

## David's Deliverance Psalm 18

By Pastor Roy Hogan

### *Part 1 verses 1-19*

Many of the Psalm speak of David in distress. I do not know of any man in the Bible other than Apostle Paul that suffered more affliction than did David. His enemies were many. His chief enemy was, of course, King Saul. How would you feel if the President of the United States was after you? David's home was the fields, the woods, and caves. However, this Psalm 18 is different in that David is enjoying deliverance from enemies. In the title heading in your Bible you will find these words: "A Psalm of David, a servant of the Lord, who spake unto the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul." David is on the throne of Israel as this Psalm is written. His enemies are bowing at his feet. Yet, in his humility, David describes himself as "a servant of the Lord," that is, a servant of Jehovah. David, in his humble way, grace glory to God for the good things done in his life.

Like some fifty of the Psalms, this Psalm is a song. It was sung by the temple choir. It is a song of victory as are most of the Psalms that were designated to be sung.

18:1-2

*1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

The apostle Paul, under inspiration of the Holy Ghost, wrote Acts 17:28 *For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.* Where do we get strength? If we were able to arise this morning, get dressed, and go about our daily routine, the credit goes to the Lord of glory. We must be reminded we are dust of the

earth. No man is sufficient within himself. The sinner and the saint alike owe the Lord a thank you. When we stop to realize what man has accomplished in his 6000 years on the earth, we realize dust could not do this. There has to be a supernatural power in place to enable mankind to operate. That power comes from one source and that source is Jehovah God.

David gave God the glory and the credit for all aspects of his life. He named God as his *rock* which is his steadfastness. Without God, men sink. God was his *fortress* which is a place of safety from attack by the enemy. We all need a fortress for we all have enemies. God was his deliverer. God was his buckler. A *buckler* is armor that covers the entire body. God was David's *horn of salvation* and *high tower*.

18:3

*3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

We cheer for our children and we should. We applaud the President and we should. Men applaud one-another. When we take inventory at the end of the day, we see that God has been left out. The question is simple- is God worthy of praise? David believed God was worthy. As I have studied the life of David in the Bible, I conclude no one could praise God like David could. I envy the manner in which he could glorify the Lord of glory.

18:4-6

*4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.*

These three verses certainly give us a good description of our Lord's suffering on his journey to Calvary. As is seen throughout the Psalms of David, prophecy of our Lord is sometimes

interjected. The champion of sorrow is none other than *death*. No one can break a human heart like death can. Death can bring tears to the eye of a man that reminds us of the flowing of a river. The sorrows of death must have compassed, that is, engulfed, Adam and Eve at the death of their son Abel. Since the beginning of humanity, death has reigned as we are told in the book of Romans. Money cannot stay death. Power cannot hold death at bay. Two men, Elijah and Enoch, escaped death. The rest of us has an appointment.

Like Christ, David was compassed by death when the baby born to him and Bathsheba was taken by death. David lay on the floor in such agony he could not stand nor could he eat. Yet, the Lord suffered more. In the face of death, he prayed in Gethsemane's garden until his "sweat became as it were, great drops of blood."

Besides death, verse 4 speaks of another bitter enemy, *fear*. A person who makes the statement that they have never been afraid likely is not telling the truth. Fear is awful. Medical doctors speak of fear being as dreadful and destructive to a human being as is physically ailments. If you have never had an enemy, I predict one day you will. David had multiple enemies that brought fear to him like a *flood* as stated in verse 4. Saul was his greatest enemy. The, there was Saul's army. Added to this were the citizens of Saul's kingdom. Let us not forget those of whom David slayed their champion, the Philistines. David was nations against him. David had nationalities against him. Our Savior, too, was flooded with enemies from common men to kings, from his own people to those who never knew him but had only heard of him.

The Devil is the god of this world. The Devil copies God. He has no original work. So, like God has a kingdom, the Devil has a kingdom. He has a host of demons. He has a host of fallen angels. He has an army of evil spirits. Verse 5 speaks of the *sorrows of hell*. I can only think of the *sorrows of hell* as the Devil and his kingdom. The Devil's kingdom compassed, that is, engulfed, David. All Christians will at some time in their walk encounter an

agent of the Devil's kingdom. However, the Devil turned an army of his agents onto David and the Lord Jesus Christ as well.

Verse 5 tells us the snares of death prevented me. A snare is a hook or trap meant to contain. It does no one any good to try to flee from death. Death surrounds from the north, the south, the east and the west. Death surrounds from the left and from the right, from the front and from the rear. There is no fleeing death. The Savior tasted death for every man as we read in Hebrews 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.* With Jesus's permission, death was allowed to surround and capture his body. It was required that Jesus die for the sin of mankind for it is sin that causes men to die. Jesus overcame death and sin for he arose the third and appointed day.

The 4 great enemies of mankind enumerated in verse 4 and 5 can only be defeated when we call on the Lord for help. God has many attributes, but one for which I am most grateful is his ability to hear the cry of his children. His ear is ever tuned to the cry of his children in time of need. The phone line to God is never busy, is always a clear connection and is toll free.

18:7-19

*7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. 8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. 9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet. 10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. 11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. 12 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. 13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. 14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings,*

*and discomfited them. 15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils. 16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. 17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. 18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. 19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.*

In these verses we return to the scene of the cross. The Lord has carried his cross up the hill. He has been smitten. He has been mocked, spit upon, and reviled. In anger, the mob cried Luke 23:35 *And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. if he be the Son of God, let him save himself."*

This man on the middle cross was the son of Jehovah God. Imagine your own son in such a state of shame. It seems all was lost. The Devil had seemingly claimed victory. The Son of God had been taken and was lost in eternity. Then, as sudden as lightning strikes, Father God sprang into action. He was not going to settle for defeat. He was not, at any cost, going to allow his son to go down at the hands of the Devil.

The actions of Father God are described in verse 9-19. God's revenge was swift and terrible. Hebrews 10:31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* God the father was pleased with the crucifixion and death of his Son. His Son's death on the cross was the price Jehovah God set for the wages of sin to be paid. Yet, Father God was sorely displeased with the Devil's agents who participated in the crucifixion. Death took the Lord's body. The body was placed in a tomb, sealed by great stones. Armed guards stood watch at the mouth of the tomb. God was angry at the Devil's agents. He stopped the sun from shining for three hours. God hid his face from his own Son daring not to look upon his

state as he bore the sin of humanity. Then, God shook planet earth. Graves busted open. Saints arose to life as God made a fool out of death. Glory to his name! The rocks at the mouth of the tomb were rolled away. The strong, diligent soldiers fell to the earth as dead men. Don't mess with God.

God rode onto the scene on a cherub as described in verse 10. He spewed fire from his mouth. He caused hail stones and coals of fire to fall. Lighting flashed. He shot arrows. He discomfited them. Don't mess with God or his Son, Jesus Christ.

### *Part 2 verses 20-29*

18:20-24

*20 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. 21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 22 For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me. 23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity. 24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.*

In verse 20, we move back to the personal life of David. David failed God miserably in his affair with Bathsheba. The account of his sin with this woman is one of the saddest testimonies ever placed upon any man in the Bible. The affair involved not only adultery, but it led to drunkenness, a ruined home, murder and death. The scars of this sin were pronounced upon David and his family as well as upon the kingdom over which he ruled.

We often write people off after one failure, after one mistake, after one sin. This seems to be the nature of mankind. It is sometimes said that the army of God is the only army in the world that kills it's wounded. Sin is certainly awful. God hates all sin. Each and every sin must be reconciled before God. It is God's law that we break when we sin. In life, governing bodies, such as cities, write

and enact laws. The same governing body that wrote the law enforces the law and punishes the law-breakers. The same applies with God. All laws of conduct that govern humanity originated with God. Governments have laws against stealing because God said *thou shalt not steal*. All sin must be reconciled before God.

However, because of something called *grace*, a sinful failure does not have to end life. David accomplished much after his tryst with his neighbor's wife, Bathsheba. Verses 20-24 are certainly proof there was life after David's horrible fall. God has a purpose for all his children. David prayed the great prayer of repentance given in Psalm 51. God heard that prayer and cleansed him from his sin with Bathsheba. David moved forward thereafter. Repentance means to turn. After the Bathsheba affair, if David had seen a neighbor's wife bathing, he would have turned away. There is no other affair with another man's wife recorded regarding David that I am aware of. Why is this? Because David repented, that is, he turned from the practice of adultery.

Verse 20 tells us that God rewards righteousness. The scripture uses two words, rewarded and recompensed, to describe God's payment for Godly living. Salvation of the soul is not a reward for righteous living. Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit and has no connection to man's righteousness. However, just as God punishes unforgiven sin, he rewards righteousness. It is the flawed nature of mankind to dwell on the *bad* folk do. What about the *good* folk do? God notices the good and rewards accordingly.

Verse 21 bears a great truth that we must mention. I do believe all people fail God daily. There is no way that even a saved person can walk perfect in the eyes of a holy, perfect God. Our shortcomings as measured against God's perfect law are far different than "wickedly departed" from God as mentioned in the verse. David *wickedly departed* from God in the Bathsheba affair. He never wickedly departed again. He surely had shortcomings in the eyes of God, but he never again *wickedly departed*. A supposed child of

God that continually “falls off the wagon,” is a child of the Devil and knows nothing about salvation.

David held himself accountable before all God’s statutes in verse 22. Men are now to pick-and-choose which parts of the Bible apply to them. It all applies to all of us. The drunkard may attend church and may tithe and may contribute to the poor, but pretends the part of the Bible about strong drink does not apply to him. We all must realize God’s ordinances are all-inclusive. Which part of the ten commandments do you disregard?

You have a lot to do with your own righteousness according to verse 23. We often hear a wife complain that her sinful husband is the reason she cannot walk with God. This is spiritual ignorance. David said he *kept myself from mine iniquity*. You are responsible for *you* living for and walking with God- not your neighbor, husband, children, or supervisor.

Verse 24 reinforces the truth of verse 20, that is, God rewards righteous living. We are not given soul-salvation by righteous living. We are given rewards. Walking with God is a two-way street- he punishes sin and rewards good.

18:25-26

*25 With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt show thyself upright; 26 With the pure thou wilt show thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt show thyself froward.*

How fair is God? If we treat him right, he will treat us right. That is all a person can ask for. God is not an unreasonable tyrant sitting on a throne with an ax in hand waiting to behead the first one who makes a mistake. If we are merciful to him, he will be merciful to us. If we are upright, he is upright in his dealings. However, if we are *forward*, so can God. The word *forward* is found 20 times in the Bible. This word has the meaning to *walk adversely or away from*. You will never experience anything quiet as shaking as when

you walk away from God and he, in turn, hides his face from you. I trust this never happens in your life. As soon as you realize you have mis-stepped, turn quickly and reconcile with God.

18:27-29

*27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks. 28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. 29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.*

Psalm 34:19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.* No one likes trouble. No one wants to face difficult times. Yet, walking with God engages a child of God in the war between truth and right. One of the greatest mistakes a new convert can make is to believe after salvation all is well. The day was saved, I became a *child* of God and a *soldier* of God. Verse 24 gives God's children the promise that despite conflict which bring affliction, we will win. Since the day I was saved more than 54 years ago, I have never one time believed I made a mistake enlisting with God. My greatest regret is that I have not always been a good soldier. By the way, the conclusion of verse 27 lets us know our enemy is in for a great disappointment. When the final bell sounds, the children of God will be standing and all forces of evil encapsulated in the lake of fire eternally.

I love the phrase of verse 28: *For thou wilt light my candle.* Many times, in my lifetime, my candle has flickered. At times, it has possibly gone out. Yet, the Lord has matches ready. I do not believe that God wants his children to walk in darkness. Phil 2:15 *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*

*Part 3 (verses 30-39)*

18:30

*As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.*

I am not perfect. The President of the United States is not perfect. The pope is not perfect. A preacher once asked the audience that if anyone present was perfect, please stand. One man stood up. The preacher asked him to explain why he stood. His reply: “Oh, I am not standing for myself, I am standing for my wife’s first husband.”

God is perfect in his way. Only when I get to heaven will I be able to know the feeling of walking just one day in perfection. I will not have one negative thought or do one deed that displeases my Savior. An evangelist once said it was not the beauty of heaven that he longer for the most. He said his greatest desire to be present in heaven was that he would never again sin against the Savior. This is a powerful statement.

God’s *way* is perfect and so is his *word*. Has anyone ever said to you “just trust me?” I have had this said to me and I regret trusting the person. We will never regret trusting God’s Word. Why can we make this statement? We make this claim because God’s Word has been on trial for 6000 years and has never failed. Going back to the Garden of Eden, God spoke a word to Adam that he was not to eat of a certain tree. If he failed to heed God’s Word, he would die that day. Adam ate and “rest is history” as we often say. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years. Adam died at age 930 before reaching his 1000<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Since the Garden of Eden where God spoke his first words to man, his word has proven true. Once God said it would not rain for 42 months, and not one drop of rain fell. Once God told the sun to stop shinning, and the earth became dark. I am so glade we have a god we can trust. One Mount Carmel, the false god, Baal, failed his disciples. They called for fire from heaven, and not even a spark appeared.

The only way to build trust is by experience. A man and a woman marry. They have known each other for one year. They think they can trust one another. Often, things don't work out because trust fails. God loved me before I was conceived. He has loved me my entire life. He has never made me a false promise. He has never given me false hope. He does what he says he will do. I measure his actions toward me against the Bible, and God always measures up. He is a man of his Word.

So, in time of trouble, where do we turn? Do we go to someone who has failed us on a previous occasion? Do we turn to someone who often has not told us the truth? All men are capable of lying, and I believe all men lie on occasion. At least, they tell a half-truth from time-to-time as did Abraham. We can trust God. A buckler is a shield. I believe it to mean a full-body shield not simply a small, round shield worn on the arm.

God can be trusted to shield us if we will only trust him. Sometimes, human reasoning prevails, and we take things in our own hands and leave God out. Moses smote the rock when God said to speak to it. He took matters in his own hands. Could Moses have failed to trust God on this occasion? Perhaps he did.

18:31

*For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?*

Many false gods allegedly exist. A Buddhist man once told me his religion had three million gods. I believe in one god, and that god is Jehovah God. He is also our LORD, as seen in verse 31. All letters are capitalized in the word LORD. Sometimes we see in the scripture "Lord" with only the first letter capitalized. When all letters are capitalized, the translators were translating the Hebrew word "yhwy." Yhwh means "to be" or simply, "I am." Rest assured, God is I am. He is yesterday, today, and tomorrow all at the same time. It is said that LORD (all letters capitalized) appears more than 5,000 times in the Bible.

To me as a believer in Jehovah God, it is a pitiful thought that billions of people have placed their trust in false gods. As mentioned aforehand, the false god Baal failed his followers on Mt. Carmel. To put trust in Baal or any other false god is to stand on sinking sand. Jehovah is the *rock*. Many are the times when God is acknowledged as the *rock* in the book of Psalms. My favorite is Psalm 61:2 *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

18:32

*It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.*

In Bible-times, men wore a supportive garment for the mid-section of the body where most strength is found. A person can lift more with the body than with, for example, an arm. God is that garment that for the midsection wherein our greatest strength originates.

So, we have the midsection strength. What about other parts of the body? Let us look further...

18:33

*He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.*

A hind is a deer. Our community has many deer. I have seen as many as eleven standing together on the lawn of the church. I see deer almost daily for I live in a rural area. The habitat is conducive to a large deer population. Sometimes, a deer will cross the road in front of the automobile. They jump fences making mockery of the fence. Yet, I have never witnessed a deer fall. They have incredible balance.

Because of such balance and their amazing ability to move about, a deer can reach high places where other animals cannot go. How high would you like to go with the Lord? The answer lies within

you. The only limits you have in your Christian life are self-derived. God has no limits except the ones we put on him. A child of God has the feet of the hind.

Not only does God strengthen the body and equip the feet, he also enables the hand....

18:34

*He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.*

Men and women in the military train rigorously. The strength of the body and the sureness of the feet take them to confront the enemy, but it is the hands that have the final say. The hands shoot the bow and pull the trigger on the weapon. There is much training to be done in the work of the Lord. Training requires time which we do not want to give. Training requires patience which some of us do not have. I have a good education in to my professional occupation as an engineer. I went to school full-time seventeen years to get that education. I never picked up a book, read it, laid it down and walked away a qualified structural engineer. It took seventeen years to become qualified.

The Bible speaks of a novice in I Timothy 3:6 *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*

A novice is a beginner. It is not wrong to be a novice. It simply means one who has not yet been to God's school of training. A novice does not know the pitfalls. A novice often cannot identify the problem, and therefore, is hopeless in reaching a solution. Again, let it be said that being novice is not a bad thing. We all have to start somewhere. What is displeasing to God is someone who has been saved 20 years and remains a novice. This is not God's plan for one of his children.

To suck a bottle takes little effort. In fact, it requires no training. A baby comes into the world bottle-ready. In this verse 34 we pause

to ask ourselves: how strong are you? Can you bend a bow of steel? David said God, through his teaching, had strengthened him to be able to not only bend the bow of steel, but to break it. This is amazing. There is no limit to the power of God.

18:35

*Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.*

Why do we need teaching from God? Why do we attend his school? What is this training about? Why does verse 34 reference a *bow*? Is it needed to attend church? The training and the bow are needed because we are surrounded by enemies. The Christian life involves warfare. We are not yet in heaven. How are you equipped for the battle?

It would be foolish to ask a soldier to go unequipped into the line of enemy fire. So, God provided a shield. A shield is a defensive weapon. It is carried in front of the soldier. Note also that a shield is in close proximity to the soldier. This is because our enemies are so close we can feel their breath. We pass them in the hallway. We sit beside them on the park bench.

The shield is our salvation. The Devil fires fiery darts as described in Ephesians 6:16 *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* Regardless of the strength of your torso, the sureness of your feet, or your trained hands, the shield is necessary.

We never engage the enemy alone. The verse describes how God's right hand upholds us, and how he is *gentle* with his soldiers. It was the right hand of God and the breath of his nostrils that destroyed the army of Pharaoh at the Red Sea crossing. I have no desire to swap my God for any other god. I find full satisfaction in him.

18:36-39

*36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. 37 I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. 38 I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. 39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.*

The enemy is not always sitting on the park bench beside us. We sometimes have to make a home-delivery. Verse 26 and 27 put us on notice that God has travel plans for us. These two verses mention the *feet* and the *steps* of the feet. God has equipped us to go to the enemy, yet the church of today has failed. We do not attack the enemy. Unless the enemy comes to our doorsteps and threatens to break open the front door, we don't want to get involved. The church has the promise of Mathew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Even with such a strong assurance that we cannot lose, we are still intimidated by the enemy.

Men wear cleats to play sports on dirt and grass. The purpose is that they will not slip and fall. The shoes of the soldiers in God's army are also special. God designed them such that we will not slip. If we slip and fall, the enemy will prevail. Christians' shoes have positive traction. When will the church wake up and arise to the need to resist the evil around us? Verse 37 gives us the assurance we *can* consume the enemy.

#### *Part 4 verses 40-50*

The previous verses of this chapter, verse 32-39, give a description of the manner in which God girds his children that they may walk for him and prevail over the enemy. A man within himself is no match for Satan and his enemies. I am thankful God equips us for battle. If you have never experienced opposition and warfare in serving God, I predict some day you will. Verse 32-39 tell us that God girds the midsection, the center of our strength. He also makes

our feet sure that we do not slip. He trains our hands in a manner we can engage in warfare. If we fail or quit, as some have, we cannot blame God.

We are about to see in the following verses the victory we can have in our walk with the Lord. With his presence in our life, we can overcome the resistance Satan puts forth.

18:40

*Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.*

You may think you do not have an enemy on this planet. This is not so. The Devil will make sure he finds you an opponent. We are admonished to be at peace in Roman 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.* We should all strive for peace. Yet, at some point in time, trouble will come looking for you. God gives us the strength to break the neck of the enemy. A broken neck is a sure way to die. In this modern world in which we live, we have the blessing of medical care, and some survive a broken neck. This was not possible in Bible times. A broken neck was sure death. When God breaks the neck of trouble, trouble is in big trouble. God does things right.

18:41

*They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.*

Where is the Devil when you need him? The enemy with a broken neck makes a plea for help from his master and gets no reply as the verse says *there was none to save them.* The wounded servant of Satan dials his master's phone, but gets no answer. He leaves a message on his phone saying "please call me, I need help." The master never returns the call. Where is the Devil when you need him?

The prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel yelled and screamed to their god all day long. He answered not. I am reminded of how the wounded soldier of the enemy was deserted by his master in I Samuel 30:13 *And David said unto him, To whom belongest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.* Where is Satan when his disciple is strapped in the electric chair? Where is Satan when his disciple is in a straight-jacket in an institution suffering withdrawals from his addiction?

When God's disciples faced the fiery furnace, God delivered. One of God's children was placed in a den of lions, and God delivered. If the shepherd has 100 sheep and one is lost, he secures the 99 and seeks to the ends of the earth for the one lost. Oh, what a Savior!

The latter part of verse reads: *even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.* Living for Satan seems fine when things are good. Many live a fun-filled life walking side-by-side with Satan. Then comes trouble. The "bottom falls out," so to speak, then, where do they turn? When all else fails, they turn to God. It is too late! God is not an emergency room, a walk-in clinic or a spare tire in the trunk. God is a day-today companion with whom his children walk. His children dwell in his shadow. If you do not know this good master, get acquainted with him through confession of sin and faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

18:42

*Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.*

We have all likely seen dust in the wind. The wind does not blow stones, but blows small particles of dirt called dust. Sometimes, enemies appear as large as boulders. By Satan's enormous size, our

faith is tested. I have to believe David considered the enormous size of Goliath and felt totally inadequate to face such a man. With God on the scene, Goliath became dust in the wind. God has a way of reducing an enemy to dirt.

18:43-45

*Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me. 44 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me. 45 The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.*

Many were David's enemies. For many years he ran from them seeking shelter in the mountains and in caves. He was well acquainted with *the strivings of the people*. It took a while for the strife to end, but in time God placed David on the throne. He became *the head of the heathen*. Strangers submitted unto him. Strangers obeyed him. Those that once stood boldly in confrontation toward David, slowly faded away.

God has a way with enemies. Today, God's children are surrounded with enemies. His children are not in charge. The Devil is the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world. That is about to change. Every knee shall one day bow and every tongue shall confess to our Lord and master, the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. People who do not know God will one day know him. People who have never served him will one day call him master. The enemies of God and his kingdom will fade away into the sunset. I Corinthians 15:26 *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death*. Note the word *last*. The line is long now, but the *last* is in sight.

18:46

*The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

He is alpha and omega, the first and the last. He is from everlasting to everlasting as we are told in Habakkuk 1:12 *Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One?* If you are a Christian, rejoice for you have a living Lord. Where is the swindler Jim Jones? Where are the Branch Davidians? Where is Hitler and his mighty Germany?

Not only is God eternal, he is steadfast. He is likened to a rock in verse 46. Dirt was used to describe the enemy. Even the unseen wind carries dirt away. The rock is steadfast. God can be counted on. God the rock is a good place to establish your life.

We fail to exalt the Lord. I stand in agreement with David when he says *let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

18:47-48

*It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me. 48 He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.*

To avenge means to *retaliate*. Men and women are in prison who retaliated when wronged by someone. They took it upon themselves to punish the enemy rather than letting God do it. No one can get even like God can. He is a pro. Saul, David's chief enemy, lay in the dust of the earth while David sat on the throne of Israel. Who else but God could have given such a victory.

18:49-50

*Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. 50 Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and showeth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.*

Do you believe in praising God? Have you ever been the recipient of the helping hand of God? If all the children of God would join together in praising God who is worthy, the Devil would tremble.

Many have the lockjaw. Many professing Christians do not believe in praising God. They profess to praise him in the quiet of their soul. So be it. I see nothing wrong with lifting our hand toward the throne of God in the eyes of others. There is much said in the Bible about outward praise toward God.

The masses saw David Dance in the street of Jerusalem when God gave victory and the stolen ark was returned to its rightful place. At Pentecost, those who looked on the rejoicing saints believed they were drunken with strong drink. Do you believe in outwardly praising God?