

- *“The Lord is shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.”* Psalm 23
- Psalm 42:1 - *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.”*
- Psalm 19:7 - *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;”*
 - Absolutely beautiful writings, and I just gave you but a few
 - There are people in this world who think that they need something else spiritually than the Bible, contradicting the verse we just quoted in Psalm 19:7
 - But I would say that with passages as beautiful as these, why would you want anything else?
 - The law of the Lord is perfect because it speaks words of freedom, words of salvation, words of a loving Father, and words of a wonderful Savior, etc.
 - But it is passages such as the Psalms that contribute to that perfection as well
 - The Psalms are beautiful writings – take advantage of what God has given us
- The Psalms are so beautiful because in large part, they are prayers that we see God’s people using as songs
 - Have you ever wondered what song book the early church used? Read the book of Psalms and you’ve got a pretty big part of it
 - Ephesians 5:18-19 - *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in **psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”*
- The Psalms are a different literary style than say the NT letters, so you read them a little differently from that perspective
 - There are actually 5 books of Psalms
 - Book 1: 1-41
 - Book 2: 42-72
 - Book 3: 73-89
 - Book 4: 90-106
 - Book 5: 107-150
 - They are not organized chronologically per say, rather thematically – although most of books 1 & 2 of Psalms date back to the monarchy, most of book 3 dates to the time in and around the Babylonian exile, etc.
 - Allow me to give you some passages from book 3 of the Psalms
 - Psalm 75:1 – *“We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near.”*
 - Psalm 89:1 – *“I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.”*
 - Psalm 84:10 – *“For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”*

- Beautiful passages once again, especially this time considering the fact that these were written in or around the period of the exile to Babylon
- But despite the poor situation that the Jews were in physically (captives in Babylon), they still gave praise to God
- Apparently sometimes persecution is good
 - That's what we find out in Acts 8 at least – as the church was being persecuted there, they did not give up
 - They took the gospel to the world as a result of that persecution
 - As we think about things such as this, we begin to understand James 1:2-3 a little better
 - *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”*
 - Think of the amount of patience David exhibited over the course of his life
 - He was anointed king of Israel in 1 Samuel 16 - but before he actually assumed the throne, he withstood years of persecution from Saul
 - And even after he became king, he withstood persecution from within (his own son)
 - He didn't give up though
- The attitude of the Jews shown in book 3 of the Psalms despite their physical circumstance is nothing short of amazing
- Think Paul in the book of Philippians – what joy he wrote with while he was imprisoned
- Or even think of Paul and Silas in prison in Acts 16 in Philippi – they were not complaining over their unfortunate physical state, rather they were praising God in the form of song
- There are 150 psalms written for us in our Bibles, and David wrote about 75 of those (50%) – including the Psalm that we're going to look at in this lesson, Psalm 18
- Psalm 18 is a Psalm of praise written by David for the deliverance that God provided him all through his life
 - All the trials that Saul subjected him to
 - All the internal trials that he experienced (some from his own son)
 - God delivered him through all of that
- So, as we begin to look at Psalm 18: I encourage you to think of times over the course of David's life that he needed delivered
 - As you begin thinking of that, allow me to briefly give you examples of others in need of deliverance for a moment
 - **Exodus 1:15-22**
 - When Moses was born, he was supposed to die – either by the Egyptian midwives aiding the Hebrew women while giving birth or by simply being thrown into the Nile at the order of the Pharaoh
 - **Matthew 2:16-18**
 - When Jesus was born, He was supposed to die at the order of Herod
 - How much innocent loss of life was there as a result of these 2 wicked decrees
 - Both Moses and Jesus were delivered though – God used both to deliver laws to His people
 - Much like David at numerous points throughout his life
 - He was anointed king of Israel in 1 Samuel 16
 - He slew Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 – what more could Saul want out of David?
 - Saul loved him for a time – until...
 - 1 Samuel 18:7 – *“So the women sang as they danced, and said: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.’”*

- Jealousy, fear, covetousness – now all of a sudden, David is a problem
- And Saul would spend the rest of his reign trying to kill David
 - Hunting him down repeatedly through the events of 1 Samuel 18-26
 - Killing anyone and anything that got in his way, including priests of God in 1 Samuel 22
 - He tried to kill him with a spear (1 Samuel 18 & 19), plotted against him (1 Samuel 18 & 19), sieged his home (1 Samuel 19), and even used his daughter as bait (1 Samuel 18)
- We can read in Luke 9:51 what Jesus' mission was – *“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”*
- That is the attitude of a king – keep your eyes on what is in the best interest of your people even if you know it isn't going to end well for you
- That is someone that we can agree – “I can get behind this person as my leader”
- That wasn't Saul – Saul's mission (like any other of Israel's kings) should have been to lead God's people in ways of righteousness – but instead, where did he turn his attention?
- 1 Samuel 18:9 – *“So Saul eyed David from that day forward.”*
- David spent the biggest part of Saul's reign running from him
- Did David need deliverance from Saul? Absolutely – and God certainly provided that deliverance
- And David praises God for that in Psalm 18
- 2 Samuel 21 was also a time when David needed deliverance – he got that deliverance and he recites Psalm 18 nearly verbatim at the conclusion

- **2 Samuel 21:15-22**

- David and Israel were faced with 4 giants not too far from the end of David's reign and life
- David and Israel were faced with 4 Goliaths – they were only faced with 1 in 1 Samuel 17
- But God delivered both times
- And David recites what we now know as Psalm 18 in 2 Samuel 22, praising God for His provided deliverance in this instance and throughout his entire life
- So let's look at Psalm 18, the praise with which David uses for God for all of the deliverance He provided him throughout his life

- **Psalm 18:1-3**

- David loved God, trusted God, and accurately found him to be worthy of praise
 - In Isaiah 6, 2 things pertaining to our study happened
 - 1 – heavenly beings (seraphim with 6 wings) cried to one another *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”*
 - 2 – Isaiah realized how holy God is and that he (a man) does not even deserve to be in His presence
 - *“Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”*
 - That is how holy God is and Isaiah subsequently responded accordingly
 - In Luke 5, we see Peter have the same reaction as Isaiah
 - Vs 8 – *“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’”*
 - And finally in Revelation 5, in the beautiful scene of the throne room of heaven, we see the same creatures in Isaiah 6 uttering the same praises to God

- Vs 8 – *“The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’”*
- These creatures do not rest because of their constant proclamation of God’s holiness
- Original manuscripts list the term *holy* in Revelation 5:8 nine times vs three showing that God is the Holy of Holies
- God is God and we are not (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- He spared David from troubles time after time, over and over again
- And as a result, David accurately realizes that he owes Him his all
- We owe Him our all – our utmost respect, honor, and praise
- Can you say the same thing? Does your soul pant for God as the deer pants for the water brooks? Do you love God, trust Him, and accurately find Him to be worthy of praise? If so, do you live accordingly?

- **Psalm 18:4-6**

- The pangs of death surrounded David while he was running from Saul, while he was in battle with Goliath, and the 4 giants of 2 Samuel 21
- And when he was in trouble, he didn’t rely on his own wits
- He prayed to God – and God heard him and God delivered every time
- Romans 3:23 – *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*
- Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death, ...”*
- Genesis 2:16-17 – *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for **in the day that you eat of it** you shall surely die.’”*
 - Sin is a serious matter – there are consequences of it (death)
 - Exemplified by the fact that the moment that Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree, they were supposed to die – the pangs of death surrounded them
 - But God let them live in this moment
 - He banished them from the garden where they could have lived forever and they did eventually die, but in this moment – God spared them from the immediate death that was supposed to have come
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you...”*
 - There was a time when the members of the church at Corinth met one of the following descriptions: unrighteous, fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners
 - For the wages of sin is death...the pangs of death certainly surrounded them
 - And we can say the same of ourselves
 - In John 8, when Jesus said to the scribes and the Pharisees *“He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”*, there was a reason they left one by one
 - They knew they were guilty
 - You and I are guilty – at one point in our lives, what was said of the Corinthians could be said of us
 - *“...But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*
 - But for those of us who have called upon the Lord in the form of His plan of salvation, we have been added to His church

- And the pangs of death no longer surround us
- Because God delivers
- David realized this
- In the face of certain death from Saul, his own son, Goliath, etc. – he didn't die, God saved him time after time, over and over again
- And exactly how that looked is described for us in Psalm 18:7-50
- **Psalm 18:7-15**
 - David equates God's responses to his tribulation with natural phenomena
 - Earthquakes
 - Fire & smoke
 - Darkness
 - Wind
 - Thunder & lightning
 - Arrows
 - In the midst of a sea storm in Matthew 8:23-27, Jesus' disciples assumed this would be their fate
 - But Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith and then rebuked the winds much to the amazement of those present
 - Matthew 8:27 – "...*Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?*"
 - God is God of all – including the natural occurrences that we experience on earth
 - God demonstrated this to Elijah as well in 1 Kings 19:11-18
 - Elijah witnessed a strong wind – strong enough to tear into the mountains and to break the rocks into pieces, but God was not there
 - Nor was He in the earthquake that followed
 - Nor was He in the fire that followed the earthquake
 - But after all these tremendous events, Elijah heard a still, small voice
 - And in it, Elijah found assurance from God that despite the awful situation he was in at the hands of Ahab and Jezebel, he was not alone
 - God still has 7000 prophets in Israel despite all the prophets' blood that has been shed up to this point
 - And not only that, but God is going to raise Elijah's successor, Elisha
 - In this case, God demonstrated to Elijah, that yes – I have the power over the winds, earth, and temperature, and will use them when I need to
 - But He also possesses the qualities of calm assurance for His people
 - Not in these instances with David though
 - God's response to David's tribulations is equated with these tremendous natural events
 - Think Mount Sinai in Exodus 19 when Israel was wandering through the wilderness
 - The mountain exhibited great thunder and lightning
 - A thick cloud and blasting of a trumpet
 - Great smoke and fire, and the mountain was quaking
 - God is here – and the camp of Israel trembled in fear
 - Think Jesus on the cross in Matthew 27
 - Darkness was over the whole land from the 6th hour until the 9th hour
 - The earth quaked, rocks were split, the curtain in the temple was torn, the graves were opened
 - And even the Roman centurion and those with him could not deny that God is there
 - "*Truly this was the Son of God!*"

- And in the instances of David's tribulation, God is there with David – would you want to be an enemy of David with God on his side? God who causes the earth to quake, dense smoke and fire, etc.? Certainly not

- **Psalm 18:16-19**

- Through all of these wonderful demonstrations of God's presence, David was delivered
- God provided when he couldn't provide for himself
- And He did so because He found delight in David
- Think of another man that God delivered for a moment: Noah
 - Genesis 6:5-8 – *"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and **He was grieved in His heart**. So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.' **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**"*
 - God gives us some divine commentary in Psalm 95 on His thoughts of Israel in the wilderness, specifically the event in which they complained against Moses and God for water in Exodus 17
 - Of that situation, God says in Psalm 95:10 – *"For forty years I was grieved with that generation."*
 - God loathed mankind in these instances – for all the wickedness, complaining, idolatry, etc.
 - But in the case of Israel in the wilderness, He was not grieved with Moses
 - And in the case of the flood, He was not grieved with Noah
- And in the cases of David, He was not grieved with David
- God delivered in all 3 men's lives
- With the rest of Psalm 18, David describes how he realizes that God is God
 - As a result, he puts great faith in Him
 - And because of the trust, love, and respect that David shows God, He provided deliverance all throughout his life – in whatever situation he was in, regardless of magnitude
 - This culminates in vs 50
 - *"Great deliverance He gives to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."*
 - God promises through David that just as He was with David, He will be with the descendants of David
 - Who is David's most famous descendant? Christ (Matthew 1)
 - And who are Christ's brothers and sisters? His body? The church
 - This promise of deliverance is for you and I as well – let us take great confidence in that fact
 - Let us put our faith in God as a result, just like David did
- In conclusion, after all the tribulation directed toward David from Saul after he was anointed king in 1 Samuel 16, he did eventually sit on the throne – God made sure that happened despite all of the persecution
- Just like God delivered for David all throughout his life, He will deliver for us as well if we've been found faithful
- **Romans 7:24-25**
 - With Paul's struggles here, realizing that the old law is not going to provide the justification that mankind so desperately needs, God delivers
 - Who will deliver me from this body of death? Only God

- And God does this through His Son, Jesus
- And not only did He deliver Paul, but He'll deliver us as well
- Proof (Romans 15:4 – learning from the events of the OT)? Look at David in Psalm 18, in 2 Samuel 21-22, in 1 Samuel 18-26, etc.
- We noted at the start how the Psalms tend to be ordered thematically vs chronologically, so let's look at the Psalms around Psalm 18 for further clarity
 - Only in God will salvation be found (Psalm 17:7), only God can provide the saving strength of His right hand (Psalm 20:6)
 - And these words are true because Psalm 19 says His Words are perfect, converting the soul; sure, making wise the simple; right, rejoicing the heart; pure, enlightening the eyes; clean, enduring forever
- So when your time on earth is done, if you've been faithful you can say...
- *"The Lord is shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever."*
- God provides deliverance for His people – but only His people
- **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – Romans 10:13-17
 - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16
- **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – Mark 16:16
- **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – Romans 10:8-10
- **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – Luke 13:3
 - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38
 - Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – Revelation 2:10