. This delay allowed David time to escape and prepare. The Bible says this happened because the LORD planned to defeat Absalom’s rebellion (vs 14). When Ahithophel saw his advice was ignored, he went home and ended his life.
6. **Absalom Dies: (2 Samuel 18)** David’s army and Absalom’s army finally fought in the forest of Ephraim. David told his soldiers to be gentle with Absalom. During the battle, Absalom’s mule ran under a tree, and his hair got caught in the branches, leaving him hanging there. Joab found him and killed him, even though David had asked that Absalom be spared.

E. Absalom was not a hero but was a vigilante. Absalom story is a cautionary tale of taking “justice” into your own hands. Absalom undoubtedly felt very justified in all of his actions he took rebelling against King David. Fueled by bitterness and self-righteousness, Absalom engages in the devious actions of a rebellions son. The devious Absalom encounters the Lord as shrewd and he literally was ensnared and trapped by the thing in which he boasted. *When Absalom rebelled against his father David, the very thing associated with his glory became the means of his humiliation. His hair was caught in a tree while his mule ran away, leaving him hanging helplessly.*

25 Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. 26 And when he cut the hair of his head - at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him - when he cut it, he weighed the hair of this head at two hundred shekels according to the kings’s standard. (2 Sam 14:25-26)

9 Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on...(2 Sam 18:21)

IV. OUR RESPONSE TO THESE 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS

A. *Extend mercy.* Our ultimate greatness is found in being deeply committed to showing gentleness (Ps 18:35) even to those who betray us in the most painful ways.

44“...bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you...45that you may be sons of your Father...for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good... (Mt. 5:44-45)

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

13But go and learn what this means: “I desire mercy...” (Mt. 9:13)

18Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...because He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)

- B. *Be blameless* in your dealings with accusers and oppressors by not pursuing revenge.
- C. *Be pure* and honest in your motives and dealing with people.

8Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God... (Mt 5:8)

48bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you...48You shall be perfect, just as your Father...is perfect. (Mt. 5:44-48)

- D. *Don't be devious.*

12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot carry out their plans. 13 He catches the wise in their own craftiness, and the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them. (Job 5:12-13)

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness” (1 Cor 3:19)

V. WHEN DEALING WITH DEVIUS PEOPLE

- A. Pursue mercy, appeal to the Lords divine intervention and help. Having confidence the Lord will decide at the perfect time and perfect measure.

12Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you...15Let the LORD...plead my case, and deliver me... (1 Sam. 24:12-15)

- B. Be confident the Lord will handle the situation and don't take matters into your own hands. Sometimes we take matters into our own hands because of lack of belief. We do not believe God actually will act. We think He needs help and hide are unbelief under the guise of being His instrument of intervention and justice.
- C. The Lord will intervene if we give him time. The Lord will not allow the wicked schemes of the powers, principalities and rulers of the darkness to prevail.