

## Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

### Psalm 18

This long Psalm is repeated almost entirely in 2 Samuel 22. Repeated words are significant!

For the director of music. Of David the servant of the Lord. He sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

Singing praise is a natural response to God's deliverance in our lives.

1 I love you, Lord, my strength.

His joy is the Lord, not the circumstances. What happened just made him love God more.

2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.  
Seven words describe my security in the Lord

3 I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,  
and I have been saved from my enemies.

4 The cords of death entangled me;  
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

5 The cords of the grave coiled around me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

6 In my distress I called to the Lord;  
I cried to my God for help.

From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came before him, into his ears.

God hears - and just look at the magnitude of his response!

7 The earth trembled and quaked,  
and the foundations of the mountains shook;  
they trembled because he was angry.

8 Smoke rose from his nostrils;  
consuming fire came from his mouth,  
burning coals blazed out of it.

9 He parted the heavens and came down;  
dark clouds were under his feet.

10 He mounted the cherubim and flew;  
he soared on the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him –  
the dark rain clouds of the sky.

12 Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced,  
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.

13 The Lord thundered from heaven;  
the voice of the Most High resounded.

14 He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy,  
with great bolts of lightning he routed them.

15 The valleys of the sea were exposed  
and the foundations of the earth laid bare

at your rebuke, Lord,  
at the blast of breath from your nostrils.

That's one powerful God!!!!

16 He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
he drew me out of deep waters.

17 He rescued me from my powerful enemy,  
from my foes, who were too strong for me.

18 They confronted me in the day of my disaster,  
but the Lord was my support.

19 He brought me out into a spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted in me.  
and He stops at nothing to bless ME!

20 The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness;  
according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord;  
I am not guilty of turning from my God.

22 All his laws are before me;  
I have not turned away from his decrees.

23 I have been blameless before him  
and have kept myself from sin.

24 The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness,  
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

He deals with us according to Christ's righteousness, since we have faith in him.

25 To the faithful you show yourself faithful,  
to the blameless you show yourself blameless,  
26 to the pure you show yourself pure,  
but to the devious you show yourself shrewd.

27 You save the humble  
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

28 You, Lord, keep my lamp burning;  
my God turns my darkness into light.

29 With your help I can advance against a troop;  
with my God I can scale a wall.

When we walk with God, he keeps us going.

30 As for God, his way is perfect:  
the Lord's word is flawless;  
he shields all who take refuge in him.

31 For who is God besides the Lord?  
And who is the Rock except our God?

32 It is God who arms me with strength  
and keeps my way secure.

33 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;  
he causes me to stand on the heights.

34 He trains my hands for battle;  
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

35 You make your saving help my shield,  
and your right hand sustains me;  
your help has made me great.

36 You provide a broad path for my feet,  
so that my ankles do not give way.

Our amazing God has strengthened David every step of the way.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them;  
I did not turn back till they were destroyed.

38 I crushed them so that they could not rise;  
they fell beneath my feet.

39 You armed me with strength for battle;  
you humbled my adversaries before me.

40 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,  
and I destroyed my foes.

41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them –  
to the Lord, but he did not answer.

42 I beat them as fine as windblown dust;

I trampled them like mud in the streets.  
43 You have delivered me from the attacks of the people;  
you have made me the head of nations.  
People I did not know now serve me,  
44 foreigners cower before me;  
as soon as they hear of me, they obey me.  
45 They all lose heart;  
they come trembling from their strongholds.

46 The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock!  
Exalted be God my Saviour!  
Coming up to Easter, we rejoice in a risen, glorified Lord.

47 He is the God who avenges me,  
who subdues nations under me,  
48 who saves me from my enemies.  
You exalted me above my foes;  
from a violent man you rescued me.  
49 Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing the praises of your name.

50 He gives his king great victories;  
he shows unfailing love to his anointed,  
to David and to his descendants for ever.

2 Sam 22 is almost the end of David's life. He looks back and sees the hand of God through all the ups and downs. And David has nothing but praise for the God who loves him, and whom he loves back.

May God help us to see his hand in our lives, and to love him more and more.

Gordon