

Psalms 018 Commentary

Ps 18:1 <<"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,>> 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."

We find in **2Sa 7:1 ¶ "And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; 2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains."** Thus, when David had rest from all his enemies; he desired to build a temple for the Lord. David is telling Nathan that my house is better than the house of the tabernacle, and I desire to make a house for God that is better than my own.

Shouldn't this be the desire of every Child of God, after their new birth? Understand that with the new birth and the assurance of our eternal life and eternal salvation; we have been given eternal rest from all our enemies. Wherefore, we should desire to live lives that reflect the new nature of Christ in us, which far outshines the lives of our old nature. This is a picture of each child of God building a temple for the Lord.

Why would we want to do this? Because of the love we now have for God and Christ. Because now we know who our deliverer is. We know who our buckler is. We know who our horn of salvation is. We know who our high tower is. We now call upon the Lord and praise his almighty name, for God alone can continue to deliver us from all our enemies.

What is a fortress? A fortress is a place where people can gather and be protected from their enemies. It is usually constructed of thick walls of stone that cannot easily be broken down. It is a place that is stocked with food and has a ready source of water within it. A place that is easily defensible and well protected. The fortress would have watch towers, which were high enough to see over the walls, and allow the watchers to detect if an enemy was coming to attack.

Now, apply those thoughts to your life as a Christian and see the church of Jesus Christ in this age of salvation by grace. Christ Jesus gave his life on the cross to provide the fortress, the thick walls of defense, for every child of God. What do you mean? Is there any force that can break down the walls of our eternal security provided by Jesus? There are none, as we are told in **Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** Jesus Christ is our rock upon whom the fortress of the Church of Salvation by Grace is builded.

Should our foes come against us, and they surely will, we have the written word of God as a defense against them. Remember that Jesus used the rightly divided word of God when Satan tempted him, setting the example for us to follow. Of course, this means that you must seek refuge in the church and you must be read and be studied in the word of God to be able to have a ready sword of defense. You must know the Word of God to be enabled to put on the whole armour of God.

This is why we have organized bodies of believers called individual church bodies. A place to gather away from our enemies and give thanks and praise to our God and King. Why would we seek refuge in the organized church on earth? Because that is where the bread and water of life is found, which is Jesus Christ.

Well, what about the watch towers? The watch towers are the ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who are preaching the whole truth of God from the king James bible. They are constantly warning the people to be aware of the wiles of Satan, which they must face in everyday living. They are teaching the children of God the whole truth of the whole bible, not just those things that sound sweet and are good to the taste. Even in nature, if our diet has to much sweetness, we will develop a disease called diabetes, which will eventually kill us. As it was necessary that the Israelites ate the passover supper with bitter herbs: the same is true in the life of a Christian, and the responsibility of a sound biblical preacher. We cannot just preach the things that please the ears but must also preach those things that cut to the heart and soul.

Wherefore, when the church body gathers, we share our joys and our woes, and build up one another in the faith in Jesus Christ, as seen in: **Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the**

Lord." We sing praise and give thanks to God for our King that rules over the church. Our ministers preach the word of God, not withholding the things that are bitter to our taste, and we give thanks for that also. We need often to be reminded of where we came from (we were dead and alienated sinners) and that we are what we are today: children of God, saved only by the love and grace of God.

Therefore, we, like King David, can say: "*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.*" We thank you, King Jesus, for making this possible in our lives. Hallelujah! Amen!

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 foward thou wilt shew thyself foward. 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.

29 ¶ For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. 30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. 31 For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?"

King David continues to speak of the physical attributes, and the blessings that God bestowed upon him. Because God had given his enemies into his hands, when he met a troop, David didn't try to go around it, but met it head on and cut a path right through the center of the enemy, until the enemy was abolished or surrendered.

"As for God, his way is perfect:" David reminds us of a great truth which we should hold dear and foremost in our hearts and minds. God is perfectly complete in and of himself, and God's way is complete. David can say this because God had done completely, what God said he would do. God put David on the throne over all Israel, and had made tributaries of all the surrounding nations, so that now King David is ruling over all the land of promise, even though Israel has not destroyed all the occupants of the land as they were supposed to do. We can certainly find witness with Isreal in this. When born again and given a new nature in Christ, do we drive out all the inhabitants of our old nature, or do we make treaties with some, and because of our own sins, God does not give us the strength to drive them all out of their place in our body of flesh.

"the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him." King David tells us that he has put full trust in the word of the Lord, and he found God to be a shield of defense around him. We know this is true because Jesus demonstrated this for us when he was here on earth in human flesh. Every time Satan tempted Jesus, he received the word of God, rightly divided, and the command to depart from the presence of Jesus. It ought to be the same in our lives. Some will say: but preacher, we are not Jesus, God in the flesh, so we cannot do this. To which Jesus answers: I am in you. If you have been diligent to study and familiarize yourself with my word of truth, you cannot do this in your own strength, but you can do it in my strength.

32 "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect."

King David looks back through his life and knows that God has girded him with the strength and faith that he needed to hold fast to God's promises. Because God did this for him, God has completed his promise to David and brought David to the zenith of his life. This principle can be applied to our own lives as children of God.

33 "He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. 34 He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by my arms. 35 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. 36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. 37 I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. 38 I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. 39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me. 40 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me. 41 They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not. 42 Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets."

Notice that King David continues to attribute all that he is to the glory of God. David tells us that God has girded him with strength, and made his feet as hinds' feet, so that his feet do not slip where he might fall and be wounded or killed. He proclaims the shield of salvation that God has given him. He tells us that the right hand of

God has held him upright. He proclaims that God has enlarged his steps, which tells us that God has given him dominion over all the land of promise. Even in the face of his greatest enemies his feet were sure.

In the hinds' feet, God gave him the swiftness he needed to pursue and overtake his enemies, and when he overtook them, God delivered them into his hand. God furnished him with the strength to fight against his enemies, until they were wounded and unable to revolt against him anymore. God had given his enemies to be trodden underfoot.

David tells us that his enemies from without Israel called upon their idols who could not deliver them. He tells us that even Saul, and enemy in the camp, prayed to God, but God did not answer him. Then, when God allowed Saul to be slain, and David came to power on the throne, David did beat his enemies to dust. Think about how Moses did beat the golden calf that Israel made into dust and strawed the dust upon the waters and made Israel to drink their idol. This is the image David is portraying of his enemies. Their idols were cast down and they could not but drink of their insurrection against God. Well preacher, we thought they were fighting against David not God. They were fighting against David, but they were also fighting against the will of God for David's life. They were trying to destroy the promise of God to David, that he would reign over all Israel; thus, they are fighting against God. When we commit sin, we are always fighting against God.

We have a reminder here: the way of our inherited nature is corrupted and adverse to God, but the new nature of Christ in us is perfect, as is the Word of God. The way of God is perfect, even when we do not understand what God is doing or allowing to go on in this world. How do we know that the way of God is perfect? Because we know the end of the way of God, which is the resurrection of the dead in Christ, who are going to be carried away to the place of perfection which Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

The gospel of Jesus Christ declares these same things to us. Because we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit power, just as David was given power to overcome his natural enemies: God has given to us the power to overcome our old inherited sin nature. He has given us the necks of our enemies. Who are these inherited sin nature enemies? We are told who they are in ***Ga 5:18-21; 18 "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.***" The Holy Spirit power of Christ in us, does for us that which it did for King David. The power of the Holy Spirit enables us to refuse to engage in these previous things mentioned and bring forth bad fruit. The Holy Spirit power enables us to bring forth good fruits as seen in ***Ga 5:22-26; 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.***" The Holy Spirit power in us, just as it was in King David, gives us the power to overcome the inherited sin nature and to yield the fruits of the Spirit. Now preacher, how do we know that David was indwelt with the Holt Spirit power? We thought that it was a New Testament thing, not Old Testament. Because God tells us in ***1Sa 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.***" Understand, dear Christian friends, God has always saved his people by his grace. In the Old Testament and in the New Testament, you will find where the saints of God found grace in God's sight.

God has made our feet like hinds' feet in that we are planted upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ, and his finished work, and God has given us the scriptures to fill our hearts and minds with, that they may be a ready sword of defense, which if used properly will strengthen us, wounds our enemies, and put them to subjection under our feet. The power of God's word of truth will grind them to powder.

Why would God do this for us? Because he is delighted in us, as he delighted in King David. Why is He delighted in us? Because of the Christ in us, who is His beloved Son, manifested by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

43 "Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me. 44 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me. 45 The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their

close places. 46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. 47 It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me. 48 He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. 49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. 50 Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore."

Remember, at the beginning we were told, David spake these words? "*who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul:*" David has reached the zenith of his life. God has given him deliverance from all his enemies, made him King over all Israel, and has given him peace with all the surrounding nations. This is why David can write these last few verses, which are a prophetic picture of the coming King Jesus.

Understand that in the resurrection from the dead, Jesus was delivered from the strivings of the people who sought to harm him. The prophetic picture is Jesus would reveal himself to a people who have not heretofore been known unto him, the Gentiles, who were grafted into the New Testament Church. These strangers, as soon as the voice of King Jesus is revealed to them, they immediately yield themselves in humble obedience to the one true King. When Jesus has imparted to these, who were once strangers to grace, the indwelling Holy Spirit, their enemies, from their inherited sin nature, fall in fear and give place to the new nature of Christ in us.

This is all because of the delivering power of Jesus Christ through his finished work of salvation upon the cross. Jesus is the Rock upon which the Church of Salvation by Grace is founded. It is Jesus who has delivered us from the violent man. Remember the violent man is one who would murder without cause, as Saul would have murdered David, except for the grace of God, and as Satan would murder us, except for the grace of God.

Because of our eternal life, and eternally security in Jesus Christ, we give thanks to God among the heathen of this world, and sing praises to our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ. There is no greater deliverance ever been manifested to mankind, than that of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Jesus's resurrection from the dead is a prophetic picture of the great deliverance of the sinner from eternal death to eternal life in Christ. This prophetic picture, of Jesus rising from the dead, will be completely fulfilled when Jesus returns the second time, and speaks the word for the dead in Christ to rise first. Jesus is the anointed of God who sits upon the throne of God in the eternal heaven, and we are his seed. Wherefore, God sheweth mercy to his seed forever. Hallelujah! Praise! we the Lord! Amen!