

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 18

Pursuing Your Enemies

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse:

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. The enemies of the Christian are wiser, stronger, and efficient in their attempts to conquer and control the life of the Christian - they never rest, and they have 6,000 years of experience in dealing with people
- C. But we have the Lord (1Sam 17:45).
- D. It is time we started to pursue our enemies - kick them off the thrones of our lives, and then pursue them until they are not only defeated, but buried, and gone!
- E. David in this Psalm so describes just such a battle

II. Message - Pursuing Our Enemies - Psalm 18

A. The Time of Psalm 18

1. Written at the end of David's Life (2Sam 22) – 60 years old
2. A review of the faithfulness of God on his behalf through all his struggles, battles, trials, and testings
3. This Psalm is a Summary of all that God has taught him about fighting his enemies
 - a. One of the themes of Psalms is war – fighting – enemies
 - b. Applies to the Christian because we fight a spiritual warfare, spiritual enemies, use spiritual weapons
 - c. So try and listen to the Psalm teach you have to win fights! How to pursue after your enemies when they outnumber you, outgun you, and easily outwit you!

B. The Summary of Psalm 18 (Psalm 18:1-3)

1. "I Love the Lord" (Ps 18:1-3) What a way to talk!
 - a. As an Obvious Choice
 - b. Because of a lot of good reasons
 - 1) Because He is my strength
 - 2) He is my Rock
 - 3) **My Fortress**
 - 4) My Deliverer – Saviour
 - 5) My God
 - 6) My Strength that I trust
 - 7) **My Buckler**
 - 8) **My Horn**
 - 9) **My High Tower**
2. "I will Trust Him"
 - a. Call upon Him in prayer
 - b. Praise Him ahead of time
 - c. We make huge mistakes when we only trust God a "little"
3. "So will I be Safe from all my enemies!" – that's a Christian's confidence!
4. David remembered all his enemies – and remembered them being defeated!!! Saul, Goliath, the Philistines, and even Absalom!
5. How do you remember your enemies?

C. David Reviews His Struggles (Ps 18:4,5)

1. He has no good memories of his enemies and his fears. No way to see them as easy or fun – that’s programming
2. David faced four realities
 - a. Sorrows of defeat and death – constant edge of discouragement – wanted to die
 - b. A massive army of enemies – never just one
 - c. The sorrows of hell – like there is no hope!!!
 - d. The snares (traps) of death
3. All those things hindered David – enslaved him – so that he could not fight, and could not win
4. David was well able to defeat every enemy, but often struggled with sorrow and fears
5. We are more than conquerors, yet the devil hinders us in our minds – don’t believe him!

D. David’s Prayer (18:6)

1. In distress is a good time to pray
2. David called on the Lord of heaven and earth – by name
3. Cried – not a quiet prayer
4. Told God about his situation, about his enemies, and about how he was weak and on the brink of losing everything (Ps 18:17)!
5. And the great thing is that God HEARD David’s prayer (Ps 66:18,19; 1John 5:14,15)
6. Never forget just how close God is to our prayer!
 - a. Travels faster than the speed of light
 - b. Gets louder the further away from us it travels – because the Holy Spirit carries it (Rom 8:26,27)
 - c. God delights in prayer (Ps 145:18; Pr 15:8)

E. God’s Answer (Psalm 18:7-17)

1. Look at how David describes God showing up in battle!!!
2. Describes a spiritual event – not visible (2Kg 6:15-17) but still there (2Cor 4:18)!
 - a. God’s presence is like an earthquake
 - b. The moving of hills
 - c. God arriving flying on a Cherub Angel – arch-angel
 - d. A terrifying sight
 - e. Like when Jesus approached devils, they freaked out because they saw Him for who He really was
 - f. Next time you face a terrifying situation, pray, and ask God to intervene, and believe that He will come “in style” and will terrify your enemy!
3. God intervenes in David’s situation! THIS IS WHAT PRAYER INVITES! God to come down!
4. David was delivered (18:16,17)
 - a. Pulled out of certain doom and defeat
 - b. Saved from all his enemies

F. Why God Helped David? (Ps 18:18-27)

1. Because God was David’s stay
 - a. His reason for everything he did
 - b. His focus every day (Heb 11:2)
 - c. His anchor that David held onto (even though it really was the anchor that was holding on to HIM)
2. Because God delighted in David – like He delighted in Jesus “well pleased”
 - a. God’s grace
 - b. God SHOULD have ignored and abandoned even David
 - c. But God delighted in him
 - d. God delighted in stubborn and rebellious Israel (Dt 7:7,8)
 - e. AND He delights in you
3. Because David Lived Right

- a. He lived God's way – the Bible way
 - b. He didn't backslide
 - 1) Yes, David sinned, but always repented
 - 2) Sin doesn't defeat you, NOT REPENTING defeats you!
 - 3) Backsliding is when you start to sin, and you keep justifying your actions
 - a) Your anger and bitterness
 - b) Your private covetousness and lust
 - c) You bad attitudes
 - c. He stayed clear of HIS sins – the sins that so easily beset HIM
 - d. So, Have your *own righteousness*
 - 1) I must have better righteousness than what I was born with (Mt 5:20)
 - 2) I get that only from Jesus Christ
 - 3) Once I have Christ's (the lamb's) righteousness, I must build upon that foundation using what the Bible refers to as gold, silver and precious stones (1Cor 3:11-18). Talking about my life-style
 - 4) My righteousness has to be right in HIS sight (18:24)
 - 5) Personal righteousness is me
 - e. Be in *Obedience* to God's word (18:21-22). To deviate from God's word is wicked. Able to take orders from the Captain, the General
 - f. Develop *Uprightness* - honesty (18:23) - part of boot camp is getting rebuked, and made low, and broken, and then rebuilt into a army!
4. The Mirror Principle – God treats YOU as you REALLY are
- a. Show mercy, and God will show mercy to YOU
 - b. Live godly and upright, and God will be GOOD to you
 - c. Live pure and God will be honest and pure towards you
 - d. By lived forwardly – perverted – deceptive, and God will lead you to ruin (2Thes 2:7-12)
5. Work on your attitudes and actions
- a. God forgives you, if YOU forgive others (Mt 6:14)
 - b. Give and it shall be given back to you
 - c. Humble yourself, and God will meet you at that level

G. Next Time – How God helped David in his Battles