



**The LORD is my rock and my  
fortress and my deliverer,  
My God, my rock, in whom I  
take refuge ... [verse 2]**

## **PSALM 18**

**Twice Given — Twice Triumphant**

# INTRODUCING PSALM 18

## ○ Psalm 18 & 2 Samuel 22

- **Double Appearance in Scripture**

- Significant for believers

- Extended hymn of praise for deliverance

- **Difference**

- 2 Samuel 22: older – the original.

- 2 Samuel 22: part of appendix of official documents supporting the history of David.

- Psalm 18: edited by David himself for singing in Temple worship.



# PSALM 18 & 2 SAMUEL 22

- Double appearance in Scripture
- Difference
- Same superscription
  - Longest of any psalm.
  - Repetition argues strongly for authenticity and inspiration of psalm headings.
  - Musical heading belongs as subscription for Psalm 17.



# SINGING PSALM 18

**Only in God is my soul at rest;  
In Him is my Salvation.**

**He alone is my Rock and my  
Shield,**

**My Strength and my Salvation.**



# SINGING PSALM 18

*My Stronghold, my Savior;  
I shall not be afraid at all!  
My Stronghold, my Savior;  
I shall not be moved!*

**Words & Music: John Michael Talbot  
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# PRAYING PSALM 18

- Praise the Lord! You are my Rock and Refuge. (v. 2)
- You are worthy to be praised, Lord. (v. 3)
- Lord, help me — I'm in trouble. (v. 6)
- O God, give me light for my darkness. (v. 28)
- Show Yourself to all the nations, Lord. (v. 49)



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

- I. Introductory Praise (vv. 1–3)**
- II. Account of Deliverance (vv. 4–19)**
- III. Instruction in Righteousness (vv. 20–29)**
- IV. Example of Devotion (vv. 30–45)**
- V. Concluding Praise (vv. 46–50)**



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**Heading:** “from the hand of all his enemies”: de todos os seus inimigos

- Poetic synonyms
- Symbolic of power or control
- 1<sup>st</sup> = grasp
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: das mãos de Saul





# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 1** “I love you”: Eu te amarei

- Opening words do not appear in 2 Samuel 22.
- Not the usual word for “love.”
- God is more frequently the subject of this verb.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

## v. 2 Metaphors

- Rock, fortress, refuge, shield, horn, and tower.
- Symbolic of strength, security, and refuge.
- “My” personalizes the concepts.
- David draws from experiences in the wilderness.
- Confirms David’s trust in the LORD.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 3** “who is worthy to be praised”: que é digno de louvor

- David places this first in the Hebrew text—emphatic and exclamatory.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 4** “cords of death [Tristezas de morte] . . . torrents of ungodliness [torrentes de impiedade]”

- David refers to death & Sheol.
  - Death restrains from a return to this life.
- “Torrents of ungodliness” = “floods of Belial”—overwhelming wickedness.
  - See 1 Samuel 25:17.
  - Cf. Deuteronomy 13:14



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 10** “He rode upon a cherub and flew”: E montou num querubim, e

voo

- **Alliteration & assonance.**
  - **Enhances the depiction & focuses on concept of swift intervention.**
- **Could personify a thunderstorm.**



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**vv. 12, 13** “Hailstones and coals of fire”: e a saraiva e as brasas de fogo

- Does not occur in 2 Samuel 22:14.
- Heightens liturgical & hymnic nature of Psalm 18.
- Characteristic of theophany in the OT.
  - See Exodus 19:16; Deuteronomy 33:2; Joshua 10:11; Psalm 78:48; etc.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 18** “But the LORD was my stay”:

mas o SENHOR foi o meu amparo.

- “Stay” = “staff” (Psalm 23:4, teu cajado me consolam).
- The LORD is the psalmist’s support and protection.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 19** “into a broad place”: para um lugar espaçoso

- **Space or room to breathe depicts relief from pressures and stress of enemies and calamity.**





# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**vv. 20, 24** “according to my righteousness [conforme a minha justiça] . . . the cleanness of my hands [a pureza de minhas mãos]”

- Repeated for emphasis.
- Affirm that the LORD rewards those who obey and serve Him.
  - Does not speak of salvation from sin.
  - Cf. Psalms 1:6; 5:12; 7:9; 34:15; etc.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 28** “You light my lamp”: tu  
acenderás a minha candeia

- **Emphatic pronoun.**
- **Israelite soldiers referred to David as “the lamp of Israel” (2 Samuel 21:17; cp. Psalm 132:17).**
  - See 2 Samuel 22:29.
- **“Lamp” = figure of life and preservation.**
  - Job 21:17; Proverbs 13:9; 20:20.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 30** “His way is blameless”: O  
caminho de Deus é perfeito

- See vv. 25 and 32.
- Whatever God does is right.
- Those who worship Him must also do what is right.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

- v. 31** “who is God”: quem é Deus
- 1st of 4 uses of *Eloah* in the Psalter (50:22; 114:7; 139:19).
    - 1st used in Deuteronomy 32:15, 17.
    - 41x in Job (e.g., 3:4, 23; 16:21).
    - *Eloah* = *Allah*



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 34** “a bow of bronze”: um arco de cobre

- **Variety of understandings:**
  - **Wooden bow with bronze decoration.**
  - **Shoots bronze-tipped arrows.**
  - **“Snakelike” bow in shape.**
  - **Poetic figure of a bow of great strength.**
  - **Best view: a literal bronze bow.**



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 35** “Your gentleness”: a tua  
mansidão

- Literally, “Your humility” or “Your condescension.”
- God condescended to come down from Heaven and intervene on David’s behalf.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

## **vv. 37–42** David Owes His Victory to God

- The psalmist's victory was not due to his own skill, strength, armaments, or strategy.
- No room for pride.
- Yahweh was the true Victor.



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 46** “The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock”: O SENHOR vive; e bendito seja o meu rochedo

- Beginning at v. 46, “The epilogue is in the form of a doxology which puts the king’s triumph in context. The initial joy-filled cry, ‘The LORD lives!’ . . . , sums up the witness of the whole psalm.” — Davidson, *Vitality of Worship*, 68–69





# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

**v. 49** “I will give thanks to You  
among the nations”: te louvarei  
entre os gentios

- See Romans 15:9—God’s plan had always been for the Gentiles to experience spiritual salvation and to worship Yahweh.
  - Context in Romans: Christ is speaking the words from the OT.
  - “In Paul’s citation the risen Christ implicitly stands in the place of David.”—Mark Seifrid



# UNDERSTANDING PSALM 18

- v. 50** “His anointed”: o seu unguido
- Who is the “anointed”?
  - See quote from James Luther Mays in the notes.
  - David, as God’s “anointed” king, established the role of “messiah” that the ultimate Davidic King would fulfill to an even greater extent.



# PREACHING/TEACHING

## PSALM 18

- **The Lord Who is worthy of praise, is worthy of love (vv. 1, 3).**
- **Our God can personally deliver His people from trouble (vv. 7–19).**
- **God rewards righteous deeds with answered prayer (v. 20).**
- **The believer praises the Lord among the nations. (v. 49)**

