

PSALM 18 – GREAT DELIVERANCE GIVETH HE TO HIS ANOINTED! (3)

VI. A Proactive Deliverance – 18:28-31 – The LORD will light David’s candle. The “candle” describes deliverance by showing the right path to take in time of trial. The second line of verse 28 is a synonymous parallelism which describes the same thing but using different words. David was in a dilemma and boxed in many times in his fugitive years. Very often he felt that he was in danger of being captured and killed by his many enemies. But he sees the light, i.e. the way out of his trial and the LORD was the One who delivered him. The use of the covenant Name, the LORD, and God (elohiyim) together emphasizes both the covenantal relationship as well as the power of God in David’s deliverance. David deliberately made it personal by using the first personal pronoun, “my.” He is not just the God of Israel but David’s personal God. He will deliver David from his darkness!

Verse 29 – “... by my God”, i.e. with the help of God, David ran through a troop. This means that with God’s enabling, David divided or broke through a troop, i.e. a band of men, and in this context it would have to refer to Saul’s elite 3,000 men (cf 1 Samuel 24:2; 26:2). These men might appear invincible and powerful but were nothing to the LORD. David merely ran through them as if they did not exist and he attributed this to the LORD’s doing. No matter how high the walls were, David testified that the LORD helped him to jump over them and to escape. This is an example of synonymous parallelism. The two meanings are similar whereby the LORD delivered David through all the obstacles set by his enemies.

Verse 30 – God’s way is perfect. He makes no mistakes. From the timing to the actual execution of His deliverance, the LORD’s method is always perfect. It will result in the punishment of the enemies and the strengthening of the faith of God’s servant. This perfection of God’s way in all He does in the lives of His children reflects the perfection of God. God’s children must therefore learn to trust Him and not be impatient and take matters into their own hands. If they do, they will fail. God’s children, like King David, must wait patiently for the will of God to come to fruition. In the meantime, they must obey God’s Word faithfully and patiently. God knows what He is doing at all times in the lives of His children, even during the greatest trial. This is when the Word of the LORD is tried, i.e. refined. The Word of God is perfect from the moment of inspiration so it is not the Word of God per se that requires refinement but rather the Word of God is refined in the lives of God’s people. In the case of King David, his trust and the deliverance he experienced throughout his fugitive years enabled him to experience personally the trustworthiness of the promises of God’s Word. What God says in His holy and perfect

Word is real and true. This is how the Word is refined in the believer's life. God is a buckler, i.e. a shield or protector to all those who trust in Him. When we doubt God by taking matters into our own hands and practise situational ethics, we have failed to trust Him. The Word of God has not been refined in the lives of those who do not trust Him. However, David did trust his LORD and could testify that indeed the LORD shielded him from his enemies regardless of how many there were.

The LORD does not sleep. He does not sit helplessly watching events unfold in the lives of His servants when they are being persecuted. He is a very proactive God who intervenes and controls all the doings of their enemies!

VII. A Theocentric Deliverance – 18:31-45 – Using two rhetorical questions in verse 31, David said that there is no God but the LORD. He is the only true God and beside Him, there is no one else! The only rock (stable and dependable) is the God of Israel. The centrality of David's deliverance is the LORD! It is not chance or by accident but the direct intervention of the LORD. By the acts of deliverance that David experienced in His life and based upon the Word of God that David trusted, he concluded without a shadow of doubt that the God of Israel is the only true and living God. It is God who girdeth, i.e. bound him with strength so that he did not give up. He experienced the moral strength and courage to keep trusting and refused to sin against God no matter how dire the circumstances were. David said that the LORD made his way perfect. The LORD helped him to make the right choices whenever he prayed . He escaped his enemies every time. No matter how many enemies came after him, no matter how they received help from others and no matter how they plotted and planned to capture and kill David, the LORD delivered him from them all. It was not David's wisdom or cunning or ingenuity but it was the LORD.

Verse 33 – The LORD made David's feet like hind's feet. The word for "make" has the idea of one who levels or adjusts something to fit. In this case it was David's feet. Hind's feet are swift and nimble. They are able to run and skip through difficult and the most uneven terrain. David acknowledged here that it was the LORD who guided his feet to find the right path which enabled him to escape from his pursuers. The LORD set David upon high places. The word "set" means to establish. This is again a synonymous parallelism where both lines refer to the protection and deliverance of David by the LORD. The LORD helped David by making him unreachable, which means to be established in high places.

Verse 34 – The LORD taught David’s hands to war so that a bow of steel was broken by his arms. This verse means that David’s ability to fight and kill his many enemies was due to God’s instruction. A bow represents military might. A bow of steel represents very great and strong military might. However, David broke the steel with his arms because the LORD helped him.

Verse 35 – The LORD had given to David the shield of God’s salvation. David was not referring to his spiritual salvation but rather the physical salvation of his body which his enemies tried their utmost to kill. The shield was a protective piece of armament. It is not for offence but defence purposes only. No arrow or spear of the enemies will be able to hurt David. The LORD’s shield protected him. The LORD’s right hand held him up. The LORD supported him so that he did not fall. The LORD’s gentleness, i.e. meekness, made David great. The LORD allowed David’s name to be great and known throughout Israel and beyond even though it was the LORD who did everything for David. David realized this and it kept him humble and he continued to give the LORD the glory.

Verses 36-38 – The LORD enlarged David’s steps so that he did not slip and he was given success and greatness. It was as if David could not fail as long as he trusted the LORD in all his ways. David was sure footed in all his endeavours so that escape from his enemies was assured. He did not slip, i.e. make a mistake, and his enemies could not catch him! The next two verses describe his victories against his enemies. He pursued after them and overtook them and did not retreat until they were consumed or soundly defeated. His victories were great and amazing. Furthermore, he “wounded them that were not able to rise”. David had so soundly defeated his enemies that during his entire reign, they were not able to rise and revolt against him. He enjoyed peace all around him during his thirty-three year reign as king of all Israel. They remained defeated under his feet.

Verse 39-41 – How did David enjoy such glorious and resounding victories? Again, he attributed all his victories to the LORD. He admitted that the LORD girded him with strength to battle. If not for the LORD, David knew that he would have lost and worst still, killed in battle. The LORD subdued or caused them to bend their knees before David. These enemies challenged David but the LORD defeated them and made them bow down before him. The LORD also gave the necks of his enemies to him. This means that they were at the mercy of David and he could do with them whatever he wanted. His enemies hated him who was the LORD’s anointed which was a very serious offence. It warranted the death penalty. It was David’s prerogative whether to show mercy or

not. The synthetic parallelism in verse 40 argues for this interpretation. David was invincible when the LORD was on His side! His enemies cried out loud for someone to save them but here was none. They even cried to the LORD but the LORD refused to answer them. Verse 41 teaches a great truth. One may cry to the LORD and in all sincerity truly believe that he is crying or praying to the LORD, but the LORD ultimately has the final say. He may even use the Name of Jesus Christ, but the LORD may not answer.

Verse 42 – David beat them, i.e. to pulverize or to grind to small particles like dust before the wind. This describes a thorough destruction. They were all blown away by the wind, never to rise again. Then David repeated himself using synonymous parallelism to say that he cast them out like dirt in the streets. The enemies were humiliated and crushed beyond their ability to rise back to power as long as David was king of Israel.

Verses 43-45 -- The LORD delivered David from the strivings, i.e. the controversies or arguments, of the people. The people here could not be Israel but the people surrounding Israel. The second line of verse 43 argues for this understanding. David said that the LORD made him head or ruler of the heathen - the Philistines, Syrians, Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites. They were a people David had not known, i.e. had no personal relationship with. They will serve him and pay him tributes. As soon as they hear of David's greatness they will obey him. David uses synonymous parallelism to support this in verse 44. The strangers will submit themselves to him. The strangers will fade away and will be afraid out of their "close places". It means that even when they are hiding in their strongholds, they will still be afraid of David. Absolutely nothing can protect them if he were to come against them. David was invincible in the eyes of his enemies.

VIII. A Thankful Deliverance – 18:46-50 – “The LORD lives” was David’s sincere acknowledgement because he experienced the reality of the presence of the LORD in his life. David realized and acknowledged that it was only the LORD’s doing that he was preserved and became who he was, the king of Israel. He called the LORD his rock. A rock represents stability and safety. It is used for a building’s foundation. Here, as a figure of speech, it refers to David’s life which is built on the rock which is his LORD. He concludes by saying, “let the God of my salvation be exalted.” What a tremendous and grateful recognition of the grace and mercies of God in his life. He declared from the depths of his innermost being that the LORD would be highly lifted up and not himself.

The LORD did it all even though the people thought that it was David because they feared him.

Verses 47-48 – David’s use of certain verbs aptly described how he felt. He said that it was the LORD who avenged him. He could not have done it because he knew that if he “touched” the LORD’s anointed, he would not be guiltless. No matter what King Saul did to him, he did not want to sin against his God which would be to go against God’s will in his life. It was the LORD, not David, who subdued the people even though David was the one who led his army. Behind the arm of flesh is the arm of the LORD. David was acknowledging that the battle was not carnal but spiritual. The LORD delivered David from his enemies and lifted him up above all those who rose against him. The word “deliver” means “carry away to safety.” The emphasis is on the safety factor rather than the act of deliverance. The LORD delivered David from the violent man. The singular noun “man” probably refers to king Saul. This second “deliver” refers to “snatching or pluck away” whereby the emphasis is on the act of deliverance. Just as the violent man was about to strike, the LORD snatched David out of his evil grasping hand.

Verses 49-50 – David declared that he would give thanks to the LORD among the heathens and sing praises to His Name. David wanted the whole world, even the heathens, to know that the LORD his God was the One who has delivered him from them all. It was not their weaknesses or David’s strength but only the LORD. They were actually fighting against the LORD, not David. The LORD has shown mercy to His anointed, even to David, and not only to him but also to his seed.

CONCLUSION – The LORD delivers His own, as and when He pleases. God’s people are to wait patiently for the deliverance to come. It will always come. It will never be too late that God’s people are crushed under the load. It will never be too early whereby God’s people might not see that it was the LORD who has delivered. It will always be just in time. The LORD hears the cries of His children but not of the enemies of His children. They can cry all they want and might even fast and pray, but God will not answer them. When God’s enemies fight against His people, they are actually fighting against God. He will soundly defeat them. They will be crushed into dust and thrown onto the streets to be trampled upon.

God’s people should not fret or be afraid of the many enemies who do their utmost to kill them. God’s people are invincible until He says it’s time to go home, well done! Until that glorious day God’s people must focus on holiness and must not sin against the LORD. Remain

faithful in His service even unto death because the LORD will surely deliver all who are His own!
Amen.