

**Psalm 18    A Psalm of David**    (He sang this song on the day the LORD delivered him from Saul and his enemies)

***This is what the LORD is to me***

<sup>1</sup> My LORD, I love You. Knowing and trusting in You is what gives me the strength to go on. <sup>2</sup> Folks, let me tell you about my LORD.

- He is the strong foundation upon which I base my faith.....(my rock)
- He is the safe place I can hide from my enemies .....(my fortress)
- He is the One who delivers me from my enemies.....(my deliverer)
- He is my God, and all other wannabe gods are cheap imitations.....(my God)
- He is the dependable platform I can trust for safety and security.....(my rock)
- He is the One who stands between my enemies and me.....(my shield)
- He is the strong One who rescues me<sup>1</sup> .....(horn of my salvation)
- He is the safe place where my enemies cannot get to me to hurt me..(my stronghold)

<sup>3</sup> I called upon this great God who is worthy to be praised, and He saved me from my enemies. Let me tell you how He did it.

***This is what the LORD is like when He gets angry***

<sup>4</sup> Ungodly men attacked me in one wave after another in quick succession like a flash flood crashing down a ravine. Those attacks terrified me, and I thought death was reaching out its grubby hands to take hold of me. <sup>5</sup> It seemed like hell had completely surrounded me, and death was looking me squarely in the eye. <sup>6</sup> In my distress I called upon the LORD, my God, begging Him to help me. Well, He heard my cry for deliverance, and <sup>7</sup> then He immediately went into action because He was angry with my oppressors. Let me tell you what God is like when He gets angry. This is how people of my day viewed God.

At His command the mountains shook to their very core. <sup>8</sup> Volcanos erupted spewing fire, lava, and smoke devouring everything in its path. <sup>9</sup> The smoke formed thick, dark clouds, and He stood upon them. <sup>10-11</sup> He made those dark clouds His hiding place and flew within them at high speed riding upon the wings of a cherub. <sup>12</sup> From those thick clouds He threw down hailstones and hot lightning strikes, <sup>13</sup> and His voice could be heard in the impact of the hailstones and in the sound of the thunder. <sup>14</sup> From the clouds He sent out His arrows in the form of lightning bolts, one strike after another in rapid succession like no one had ever seen before. That storm quickly routed the enemy. <sup>15</sup> Then He sent a deluge of rain causing flash floods that destroyed everything in their path.

## ***The LORD is good to those who live in a good and godly manner like me***

<sup>16</sup> Dear LORD,

You did respond, and You rescued me from a world of troubles. <sup>17</sup> You delivered me from men who hated me. You were the only One who could have done it, because they were too strong for me. <sup>18</sup> These same men taunted me mercilessly saying that I should deny the LORD, but even though things couldn't get much worse for me, I couldn't deny You because You were the support I needed to stand strong. <sup>19</sup> You rescued me from a place where I was trapped and put me in a place of freedom because I trusted in You. <sup>20</sup> You rewarded me this way because I have lived in a good, right, and lawful manner, and I have avoided every form of sin and evil. <sup>21</sup> I have obeyed Your Word, and I have not abandoned You in order to enjoy wickedness. <sup>22</sup> It is only right that I should obey You because everything Your Word teaches is good, and I have not purposely put aside any of Your requirements for me. <sup>23</sup> I have also lived such a good life that no one could rightfully accuse me of wrongdoing, and I have chosen not to get involved in any sinful practice. <sup>24</sup> As a result of my love and obedience, You have recompensed me according to the principle of sow and reap. <sup>25</sup> With people who are kind You show Yourself kind; with people who live such a good life that no one can rightfully accuse them of wrongdoing, You show Yourself blameless; <sup>26</sup> with people who live a pure life You show Yourself pure; yet with people who are morally perverted You show Yourself to be a harsh and vengeful judge, jury, and executioner. <sup>27</sup> You save humble people, but You cause proud and arrogant people to come crashing down in ruins. <sup>28</sup> You gave me eyes to see how my actions will affect both my future and the good things that await me there. <sup>29</sup> By Your guidance I have overrun a troop of men, and by Your help I have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

## ***The LORD has given me complete victory over my enemies***

<sup>30</sup> As for God, He is good in every way. In fact, He is so good that no one can rightfully accuse Him of doing anything wrong. His Word has been tested by men over the centuries, and without exception it has been found to be true and trustworthy. This same God is the One who provides perfect security for all of His children who place their trust in Him. <sup>31</sup> Who is the LORD? It is none other than Jesus Christ<sup>2</sup>, the self-existent One. He is the only One in whom I can place my trust and find a sure anchor for my faith. <sup>32</sup> He equips me with the strength to live such a good life that no one can rightfully accuse me of wrongdoing. <sup>33</sup> He makes my feet strong and swift like the feet of a deer, and He sets me in places of security where I have an advantage over my enemies. <sup>34</sup> He makes my arms so strong that in battle I can draw a superior weapon like a bronze bow.

<sup>35</sup> LORD, You uphold me with Your loving and caring hand. You are the shield that protects me from all of my enemy's advances, and the gentleness with which You shower me with Your tender love and kindness is what makes me great. <sup>36</sup> You have removed all of the obstacles that would otherwise trip me up, and as a result, I have not stumbled over any of them. <sup>37-38</sup> I chased my enemies until I found them, and then I

slaughtered them. I didn't stop until every last man was dead at my feet. <sup>39</sup> I could do so because You strengthened me for the fight, and You have caused all of those who rose up against me to fall down and be destroyed. <sup>40</sup> In battle You caused those who hate me to turn and run away, but I destroyed them anyway. <sup>41</sup> They cried out for help, but neither man nor God would come to their aid. <sup>42</sup> My victory was so complete that I virtually ground them into powder and discarded them like a piece of trash.

<sup>43</sup> LORD, You have delivered me from people who fought against me, and You have made me a ruler over them. They were a nation of people I didn't know, and now they serve me. <sup>44</sup> As soon as I speak they obey, and foreigners submit to me as well. <sup>45</sup> In fact, these foreigners lose heart and come out of their fortress trembling in fear, afraid that I will destroy them too.

### ***I will praise the LORD for saving me from my enemies***

<sup>46</sup> The LORD is alive. I praise and honor His name because He is the One who gives me security, stability, and rescues me from all of my troubles. <sup>47</sup> He takes vengeance upon my enemies so that I don't have to do it myself, He causes people and nations to become subservient to me, <sup>48</sup> He delivers me from the grasp of my enemies and violent men, and He elevates me above those who would try to hurt me. <sup>49</sup> As a result, I will thank You, LORD, and sing Your praises before men of all nationalities. <sup>50</sup> My song will be about how You provided great deliverance and showed abundant love and kindness to me, Your anointed king. I also know that You will continue doing so for my descendants forever.

<sup>1</sup> Definition of "Horn." Peter A. Steveson, Psalms, © BJU Press, Greenville, South Carolina, pg. 72.

<sup>2</sup> In John 14:6 Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used.