

July 13, 2025 Session 7 God's Wisdom Psalm 18:16-29

Intro: This lesson got very personal with me and I included questions I asked myself as I prepared these notes. I even included a place to write my name after copies of the notes are made. David's enemies, who sought to end his life, had all been vanquished. Psalm 18 expresses David's elation, thankfulness, and relief. It is the longest psalm attributed to David.

Praise God! (Psalm 18:1-3) Read in the Bible.

In the first three verses, David praised God who was his strength, rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, salvation, and stronghold. Who is God to you? What would you say He is? He is my security, moral compass, eternal life giver, forgiver and defender, righteousness, love and beauty...

The God Who Rescues (Psalm 18:16-19) p. 62

David recalls the times God saved him from near death experiences at the hands of his enemies. God supernaturally defeated David's enemies. As you studied this lesson, did you recall times that God saved you from physical, financial, or medical difficulty? Do you remember when God saved you from death and hell when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? An event that came to my mind is when the Lord literally "pulled me out of deep water." I had jumped in the water to swim across a river. The water was deep and cold from melted snow. I lost my air and started sinking. I couldn't move. The water was over my head, and I still couldn't move. Scenes from my life flashed before me as I continued to sink. I don't know how far I sank but it seemed like I was pulled to the surface, and I was able to swim back to shore. I know God saved me. Hindsight allows us to see the past more clearly, and allows us to see just how blessed we are. People in our age bracket have many years to reflect upon the goodness of God.

Like David, adversity comes into the lives of believers today, but like David we do not face those times alone. God is with us.

Vs. 18 The LORD (Yahweh) was/is David's/our support. God was a lifeline for David when he was being pursued by his powerful enemies.

Just as Egypt was vastly more powerful than Israel in Moses's day, so Saul was much more powerful than David. Sin and death, our worst enemies, were defeated by our Lord Jesus. All the enemy's best weapons and strategies put together are no match for God. The same thing is true for believers today. There is no need greater than God's support. Moses told the people to trust in God. **Exodus 14:13-14**

"And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.'"

Has the LORD fought for you? Sometimes when the LORD fights for us He takes us to places, and puts us in situations we did not anticipate.

Vs. 19 The LORD brought David out to a spacious place. Remember that David spent much of his time hiding from Saul in the wilderness, for a time in the cave of Adullam. **1 Samuel 22:1-2** *"David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he [David] became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him."* Imagine being cooped up in a place like a cave with limited exits. Even today when we feel pressure we ask for "more space." David said God delivered him because He delighted in him. Why did God delight in David? God delighted in King David because of his deep faith, sincere heart, and genuine devotion. Despite his flaws, David consistently sought God's guidance, repented for his sins, and demonstrated humility. He showed a sincere desire to follow God's will. David was known as a man after God's own heart because of his trust in God, his worshipful spirit, and his leadership guided by faith and reliance on God. Does God delight in me? I think of how much I delight in my grandchildren and want only the best for them and I want to cause God to delight in me.

Faithfulness Rewarded (Psalm 18:20-24) p. 64

David is not inferring he is without sin. There is no self-congratulation here. David understood the connection between a life well lived and

the rewards of living a life of integrity. David connected the dots between his own moral conduct, and being led by God to his deliverance. David refers to his righteousness, but he was not claiming to be sinless. Righteousness involves the right relationship and right actions. A person's right moral actions spring from his or her right relationship with God. David meant something very different than Paul's discussion of righteousness, which involves the believer, through faith in Christ, receiving Jesus's perfect righteousness.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *"For He (Yahweh) made Him (Adoni-Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (Jesus)."* David was simply saying that in this case, his own actions towards Saul were innocent. In the context of King Saul seeking David's life out of jealousy and fear, this was the case. David had done nothing to harm Saul. David had even intentionally, and respectfully, spared King Saul's life. David claimed *"cleanness of my hands,"* not because he was without sin, but because he did not have Saul's blood on his hands. **Hebrews 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."* The ultimate reward is eternal life in heaven, but there are benefits in living according to God's will in this life. David stated that the Lord had rewarded and repaid him according to his faithful obedience.

Vs. 21 David declared, *"I have kept the ways of the LORD."* Have I kept the LORD's requirements? **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** *"And now, Israel/ _____ (fill in your name), what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"* Like David proclaimed I/we who follow Jesus, have decided to turn away from wickedness and live according to God's Word. We do this consciously and intentionally through the power of God's indwelling Holy Spirit. David stated that he looked to the Lord's instruction to guide him in life.

Hope Given (Psalm 18:25-29) p. 66

The psalmist highlighted how God is faithful to those who have been

faithful to Him. With the crooked, God is shrewd. He will humble the proud. God's people can have confident hope when facing any obstacle. In these verses David is addressing God directly.

This is not just a statement about God, it is a declaration to God. It is a proclamation of faith based on the observation of how David had seen God working in this world. The Lord is faithful to His covenant, which means He is loyal to those who belong to Him. We belong to God!

God is blameless and pure. God knows what is right and does what is right because He is entirely righteous. The Lord tenderly and perfectly rescues and cares for His children as they are oppressed by their enemies—the world, evil, the flesh, and death. These verses are not advocating that God will reward us in kind for every good deed.

Conversely, God does not repay the wicked for every single act of sin they commit. But David had observed what is generally true about life: we generally reap what we sow, whether that be good or evil. But that is not an absolute. Sometimes the wicked go through life largely unscathed, while the righteous suffer for their faith and faithfulness to God. Whatever the case may be, God is in control. He loves us, and gave us the plan for life now and in eternity. Through Christ we have a guarantee, not made by man but by God, that we will have eternal life with Him. Our God is the God of the Covenant, the God of promise, and the God of truth. God is faithful with His faithful followers, and loyal to those who belong to Him. Sometimes God will use the crooked or perverse, and twist the wickedness back at its source.

Recall how God used the grotesque cross and torturous suffering of our Lord Jesus to save us. Satan may have really thought that he killed God, but the empty tomb was a “Na na nah boo boo” to that expectation. Remember that Satan cannot tell the future. He may not be able to read either or he would have gotten a clue from the book of Revelation. People with haughty eyes pridefully trust in themselves and reject the Lord. They are humbled when they realize they cannot save themselves.

Vs. 28 Light is a powerful image in the Bible. God Himself provides light for our way. God's Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. There are seven golden lampstands in the first three chapters of the book of Revelation. This imagery fittingly describes the mission of the church to be light in this world. In the phrase: “*You [God] light my*

lamp,” God does not just provide light, He is the source of light. David was talking to God, not about God. David was professing his faith about God’s own nature. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5 *“This is the message which we have heard from Him [Jesus] and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”* Jesus is the light of the world. **John 8:12** *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”* When God creates a new heaven and new earth, there will no longer be any need for the light of the sun and moon, because the Lamb of God, Jesus, will be the lamp in the midst of the Holy City. **Revelation 21:23** *“The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.”* God lighting David’s lamp could be understood as the Lord preserving his life or delivering him from life-threatening dangers. Darkness is also used to represent the absence of God, rejection of God, ignorance, unbelief, and the present world system under the rule of Satan.

Vs. 29 David expressed confidence in God’s strength, not his own. He could attack a barricade and leap over a wall. **Philippians 4:13** *“I can do all things [that bring me closer to God] through Christ who strengthens me.”* We also have confidence in God’s strength and guidance. **Romans 8:31** *“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”* What matters is that we grow closer to the Lord and that others see His light shine through us.