

Psalm 18:1–6

“Praising and Praying for Every and Eternal Deliverance”

What can give us great confidence and joy in the midst of every trial? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Psalm 18:1–6 prepares us for the opening portion of the public worship on the coming Lord’s Day morning. In these six verses, we learn that for believers, every trouble is something from which Jesus (Yahweh, our Savior!) saves us in the same love and power by which He saves us from sin and death and Hell.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 ▫ Read Psalm 18:1–6

Questions from the Scripture text: To whom was this Psalm delivered (superscript)? By whom was it written? What is David called here? To Whom did he speak this Psalm? In what day? What will David do to Yahweh (v1)? What eight things does he call Him in v1–2? What will David do to Yahweh in v3? Why? With what result? What had surrounded David (v4a)? What had the floods of Belial done to him (v4b)? What else surrounded him (v5a)? What confronted him (v5b)? What did David do (v6a)? How else does he describe this (v6b)? What kind of pronoun does he use there (and, really, throughout this passage)? What did Yahweh do (v6c)? From where? How else does he describe this (v6d)?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, Song of Adoration, and Prayer of Confession all come from Psalm 18:1–6, so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*.

This Psalm covers pretty broad territory: “the day that Yahweh delivered David from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.” David had many enemies! And the significance of the Psalm is underscored by its nearly full repetition at the conclusion of the David narrative in 2Samuel 22.

So, we can probably conclude that this Psalm gives us a general response to any and all of God’s deliverances of us—most supremely so as a response to that greatest of all deliverances, God’s delivering us from sin and death and hell in His Anointed, the Lord Jesus Christ! There are several striking things about how the Spirit carries David to lead off the Psalm in the explosion of praise that we have before us.

One striking feature is the use of the first-person, singular, possessive pronouns. My strength. My rock. My fortress. My deliverer. My God. My strength. My shield. The horn of my salvation. My stronghold (all from v1–2!). My God (v6)! This is the nature of saving faith. It is not only sure that God is a certain way; it is sure that He is that way *toward me*. *This God, Who is like this, is mine!*

A second striking feature of these opening verses of Psalm 18 is what they reveal about God’s purposes in our distress. “In my distress I called upon Yahweh” (v6a). The attributes of God’s power and wisdom and mercy and faithfulness are all especially displayed when we are in distress, and we find Him to be all those marvelous things unto us that vv1–2 list.

Another striking feature is the nearness to us of our transcendent God. He is “in His temple” (v6c), yet this same verse illustrates His nearness to us, even from there, in three ways. He hears my voice. I make noises on earth, and He listens to those noises from heaven. My cry comes before Him. Long after the compression wave dissipates, the cry is still before the throne of heaven.

“even to His ears”—Who, of course, has no ears. And yet He uses that language to teach us that our having ears is designed to communicate to us something about how God Himself pays attention to us, and how near unto Him our cries come: as if they are entering His very being in a way analogous to how sound waves “shake us by the tympanic membrane.”

Finally, we see that crying out to God and praising God are ordained by Him as instruments unto our deliverance (v3). He chooses to work in response to our praying and our praising. Truly, our God is worthy to be praised for many reasons, and these are some of those reasons that He highlights in the opening verses of this Psalm.

What distress do you find yourself in? What attributes of God are displayed in His nearness to you and His hearing you? How are you called to bring glory to Him in these attributes?

Suggested songs: ARP18A “I Love You Lord” or TPH450 “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing

errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Psalm 18 up through verse 6, these are God's words to the chief musician. The psalm of David the servant of Yahweh. Who spoke to Yahweh the words of this song on the day that Yahweh delivered him from the hand of all his enemies. And from the hand of Saul.

And he said, I will love you. Oh Lord my strength. He always my rock and my fortress and my deliverer my God my strength in whom I will trust my shield and the horn of my salvation my stronghold. I will call upon Yahweh. Who's. Worthy to be praised social.

I be saved from my enemies. The pains of death surrounded me. The floods of ungodliness made me afraid the sorrows of sheol surrounded me. The snares of death confronted me. In my distress. I called upon Yahweh. And cried out to my God. He heard my voice from his temple.

And my cry came before him even to his ears.

So far the reading of God's inspired and. Inherent word. This seems to have been a psalm that David sang on many occasions. He says that he spoke to you all the way the words of this song in the day that you always delivered him from the hand of old his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

Well, even if he had just spoke it to him on the day that he delivered him from the hand of Saul that would be many occasions for how many times he had to be delivered. From the hand of saw. And yet added to that as one of the day that you all way delivered him from all his enemies.

In fact. At the end of her towards the end of the David material we have near the end of Second Samuel this Psalm almost in its entirety quoted in that book as well. And so it is especially. It seems to have been a song that David used often as the Lord was delivering him out of all of his troubles and it is a great song for us then to sing as the Lord delivers us from one after another after another of our troubles and then especially when we think of that great and final trouble.

As you see verses four and five the pangs of deaths surrounded me the floods of ungodliness. Made me afraid in verse four. The floods of the the floods of Belial all that is opposed to God all that is worthless and hostile to God. And so, there is not only.

That which others do that is ungodly but there is the reminder that we deserve the wrath of God over upon all of our ungodliness. And it's probably important that he chooses the. Image or illustration here of the plot which shows us doesn't it have we all ought to be under the wrath of God and yet God in his mercy in his covenant in his grace has chosen to save some just like he saved Noah and Noah's family.

And so, All of the troubles in this world remind us especially of death and that are we deserve death. And so he says the pains of death surrounding me the floods of ungodliness made me afraid the sorrows of sheol surrounded me the snares of death confronted me in my distress.

I called upon your way and so on. We care too much about our comfort in this life and our ease in this life. We are anxious often when trouble faces us or in danger or when we're in pain. We're anxious about what it means for us in this life we don't often make that connection that we ought to make that the reason there is any trouble at all the reason there is any sickness the reason there is any sorrow the reason there is any death is because of sin and what sin deserves which is worse than death, isn't it to tell itself?

And so as the Psalm opens and remembers that we are sinners who deserve hell. It addresses. God as deliver, not just from Yes from all of the problems of this life, but not just from them. We know that he is delivering us from those problems. If we belong to him by faith in Jesus Christ.

The wicked who escapes for a time has problems does not really being delivered as he. Even those escapes will heap up against him at the judgment in the last day. God's mercies that he showed him not just giving him bread and breath but even giving him all of those little reprieves when he got better from illness or escaped some danger.

Probert from some injury have. Or whatever other trials the Lord delivered him out of him temporarily. If he appears before God on the last day without Jesus Christ one of those mercies of God make his judgment to all the worse. But the opposite is true for you if you believe in Jesus, isn't it?

If you believe in Jesus everything God did was just a little sampling of a foretaste of but he is ultimately doing for you in Jesus and every trouble he let you go through he used to bring you to faith in Christ or grow you in faith in Christ. And so as David who is hoping in God's salvation through the anointed the great anointed one the Messiah the Lord Jesus to whom all the other anointed once pointed even himself even Saul and you remember how much it meant to David if somebody was the anointed of God, whether it was the anointed of Saul that he refused to lay a hand on Saul or executed someone for laying his hand on soul and so forth.

He was trusting in Christ and looking forward to Christ and trusting in Christ every little deliverance reminded it that he belonged to a God, who is saving him from hell? And every little deliverance ought to remind you. That you belong to a God who has saved you from hell in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Listen to all the things he piles up about God as he knows and as his savior from sin and his savior from hell my strength my rock I can stand up I am my strength he enables me to get through things and to defeat my enemies my rock can stand upon him and have a sure foundation so I won't slip my fortress he creates the impenetrable barrier around me so only that which he intends for my good can have.

Ever get through to me my deliverer the guarantee that it lasts. I shall have salvation my god my strength in whom. I will trust my shield the horn of my salvation. My stronghold. I will call upon your way who is worthy to be praised. Social I be safe for my enemies.

David knows not only that God is pointing him to his salvation from sin and from death and from hell and guilt and from hell in every deliverance but that the reason for all of those deliverances and the reason for this last and great deliverance that we have from hell in the last day the judgment is for the praise of God.

And that's why he starts this psalm with the great praise of God and that's why the deliverances that he's had before remind him. To call upon the Lord in whatever troubles come first three. I will call upon the Lord verse 6. I called upon Yahweh. Cried out to my God and he heard my voice from his temple.

My cry came before him even to his ears. And so God who is infinitely above us in his holiness because he's loved us to save us by Jesus we know that he is right near us. To hear us and his favor. So when you. Make the sound of your voice.

God listens to you as if he is right in front of you. He doesn't actually have ears. Does he? But he wants you to understand that just as much as you are close enough to me so that the ears that are attached to your heads can process the sound waves that are coming out of my mouth.

So also God the everlasting God in his grace towards us. As always near to us focused upon us listening to us and we when we cry out he hears even though he is infinitely above us. Let's pray.

Our Father in heaven we thank you that. You redeemed us for your praise. And that part of the way that you bring these deliverances. Is by granting to our minds by your spirit the knowledge of you. So that we would remember what you have done and call upon your name.

You grant to our mouths to be opened. With what we know of you from your word. That we might call upon you. We pray that you would give us this desire that you would get praise so that even when we pray to you in trouble, we would be anticipating.

That you will surely deliver us for you have given us Christ and that when you do we will have another reason to praise you. Help us to love your praise we pray. And to love the praise that you will get in every time that you deliver us. But most of all in having delivered us from our sin and guilt and hell in your son our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through whom we ask. Him. Amen.