

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**¹ 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.

¹ 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
Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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