

I WILL LOVE YOU, O LORD, MY STRENGTH

PSALM 18:1-6

CONTEXT OF PSALM 18

1. Psalm 18 is a historical Psalm
2. Set in its historical setting - Superscription
 - a. A Psalm of David, the servant of the Lord
 - b. Who spoke to the Lord
 - c. The words of this song on the day the Lord delivered him
 - i. From the hand of all his enemies
 - ii. From the hand of Saul
3. Compared with 2 Sam 22
 - a. 2 Sam. 22:1 is similar to the superscription of Psalm 18
 - b. 2 Sam. 22 was probably written before Psalm 18
4. Looking at different strands in psalm 18
 - a. Loving the Lord strand
 - b. The Lord's deliverance strand
 - c. The reciprocity strand
 - d. The light and strength of the Lord strand
 - e. Praising the Lord as Rock strand

A DECLARATION OF LOVE FOR THE LORD

"I will love You, O Lord, my strength....Psalm 18:1

1. The determination to love God
2. The development of love for God

REASONS FOR A DECLARATION OF LOVE FOR THE LORD

"I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is 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 the Lord, *who is worthy* to be praised;

So shall I be saved from my enemies." Psalm 18:1-3

1. Having a depth of personally knowing and relating to God

- a. From prayers answered
 - b. From experiences with God
 - c. From learning to practise the Shema Deut. 6:4-5
- 2. Aspects of knowing and experiencing God
 - a. Internal expression of help - God as strength
 - b. External expressions of help
 - i. My rock
 - ii. My fortress
 - iii. My deliverer
 - iv. My God
 - v. My shield
 - vi. The horn of my salvation
 - vii. My stronghold

DETERMINATIONS

“My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I will call upon the Lord, *who is worthy* to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies.” Psalm 18:2-3

- 1. Trusting in the Lord more
- 2. Calling upon the Lord with greater confidence
 - a. Who is worthy to be praised
 - b. So shall I be saved from my enemies

FACING A NEAR DEATH SITUATION

“The pangs of death surrounded me,
And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid.
The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.” Psalm 18:4-5

- 1. He was surrounded by the pangs of death
- 2. Floods of ungodliness made him afraid
- 3. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded him
- 4. The snares of death confronted him

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE LORD HEARING PRAYER

"In my distress I called upon the Lord,
And cried out to my God;
He heard my voice from His temple,
And my cry came before Him, *even* to His ears." Psalm 18:6

1. David in his time of distress
 - a. He called upon the Lord
 - b. He cried out to his God
2. The Lord heard his cries for help
 - a. The Lord heard His voice from His temple
 - b. His cry came before Him even to his ears

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Reasons for loving the Lord
 - a. Depth of knowing God
 - i. Knowing God personally and deeply
 - ii. Experiencing God in many different ways...my strength...my rock...my deliverer...my fortress...my shield...my stronghold
 - b. From prayers answered
2. Development of love for God
 - a. Trusting in the Lord
 - b. Calling upon the Lord
 - c. Praising the Lord