

## **PSALM 18 – GREAT DELIVERANCE GIVETH HE TO HIS ANOINTED! (2)**

### **III. Earth Shattering Deliverance –**

**18:7-14** – When the LORD helps and intervenes in the lives of His children, rest assured He will do that which is needful to ensure a resounding success. David described the intervention of the LORD in earth shattering terms. He said that the earth shook and trembled. The foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken because the LORD was angry! This is poetic language used by David to describe the greatness and scope of God's wrath. The LORD will be fiercely angry with anyone who would hurt or try to kill His anointed! How angry would the LORD be? His anger is of earth shaking proportions!

Verses 8-10 – This imagery continues all the way till verse 15 of this psalm. The fierceness of the LORD's anger against David's enemies is likened to smoke emanating from His nostrils and fire out of His mouth! This fire devoured whatever was in its path! Coals were kindled by it to keep the fire burning and did not let up or diminish until all that should be consumed was consumed! The LORD bowed, i.e. bent or moved, the heavens also and came down! In other words, if the LORD wants to help His servants, not even the heavens can prevent Him from coming to help. If heaven is preventing the LORD from descending to help, then He would move the heaven away as well and come down! "Darkness was under His feet" means that the LORD brings judgement against His enemies and will cover them with darkness so that whatever they have plotted against His servants will be stopped! The LORD controls darkness and all things in and under the heavens! "The LORD rode upon a cherub and did fly" means that the LORD comes swiftly to help His servant. The swiftness of His help is further emphasized by the phrase "yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind" in verse 10b. The word for "fly" in verse 10b emphasizes the speed of flight whereas the first word "fly" in verse 10a refers to merely the act of flying with no emphasis on the speed. They are two different words in Hebrew.

In times of trouble it is easy to murmur and complain because of impatience and the great need for deliverance. The LORD through David reminds all believers not to fret. If the LORD comes too early, believers would probably not learn the lessons of trust and faith in God the way they should. If the LORD is too late, then believers might be crushed under the load of the trial. However, the LORD will neither be late nor early! He will be just on time to help. He comes swiftly like the wings of the wind to help His children. This promise must not be forgotten by God's servants in these last days.

Verses 11-12 – "The LORD made darkness His secret place" means that His enemies would not be able to discern what He would do against them when it is time to punish! His actions are completely hidden from the prying and evil eyes of His enemies. The LORD will do, according to His sovereign will, what He wants and believes to be the best for the protection and deliverance of His servants! This understanding is supported by the next part of verse 11. It says that "His pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of skies." The word for pavilion is translated as "tabernacle" in Deut

16:13 which is the booth or tent or covering of the LORD. He is thoroughly hidden and can never be seen unless He reveals Himself! The dark waters and thick clouds of the skies is a definite reference to the thick dark clouds that one sees before the thunderstorm breaks. Everything behind the thick opaque dark cloud is completely hidden from the naked eyes. Verse 12 reveals that, “at the brightness that was before him his thick cloud passed.” This means that like the lightning that breaks through the darkened clouds during an impending thunder storm, the LORD will break through suddenly and He will punish.

Hail stones and coals of fire are described here by David to depict the judgement of the LORD. It will come from heaven and the onslaught of hail stones and coals of fire will bring total and complete destruction. These fiery missiles from heaven point to the swift and fierce destructive power of the LORD against His enemies. Verses 13-14 – The destruction is accompanied by a loud thunderous sound from heaven. The visual and sound effects are vividly described by David to demonstrate the grandeur and yet awesome and frightful wrath of God poured down upon David’s enemies because David cried to the LORD for help and deliverance! The LORD is described in verse 13 as “the Highest!” The Hebrew word is “‘elyown” which literally means lofty or elevated. The LORD is the Supreme Being above all things! He gave His voice as the thunderous sound from heaven depicts. Again, hailstones and coals of fire are mentioned, reminding readers that the destruction from the LORD was both audio and visual! Sinful men are most afraid of the sight that is coupled with loud thunderous sounds! The LORD sent out His arrows and scattered them means that the LORD would drive away David’s enemies from afar. He does not need to be near His enemies to destroy them. These arrows are the lightnings that shoot out of heaven and will surely discomfit His enemies. The word “discomfit” means to “crush” or “destroy.” King David’s enemies would be crushed by the LORD when it is time for the LORD to deliver His servant! There is absolutely no escape for the enemies of God’s people.

**IV. A Timely Deliverance – 18:15-18** – The deliverance of the LORD becomes visible to all. To God’s servants it is relief and joy. To the enemies of God it will be a time of pain and sorrow! The phrase “channels of water were seen” means that the river beds became visible when the LORD dried up the rivers! The foundations of the world were discovered at the LORD’s rebuke. This refers to earthquakes where the earth opens up and the inside of the earth becomes visible to the naked eyes. The LORD did this at the blast of the breath of His nostrils. This describes the anger of the LORD like the flaring of the nostrils when a man is angry. The breath comes out of his nostrils in anger. A tiny little breath of the LORD was enough to dry up rivers and split open the earth to expose the foundations of the world! The greatness of God is emphasized here. Verses 16-18 – What the LORD sent from above to deliver David is not mentioned here. However, help came from the LORD due to the cry of His servant David. The helper came and took David and drew him out of many waters. The phrase “many waters” probably refers to great calamities that seemed like great torrents of waters swirling around David, desiring to drown him. The LORD delivered David from his strong enemy and from all those who hated him. They were too strong for David but not for the LORD. The LORD easily defeated David’s enemies in His time and delivered His servant David after David had

learned all the precious priceless lessons from these trials! The strengthening and building up of David's faith was the primary purpose of these trials before he could be anointed king of all Israel. It is one thing to rise to kingship but another to rule as a godly king pleasing in the sight of God. David bided patiently for the right timing of the LORD to come. David did not bulldoze himself into kingship, murdering his enemies like other kings. The LORD will deliver and He did. David's faith and trust in the LORD deepened in the process. He testified that his enemies prevented him, i.e. anticipated his every move in the day of his calamity. However, the LORD was his stay, i.e. his support or protector. No one was able to hurt or kill David as long as the LORD's will for him remains undone. David was in a way "uncapturable" or "un-killable." This is also true of all of God's children. That is why they have nothing to worry about. They need not be concerned for their lives.

#### **V. A Righteous Deliverance – 18:19-27**

– The deliverance of David was catalogued by David himself for the reader's encouragement. David said that the LORD brought him forth also into a large place, i.e. a room or open place. This was in contrast to the boxed-in tight place (see verse 6 – distress literally means "tight place") that David felt he was in when his many enemies tried to kill him. The LORD delivered David because He delighted in, i.e. was pleased with, him. David's

innocence was the cause of David's deliverance. If David had sinned, there would be no deliverance. David knew that. He testified it here for the reader's encouragement and assurance. This line of reasoning is confirmed by verse 20. The LORD rewarded David according to his righteousness and according to the cleanness of his hands; the LORD recompensed him. This is obviously a synonymous parallelism. This revelation of the justice of God is most comforting to all God's children. They need to fight against sinning as they face trials aplenty like David. The real battle is always against principalities in high places that try their utmost to get God's children to sin. God's children do not wrestle against flesh and blood but always against spiritual forces in high places. They must pray for strength to obey God's Word and to trust Him to work all things well at all costs. There are no mistakes in a believer's life. The tender loving hand of God is always leading and guiding him from strength to strength. He must not waiver and allow doubt to creep in. Hold on with the tightest grip to God's promises and the truths in His holy and perfect Word.

Verses 21-23 – David's personal testimony in verses 21-23 confirmed all that is written above. David said that all of God's judgements were before him, i.e. in front of him, to guide him. David would not make any move or take any steps without praying and consulting God first. What a precious lesson that can only be learned through trials and testing. David did not wickedly depart from his God. If he ever did depart, it was not done out of wickedness. David did not claim perfection in his obedience but sincerity and a heartfelt desire to obey all of God's truth! He obeyed to the best of his ability and always with God's enabling. To put something away is to cast it aside. It refers to a deliberate act which David shared was never his intention. He was also upright before the LORD even as he kept himself from sinning against God. His testimony was one of

honest transparency before God. There was nothing to hide. David knew in his heart of hearts that in this incident with his many enemies he was not in the wrong but surely in the right. This is the first inward examination every child of God must take before he starts pointing fingers at others for his calamities. Not to do so is great foolishness. If it is his own fault that caused the calamities and he does not see it, then there is no repentance and he would remain in sin. David was not a fool like so many today.

Verse 24-27 – David’s conclusion was that the LORD recompensed him according to his righteousness and the cleanness of his hands (cf verse 20). Soul searching and honest evaluation

based upon God’s perfect Word is the key to this claim. No one should ever dare to make this claim unless he is absolutely certain that he is right with God. If he is not, he is a great sinner waiting to be judged and condemned (cf 1 John 1:5-10)! The justice of God is revealed by David in verses 25-27. With the merciful, God will show Himself merciful. With the upright, God

will show Himself upright. With the pure God will show Himself pure. With the forward, i.e. perverse (Hebrew – “iq-qesh”), God will show Himself forward, i.e. unsavory (Hebrew – “pachal”). The LORD is ever just and fair. David’s personal conclusion was that the LORD will save the afflicted and will surely bring down high looks, i.e. the proud and haughty