

Victory in Jesus

I believe that every believer has a song of victory, just as David had in Psalm 18:1-3. I use the King James version of the Bible. I believe that is the Word of God, and there is an inscription just before the Psalm 18:1-3, and it says this: *¹To 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...*" Then we start reading verses 1-3 of Psalm 18... *I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.²The 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.* *³I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

I read the inscription just before the verses I just got through reading. I read this because it gives us some insight into the background for these verses. And as the inscription states, this psalm was originally a song that was written to glorify the Lord and to honor Him for delivering David from King Saul. You see, during the time David was running from Saul, he was in constant danger of death. Now, he has been delivered from his enemies and he lifts his voice in praise to the Lord God who has given him the victory.

And this is David's song, but you and I have a song of victory to sing as well, and that song is victory in Jesus. I know there's a song that's titled "Victory in Jesus," but we want to look to the Word of God. Jesus is the Victor. He's the one who gives us the victory. When we were saved by the Lord, He gave us the victory over our enemies, as well. And He not only saved us so we could go to Heaven, but He

gave us victory over our enemies. Now, we who were bound and in danger of dying without Jesus Christ have been saved through His grace. And since we've been saved and delivered from the snare of the enemy, we also have a reason to praise the Lord.

There isn't enough time to consider this entire psalm right now, but it's the fourth largest psalm in the book of Psalms; however, I would like to spend a few moments with you and look at this psalm together. As we spend our time in these verses, let's allow the Lord's Word to remind us of who He is and what He's done and what He can do for us.

There are three great stanzas within it. Now, remember, this is a song of David. There are three great stanzas that this song comprises and I would like to share them with you right now.

First of all, I see the plan of the psalmist in verse 1 of Psalm 18. It says there, *I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.* At the very beginning, the psalmist makes two great and profound declarations. First, he declares his love for the Lord. Second, he declares his absolute dependence upon the Lord. He seems to be indicating that he will live his life with these two great themes ever before him.

First, we see the theme of love. The word translated "love" here is a word that carries the idea of hugging. If it doesn't sound too irreverent, the psalmist is saying that he is so filled with love for the Lord that he just wants to slide up real close to the Lord and hug Him. I know that we've all felt this way about someone we love. How many have just felt their heart fill up with love for a child or a mate and just for no reason we want to reach

out and hug them? We think of this and we think of many indications, many things found in the Word of God of people who got close to the Lord and they seemed to just want to cling to Him.

In considering all that the Lord has done for us and how He loves us and made a way for us to be saved, our hearts should also be filled with that same kind of love for Him. In I John 4:19, it says, *We love him because he first loved us.* We want to hug Him because He hugged or wrapped his arms around us first.

Not only do I see love in this first verse in this psalm, I see strength. Nine times in the first two verses of this psalm David uses this personal possessive pronoun "my." Did you realize that "my" is the first pronoun learned by most children? They say things like "my toys," "my house," and "my room." I've heard, particularly, children say, "Mine, mine." And this is just their childish way of stating that they know what is theirs. What David is doing is expressing simple childlike faith in his relationship with the Lord. He's telling us that he is totally dependent upon the Lord for everything. Every ounce of strength came from the Lord. We should say as Psalm 27:1 says, *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

We also see not only these two themes found in the first verse, that's love and strength, but I believe that, once again as we look in verse 2, it says there, *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.*

I see here the praise of the psalmist, and there's praise for a personal God seen here. And the usage of "my" again, we see that. And,

folks, the most important thing in life is knowing that you are right with God. Be sure above everything else that you are saved by grace. It isn't enough to be good or religious, to go to church or to stop doing some things that are wrong in our lives, to join the church, or to be baptized. To be saved, there must be a time when you turned to Jesus Christ in absolute faith for salvation. Nothing else will work for anyone ever.

There are many verses that talk about this. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that we're not saved by works but we're saved by the grace of God. There is praise in this psalm that we're reading here in verse 2. There is praise for a powerful God. In God and in his relationship with Him, David finds all the strength that he needs to make it through life.

I want you to notice something here. There are eight metaphors that David uses to describe God and His power in our life. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this, but I want you to listen to these eight metaphors that David uses in verse 2.

First, he talks about stability. God is our stability, and David describes God as a rock. When everything else in the world is being tossed and twisted, God forever remains the same. He's always stable. Malachi 3:6 says, *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.* Hebrews 13:8 says, *Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.*

And then we not only see stability in this verse, but God is our safety. David says that God is like a fortress, and this surely has reference to the lofty mountain citadels to which he fled when he was running from Saul. David reminds us that the Lord is a place of safety to which the saint can flee in times of adversity and trial. You know, Satan is like a

roaring lion, according to I Peter 5:8; however, the saint has a place of safe refuge in the day of attack.

God is our fortress, our place of perfect peace and safety. Psalm 57:1 says, *Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.*

Not only do we see stability and safety in the Lord, we see God is our Savior. David refers to the Lord as his deliverer, and this word refers to one who saves, one who rescues, one who delivers another from danger. This is a word that is filled with glory. You see, not only did the Lord save us when we received Him by faith, but He goes on saving us day by day. And when this life is over, we will be ultimately safe when we arrive home in heaven. He saves us daily. We can't save ourselves and go to Heaven. He saved us for that and He saves us daily. We don't have to worry.

And something else I see here is God is our sovereign. David refers to God as God, and this is the word "El." It refers to God as the Almighty God. This word pictures God as one who is over all things and as one who is in control of all things. The saints of God should surely rejoice in the knowledge that everything that happens is in God's plan and that He is in control of all things. Even when we cannot make sense of it, God is still on His throne.

Not only do we see God as our sovereign in this verse, but God is our strength. David tells us that God is all we need in verse 2. Folks, we can always rejoice in the fact that the Lord God of Heaven will be strength in our lives. He is the strength of our lives and none of us knows what we will face as we go through the years of our lives, but we can know that God in

Heaven will give us the strength we need to face life's trials and battles and that He will help us all along the way.

I want you to know something else, that, as the old song says, "Some through the waters, some through the flood, some through the fire, but all through the blood. Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song in the night season and all the day long." Remember, He is an ever-present God. We can depend on Him.

Notice something else now in verse 2, the praise of the psalmist. *The LORD is my rock*, he says, and as we think of this, we think of those eight metaphors that I've mentioned.

And the next metaphor is God is our shield. David calls the Lord a buckler. This simply means a shield. When trouble comes into your life and mine, sometimes the Lord will allow those things to come and He will give grace. However, there are times when the Lord steps between His children and their trials and acts as a shield to stand between His child and the storm that's coming.

He's also our security, according to the Word. Here, the Lord is called a horn of salvation in verse 2. The horn is the symbol of strength and conquest.

And then number eight, God is our supply. David says that the Lord is our high tower. This refers to great high towers that were built around the ancient cities, and from these towers, soldiers could look down on their attackers and send volleys of arrows down on their heads. It was a place of safety, and God has given us a place of safety, and He wants us to know that He is the one who gives us the safety and the knowledge that we are safe with him.

The pledge of the psalmist is seen in verse 3. *I will call upon the LORD who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

Are you trusting Him today? Do you know the Lord as your Savior? May the Lord help you to find Him today as your Savior. And as the child of God, may you place your trust in Him to bring you through the things of this life.

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