

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 11/13/2011

Title: "The Lord is My Rock"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study in the Psalms" (Ps. 62:8)

Text: Psalm 18
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

1. Opening Praise (1-3)

The Lord is a deliverer

- Rehearse the names: Strength (Isa. 40:28-31), Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Shield, Horn, Stronghold
- Meditate by emphasizing each word: "The *LORD* is..."; "The LORD is *my*..."; "The LORD is my _____"

The Lord is worthy to be praised

2. The Story of David's Deliverance (1, 2 Samuel)

- The context for the Psalm, indicated in the heading, stretches from 1 Sam. 16 through 2 Sam.)

3. The Song of David's Deliverance

The Lord Hears (3-6)

- We can wonder why we need to pray when He knows all we need, and when he often overrules our well-meaning prayers. Psalm 18 comes after something like 50 years of battle, struggle, horror, anguish. God's answer often comes differently and more slowly than we would like, but God is glorified in the process of our becoming increasingly dependent.

The Lord Intervenes (7-19)

- In these verses we have a heavenly/cosmic look at God hearing/answering David's cries and intervening in rescue/judgment. Do you have the kind of God that could be rightly personified, not just in Thomas Kinkade paintings, not in the most fearful cosmic events?

The Lord humbles (20-30)

- How should we understand David's appeal to his own righteousness? 1) God has already promised to do what David is asking (2 Sam 7); 2) David and other psalmists don't believe they are perfectly righteous (Ps. 14:2-3; 143:2; 18:26). Fred Zaspel: "Whatever measure of greatness we have - physical, moral, political, societal, financial - we have it because God has condescended to share it with us. . . .The more we do for God the more we are indebted to God for the honor of it."

The Lord Helps (31-48)

- These verses show us God's deliverance at a very human level (e.g. feet, hands, arms, ankle)
- God is in the seemingly mundane things that appear to have an obvious cause or reason on the ground. David sees God's sovereignty in the miraculous and the mundane.

4. Concluding Praise (49-50)

God delivered David from the ungodly (50)

God delivered David for the ungodly (49; see Romans 15:9)

- Paul quotes verse 49 as a sign that David's praise and the praise of God's people would lead the nations to God.
- David is a foreshadow of the great David-like King to come, Jesus.

Sample Questions

- For many Psalms, the context is unclear and/or unimportant. Not so here. What's going on in Psalm 18?
- David gave God credit the seemingly normal moments of battle. How does this effect our view of God's sovereignty in the seemingly normal provisions of life?
- David celebrated deliverance from a physical enemy. How we mirror this prayer in light of Christ?