

The Large Place; Psalms Chapter 018 Verses 04-28

Ps 18:4 "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. 8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. 10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 12 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. 14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. 15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils. 16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. 18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay."

David tells us that there was a time when Saul and his followers were so close to capturing him and putting him to death, that he was as one who was completely surrounded and no place of escape to be seen. He declares "**the snares of death prevented me.**" Prevented, as used here, means to hasten to meet. This gives us the declaration that David did not see any way of deliverance from Saul and his followers: yet, in this deep distress; David cried out to God for deliverance, and God not only heard his prayer, but he answered it.

What do we most often do as children of God? When things are going good, we don't utilize the time we should spend with God, with his word, and even less time in prayer. However, when we get ourselves between a rock and a hard place, Oh! how we can pray for deliverance. This ought not to be so in our lives. Much time spent in prayer will save us from many distresses that we bring upon ourselves, and carry us through the tribulations that God has said we would have.

King David brings to mind the picture of many of the deliverances of God's people, and how they happened. David declares that Saul and his people were as a flood of waters coming to drown a trapped man, and God reached down from heaven and drew me out of these many waters, even going back to the flood upon the earth, and the deliverance of those eight souls who found grace in the eyes of God, and likening his deliverance unto theirs.

In nature, I doubt that many of us have ever seen such terrible circumstances as King David faced naturally, but if we have, we can look back and see that the hand of God drew us out of many waters. Look, at the scene David has painted, and then think upon your natural and spiritual circumstances in life. There was a time when we were in the same circumstances as David. When we were given the new birth, and the scales were removed from our eyes, we began to see these circumstances in a real way. As the multitude of our sins, and the depravity of our inherited sin nature were revealed unto us, we began to see eternal death, in the eternal lake of fire, staring us in the face. However, with this new birth: God had already reached down his hand, drawn us out of the flood of the waters of eternal death, and given us eternal life. With the new life came eyes that could look back and see that God's hand had indeed reached down and lifted us out of the flood of waters of eternal death. We see and understand that our ark of deliverance is the finished work of Jesus Christ, who gave himself freely to deliver us eternally.

With this great deliverance by the hand of God, we can now with David say, sing, praise, and worship God, as expressed in **Ps 18:1 I will love thee, 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 buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.**" How are we to be saved according to David? By Calling upon the Lord, and believing and trusting fully in the promises of God and in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

19 "He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. 20 ¶ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he 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 upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity. 24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight."

David says that God brought me forth into a large place. Where is this large place? For David it was to be set upon the throne as king of all Israel, at peace with all the surrounding nations. David says that God delighted in him. Delight means to desire or have favor towards. David makes declaration of his righteousness, his uprightness, and his cleanness, because David knew he was innocent of all the charges, which Saul and his people brought against him. David declares that God showed him mercy and delivered him because of his innocence. David also knows that this is because God has indwelt him with the Holy Spirit of God, when he was anointed as king over all Israel by Samuel, and the Spirit of God never left him, as prophesied.

What does this have to do with us today? When you were born again, by the Holy Spirit power of God, you were brought forth to a large place. What do you mean? Can you envision anything that is larger than a place in God's love? Do you know of any place that is larger than God's mercy? Do you know of any place that is larger than God's grace? Do you know of any place that is larger than the eternal remission of your sins? Do you know of any place that is larger than the freedom of the bounds of the gospel of Jesus Christ? In the new birth, God has, as with King David: indwelt us with the Holy Spirit presence, which will never depart from us. God has brought us forth to a large place, which is the New Testament church on earth. Also, there is the prophetic picture of the eternal place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. When the dead in Christ rise, we will be brought forth, to the largest place of perfection.

Do you understand why we were given the new birth? It was because God delighted in us. God desires us to be with him in eternity, and has had favor toward us, by sending Jesus Christ to save us eternally. Because of the eternal remission of sins granted to us through Jesus Christ, God looks upon us, sees our innocence in the shed blood of Christ, and reveals to us that we are clean in his sight.

Thus, we like David can say and desire as David did: I will keep the ways of my God. I will not wickedly turn away from following our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ. I will hold dear to my heart, and mind, the cross of self-denial, and lean upon the everlasting arms of the salvation of my God. I will, through the indwelling Holy Spirit power, keep my focus upon my God and his Word of truth, the King James bible. Why would we declare this? Because we have not yet left this world of sin and sorrow, and recognize that Satan, our accuser, and his minions, are still round about us as a flood of waters, and we need the continual deliverance of God in our lives to live as faithful subjects to our Sovereign, our King and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

25 "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright; 26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward. 27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks. 28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness."

David declares that God is merciful to those who are merciful; God is upright to those who are upright; God is pure to those who are pure. God declares that those who hate God, God will damn to the judgment of eternal destruction in the eternal lake of fire. David says that God will save the afflicted people and bring down high looks. David says that God is the lighted candle in his life; and God has driven away the darkness before him, in the path of the righteousness of the Lord. Jesus Christ has declared unto us these same things.

We can all witness these same things in our lives after the new birth? Surely, God has lighted a candle in our hearts, and minds, which burns brightly in Jesus Christ, the light of the world, which delivers us out of the darkness of unbelief, and shines upon the way of salvation by the grace of God set forth before us.

We praise God the Father, that He has sent God the Son, to usher in the age of Salvation by the Grace of God. We praise God that the Holy Spirit was sent to enlighten our eyes with revelation, of the prophesy of the Old Testament, of God's plan of salvation by grace, and the New Testament revelation that it came to pass, or will come to pass. As the songster wrote: We praise Thee O God! For the Son of Thy love, For Jesus who died, and is now gone above, Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen; Hallelujah! Thine the glory, revive us again.