

Review

Ps 16

1. David had a strong faith in the Lord
2. He had a strong focus on God through the challenges of life
3. To find a deep sense of closeness with Him through different ways such as
 - a) Appreciating His goodness
 - b) Focusing on the Lord as the portion of our inheritance and cup etc
4. These principles ought to be core values in our lives
5. To respond appropriately with faith, prayer and hope

Ps 18

1. There are many strands in this Psalm
2. We need to trace these different strands to understand the flow
3. It is a historical Psalm
4. The superscription

“To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the servant of the Lord, who spoke to the Lord the words of this song on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:”

 - a) It gives us the historical setting of the Psalm
 - b) It has to do with the deliverance of God
 - c) From the enemies of David such as Saul and nations such as the Philistines.
5. The great distress faced in these life-threatening situations

“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. In my distress I called upon the Lord,” Ps 18:4-6

 - a) Near-death experience
 - b) Overflowing ungodliness
 - c) Sorrow of Shoel

- d) The snares of death
- e) David was in great distress

6. There is another version in 2 Sam 22

Love for God

1. A declaration of a love for God

“I will love You, O Lord, my strength.” Ps 18:1

- a) David began the Psalm expressing his love for God
- b) This love aspect is not seen in 2 Sam 22
- c) How do we understand the difference?
- d) David had written about how the righteous would love the Lord and His name
“But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; let them ever shout for joy,
because You defend them; let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.”
Ps 5:11
- e) David was fulfilling the Shema
“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Deut 6:4-5

2. The reasons for David’s love for God

“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.” Ps 18:2-3

- a) Internal expression of help
 - i) “My strength” is mentioned twice
 - ii) God provided inner strength to David
- b) External expressions of help
 - i) My rock
 - ii) My fortress
 - iii) My deliverer
 - iv) My shield
 - v) The horn of my salvation
 - vi) My stronghold

Determinations

1. Driven to call out to God

“I will call upon the Lord,” Ps 18:3

“In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God;” Ps 18:6

- a. This was David’s choice and determination
- b. A reflection about seeking God when in distress

2. Praise and trust

“Who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.” Ps 18:3

- a. Give praise to God who is worthy
- b. Trust in the Lord for His salvation

God’s answer

“He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears.”

Ps 18:6

- 1. The Lord dwells in His holy temple... the place that He has chosen
- 2. He would have heard the call and cries of David

Lessons to be learned

- 1. Let us be inspired by David’s example to have a deep sense of love for God
- 2. We have every reason to love God as we deepen our knowledge of Him
- 3. Determine to call upon the Lord as we go through times of distress
- 4. Respond by giving praise to the Lord for who He is and all that He has done
- 5. To fully trust God to hear and answer our prayers...out of His love, grace and mercy