

Psalm 018 - Gratitude for Victory; God's Reward to the Righteous

Psalm 18 poetically recounts David's life and experience with God in his own words.

Psalm 18 (Cf. 2 Sam 22:1-51)

[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the 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: And he said...]

Gratitude for Victory

1 "I love You, LORD, my strength."

1 "I love You, O LORD, my strength."

1 He said: "I love you, LORD, my strength."

1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

- "I love You" - *racham*, to love deeply, have mercy, be compassionate, have tender affection

- Written when David was made king over all of Israel (2 Sam 5; 8; 10)

- This psalm opens (v1-3) and closes (v46-50) with a doxology

2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my savior, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my stronghold in whom I take refuge, my shield, the glory of my salvation, and my high tower."

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.

3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.

3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.

3 I cried out to the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I was delivered from my enemies.

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

4 The ropes of death encompassed me, And the torrents of destruction terrified me.
4 The cords of death encompassed me, And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.
4 The cords of death entangled me; the rivers of Belial made me afraid.
4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The ropes of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.
5 The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.
5 The cords of Sheol surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me.
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 to my God for help; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.
6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.
6 In my distress I cried to the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his Temple he heard my voice; my cry reached his ears.
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.

7 Then the earth shook and quaked; And the foundations of the mountains were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry.
7 Then the earth shook and quaked; And the foundations of the mountains were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry.
7 The world shook and trembled; the foundations of the mountains quaked, they shook because he was angry.
7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

8 Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth was devouring; Coals burned from it.
8 Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it.
8 In his anger smoke poured out of his nostrils, and consuming fire from his mouth; coals were lit from it.
8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

9 He also bowed the heavens down low, and came down With thick darkness under His feet.

9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With thick darkness under His feet.

9 He bent the sky and descended, and darkness was under his feet.

9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

10 He rode on a cherub and flew; And He sped on the wings of the wind.

10 He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He sped upon the wings of the wind.

10 He rode upon a cherub and flew; he soared upon the wings of the wind.

10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

- Also in 1 Chr 28:18, God is seen as using cherubim as a vehicle to move

11 He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, Darkness of waters, thick clouds.

11 He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him, Darkness of waters, thick clouds of the skies.

11 He made darkness his hiding place, his canopy surrounding him was dark waters and thick clouds.

11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

12 From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, Hailstones and coals of fire.

12 From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds, Hailstones and coals of fire.

12 The brightness before him scattered the thick clouds, with hail stones and flashes of fire.

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 Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, And the Most High uttered His voice, Hailstones and coals of fire.

13 Then the LORD thundered in the heavens, and the Most High sounded aloud, calling for hail stones and flashes of fire.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.

14 He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.

14 He sent out His arrows, and scattered them, And lightning flashes in abundance, and routed them.

14 He shot his arrows and scattered them; with many lightning bolts he frightened them.

14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

15 Then the channels of water appeared, And the foundations of the world were exposed By Your rebuke, LORD, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

15 Then the channels of water appeared, And the foundations of the world were laid bare At Your rebuke, O LORD, At the blast of the breath of Your nostrils.

15 Then the channels of the sea could be seen, and the foundations of the earth were uncovered because of your rebuke, LORD, because of the blast from the breath of your nostrils.

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 on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.

16 He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.

16 He reached down and took me; he drew me from many waters.

16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.

17 He saved me from my strong enemy, And from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, And from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemies, from those who hated me because they were stronger than I.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.

18 They confronted me in the day of my disaster, But the LORD was my support.

18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the Lord was my stay.

18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support.

18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

19 He also brought me out into an open place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

19 He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

19 He brought me out to a spacious place; he delivered me, for in me he takes delight.

19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

God's Reward to the Righteous

20 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has repaid me.

20 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

20 The LORD will reward me because I am righteous; because my hands are clean he will restore me;

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 acted wickedly against my God.

21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.

21 because I have kept the ways of the LORD, and I have not wickedly departed from my God;

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.

22 For all His ordinances were before me, And I did not put away His statutes from me.

22 because all his judgments were always before me, and I did not cast off his statutes.

22 For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

23 I was also blameless with Him, And I kept myself from my wrongdoing.

23 I was also blameless with Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

23 I was upright before him, and I kept myself from iniquity.

23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

24 Therefore the LORD has repaid me according to my righteousness, According to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.

24 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.

24 So the LORD restored me according to my righteousness, because my hands were clean in his sight.

24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

25 With the faithful You show Yourself faithful; With the blameless You prove Yourself blameless;

25 With the kind You show Yourself kind; With the blameless You show Yourself blameless;

25 To the holy, you show your gracious love, to the upright, you show yourself upright;

25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

26 With the pure You show Yourself pure, And with the crooked You show Yourself astute.

26 With the pure You show Yourself pure, And with the crooked You show Yourself astute.

26 to the pure, you show yourself pure, and to the morally corrupt, you appear to be perverse.

26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

27 For You save an afflicted people, But You humiliate haughty eyes.

27 For You save an afflicted people, But haughty eyes You abase.

27 Indeed, you deliver the oppressed, but you bring down those who exalt themselves in their own eyes.

27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

28 For You light my lamp; The LORD my God illumines my darkness.

28 For You light my lamp; The LORD my God illumines my darkness.

28 For you, LORD, make my lamp shine; my God enlightens my darkness.

28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

29 For by You I can run at a troop of warriors; And by my God I can leap over a wall.

29 For by You I can run upon a troop; And by my God I can leap over a wall.

29 With your help I will run through an army, with help from my God I leap over walls.

29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

30 As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is refined; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

30 As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

30 As for God, his way is upright; the word of God is pure; he is a shield to all those who take refuge in him.

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.

The Acts of God for the Righteous

31 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,

31 For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,

31 For who is God but the LORD, and who is a Rock other than our God?—

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

32 The God who encircles me with strength, And makes my way blameless?

32 The God who girds me with strength And makes my way blameless?

32 the God who clothes me with strength, and who makes my way upright;

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

33 He makes my feet like deer's feet, And sets me up on my high places.

33 He makes my feet like hinds' feet, And sets me upon my high places.

33 who makes my feet swift as the deer; who makes me stand on high places;

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

34 He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

34 He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

34 who teaches my hands to make war, and my arms to bend a bronze bow.

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

35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.

35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.

35 You have given to me the shield of your deliverance, and your right hand holds me up; your gentleness made me great.

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.

36 You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped.

36 You enlarge my steps under me, And my feet have not slipped.

36 You make a broad place for my steps, so my feet won't slip.

36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

- God was preparing for service: Joseph (13 years); Moses (40 years); Joshua (40 years)

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them, And I did not turn back until they were consumed.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them, And I did not turn back until they were consumed.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn around until they were utterly defeated.

37 I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

38 I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet.

38 I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet.

38 I struck them down, so they are not able to rise up; they fell under my feet.

38 I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet.

39 For You have encircled me with strength for battle; You have forced those who rose up against me to bow down under me.

39 For You have girded me with strength for battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

39 You clothed me with strength for war; you will subdue under me those who rise up against me.

39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

40 You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, And I destroyed those who hated me.

40 You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, And I destroyed those who hated me.

40 You have made my enemies turn their back to me, and I will destroy those who hate me.

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

41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save, They cried to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

41 They cried for help, but there was none to save, *Even* to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

41 They cried out for deliverance, but there was no one to deliver; they cried out to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

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

42 Then I beat them fine like the dust before the wind; I emptied them out like the mud of the streets.

42 Then I beat them fine as the dust before the wind; I emptied them out as the mire of the streets.

42 I ground them like wind-swept dust; I emptied them out like dirt in the street.

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

43 You have rescued me from the contentions of the people; You have placed me as head of the nations; A people whom I have not known serve me.

43 You have delivered me from the contentions of the people; You have placed me as head of the nations; A people whom I have not known serve me.

43 You rescued me from conflict with the people; you made me head of the nations. People who did not know me will serve me.

43 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, they obey me; Foreigners pretend to obey me.

44 As soon as they hear, they obey me; Foreigners submit to me.

44 When they hear of me, they will obey me; foreigners will submit to me.

44 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

45 Foreigners lose heart, And come trembling out of their fortresses.

45 Foreigners fade away, And come trembling out of their fortresses.

45 Foreigners will wilt away; they will come trembling out of their stronghold.

45 The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.

46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation,

46 The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation,
46 The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! May the God of my deliverance be exalted!
46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

47 The God who executes vengeance for me, And subdues peoples under me.
47 The God who executes vengeance for me, And subdues peoples under me.
47 He is the God who executes vengeance on my behalf; who destroys nations under me;
47 It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.

48 He rescues me from my enemies; You indeed lift me above those who rise up against me; You rescue me from a violent man.
48 He delivers me from my enemies; Surely You lift me above those who rise up against me; You rescue me from the violent man.
48 who delivers me from my enemies. Truly you will exalt me above those who oppose me; you will deliver me from the violent person.
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.

49 Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, LORD, And I will sing praises to Your name.
49 Therefore I will give thanks to You among the nations, O LORD, And I will sing praises to Your name.
49 Therefore, I will give thanks to you among the nations, LORD; I will sing praises to your name.
49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

50 He gives great salvation to His king, And shows faithfulness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever.
50 He gives great deliverance to His king, And shows lovingkindness to His anointed, To David and his descendants forever.
50 He is the one who gives victories to his king; who shows gracious love to his anointed, to David and his seed forever.
50 Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

- Paul quotes this in Rom 15:9, applying it to Jews praising God to the Gentiles, and in Rom 15:12, announcing Jesus Christ reigning over both Jews and Gentiles (Cf. Is 11:10).