

PSALM 18
MAY 29, 2022



FBC SUMMIT STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION

Would you rather: be crammed tight in an elevator with 15 other people or be stuck in your car with your family in traffic? Cornered by bullies or cornered by your hardest teacher in the class you're struggling in at school? Have to spend your Saturday doing five hours of homework or five hours of chores?

When you're in the middle of a difficult situation, what is something you might do to relax?

Sometimes in life you feel surrounded, like everything that can go wrong is going wrong. There might seem to be no way out. David wrote Psalm 18 when he was coming out of a time like that. His enemies hunted him down. He felt surrounded. But as everything was going wrong, David turned to the Lord.

DISCUSSION

> **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PSALM 18:1-6,16-36.**

List all the ways David described God in the first three verses.

How did David describe his situation in verses 4-6?

When we go through difficult experiences, we tend to question God or even lose faith in Him. What does it say about David that he kept praising God in his difficulties? Why do you think he did that?

From verse 6, what can we know for sure about God when we turn to Him about the hard times we face?

What stands out to you about God in verses 16-24? Explain.

What encouragement do you find in verses 25-36?

What is a situation in your life where you need God to "light (your) lamp" and "illuminate (the) darkness" (v. 28)?

In verse 31, David asked a couple of rhetorical questions. What are some other ways that we tend to answer those two questions (i.e. we might think our own abilities are our “rock” or another person in our life fills that role)?

When have you experienced verse 36 in your own life—where God gave you the way to go and the strength to go there?

GOING DEEPER

When you are on the secure path—the path of righteousness where God has placed you and called you—does that necessarily mean that it will be an easy path? What does it mean?

What is a situation where you have a hard time believing that God is able to give you security? How does Psalm 18 help you with that?

APPLICATION

Think about the hard situations you’re facing now, would you rather turn to God or turn to yourself and/or your friends? Why?

What can you do now to pursue secure footing when hard times come along (vv. 33,36)?

In David’s hard times, he was often isolated from anyone who would help him. How does God use us to help each other in the hard times? How are we doing at that? How could we do better?

PRAYER

Thank God that you can always turn to Him and He will give you the help you need. Ask Him to give you an unshakeable hope to trust in Him regardless of the circumstances that surround you.

COMMENTARY

PSALM 18

18:1-2 In no other psalm is there such a large number of metaphors used to convey God's attributes. All of these relate to a military setting where God is seen as the real strength behind the person who fights. He also protects the psalmist as a hiding place from the enemy.

18:3 Worthy of praise in some contexts is based on the attributes of God (48:1; 96:4; 145:3), but here it is clearly connected with specific events in the life of the psalmist.

18:4-5 There was absolutely no chance to swim away since the psalmist's limbs were bound and unable to move. Death itself confronted him in the same way enemies did (17:13) and would not allow him to escape.

18:6 Temple most likely refers to heaven in this context.

18:7-15 These verses describe a theophany where God reveals His power through natural phenomena such as an earthquake and a thunderstorm. Mountains represent stability, so their shaking and trembling describes God's power to bring upheaval to what seemed secure. Psalm 18:15 seems to be connected with the exodus event when the depths of the sea became visible because of God's breath (see Ex 14:21).

18:16-19 The deep waters are related to the "torrents of destruction" in verse 4 and are identified more specifically as enemies. The spacious place is another illustration of being delivered from one's enemies. There is assurance that God delights in His people when He rescues them from harm and protects them from their enemies (41:11).

18:20-24 This declaration of innocence is set off by the same statements in verses 20 and 24. Unlike its use in prayers, these statements of innocence are part of thanksgiving for answered prayer, indicating why God delivered the psalmist from his calamity. 1

8:25-26 These verses make the connection between the statements of innocence in the previous section and Yahweh's covenant faithfulness.

18:28-29 Light is sometimes connected with salvation and provides security and assurance that God protects His own. The security becomes confidence. The psalmist could accomplish the impossible with God on his side.

18:31 The uniqueness of Yahweh is significant in Israel's theology, and it forms the basis for the distinctiveness of Israel among the other nations.

18:32-36 The descriptions in these verses are of traits that are important for warfare. Strength is the clothing. Feet of a deer represent swiftness. God made the psalmist more skillful by training his hands. The shield is perhaps related to its earlier mention where it was identified with God Himself (vv. 2,30).