

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 18

Pursuing Your Enemies – Part 2

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. Review - 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

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

1. "I Love the Lord" (Ps 18:1-3) What a way to talk!
2. "I will Trust Him"
3. "So will I be Safe from all my enemies!" – that's a Christian's confidence!

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

- D. **David's Prayer** (18:6) Told God about his situation, about his enemies, and about how he was weak and on the brink of losing everything
 1. Who or what are our enemies as Christians?
 2. Our old nature, habits
 3. Our bad memories
 4. Demonic attacks
 5. The devil himself
 6. The world system – will be against you when you strive to live like Jesus

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)!

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

1. Because God was David's stay
2. Because God delighted in David – like He delighted in Jesus "well pleased"
3. Because David Lived Right
4. The Mirror Principle – God treats YOU as you REALLY are
 - a. Realize that God is going to react towards you in the same ways as you act towards Him (18:25,26) - mirror principle
 - b. Analyze how God is treating you lately, and then react right
 - 1) Show mercy, and God will show mercy to YOU
 - 2) Live godly and upright, and God will be GOOD to you
 - 3) Live pure and God will be honest and pure towards you
 - 4) Live forwardly – perverted – deceptive, and God will lead you to ruin (2Thes 2:7-12)

5. Work on your attitudes and actions. Working on THEM preparations For The Battle - What God Expects of Me (18:20-28)

III. Lesson – How God Helped David in his Battles – Psalm 18:29-50)

A. God Helps By HIS Abilities (18:29)

1. Before the new birth, we accomplished things in only two strengths:
 - a. Our own strength
 - b. Or, the strength of a demon (Mark 5:2-4)
2. Once born again, a new strength is present (1John 4:4)
 - a. I can do all things, THROUGH Christ (Philp 4:13)
 - b. Use God's weapons (Eph 6:10-13)
 - c. Lean upon HIS strength in you (1Cor 15:10)
 - d. Especially when you are weak and a failure (2Cor 12:9,10)
 - e. Don't trust in your own strength (Ps 44:6,7; 20:7)
 - f. Don't trust in appearances (1Sam 16:7)
3. So, attempt the impossible – do GREAT things – run through a troop, leap over an impossibly high wall... what else should a Christian attempt?
 - a. Win someone over to surrender to Jesus Christ
 - b. Go ahead and marry someone
 - c. STAY married to someone
 - d. Invent something
 - e. Climb something
 - f. Discover something
 - g. PREACH this Book!
 - h. Teach Sunday School classes

B. Why We Can Trust God (18:30-36)

1. His way is PERFECT!
2. His word is proven to be true
3. His work is to humble and knock your enemies off balance
4. There is NO ONE like our God
5. His training is right
 - a. Girds us with strength – to fight, not run away
 - b. Makes our way perfect – may start off with wrong ways of thinking, and reacting, but God changes us so that we think right and act right
 - c. Makes my feet able for the obstacle – hill or mountain
 - d. Teaches me how to WAR
 - 1) Fight first on our knees
 - 2) Fight by doing the opposite of what our flesh says to do
6. He is our shield – holding us in His right hand (John 10:28,29)
7. He is very gentle
8. He makes us great – not we ourselves (Ps 100:3)
9. He can keep us from slipping – our greatest fear... falling back into the old ways!

C. The Christian's Decision (18:37-42)

1. Pursue and overtake your enemy – whatever it may be
 - a. Go forward, AGAINST what you have been dominated by
 - b. What are our enemies?
 - 1) Satan - enemy number one
 - 2) Our lusts (James 1:14) - adultery, fornication, success - all the lists in the Bible of sins
 - 3) Our limitations - flesh

- 4) Our wrong attitudes (big enemies) take over our whole life
 - 5) Our past failures
- c. Don't let anyone or anything stop your pursuit of your enemy
 - d. Though a troop blocks your path - run THROUGH it
 - e. Though a wall (or a mountain) gets placed in your way - leap over it
 - f. Work through your past failures and THANK GOD for every defeat and disaster, trusting that God can and will make everything work together for good!
2. Don't quit until you win and he is defeated
 - a. Don't back off, when you have the victory in your hands (18:40-42) - we so often do not carry through - feel it not necessary
 - b. They will plead, and bargain, and act so innocent
 - c. God won't answer the cries of your enemies - so don't you
 - d. God was using you to defeat them, so don't get deceived into letting them stay around - as Joshua did with the Gibeonites
 - 1) Allowing "small sins" into your life
 - 2) Tolerating a little rock music, a little wine, a little unmonitored internet
 3. Wound your enemy until he is defeated
 - a. So, we need to work harder, run further, overtake them - you used to put so much effort into living for the devil. It's time you started redeeming the time, and make up lost time and distance!
 - b. Stay at it until they are captured (2Cor 10:4-6)
 - c. Fight and wrestle until they do not rise again - BEAT them - mortify the flesh (Rom 8:13; Col 3:5)
 - d. Fight using the Lord's strength, not your own (2Cor 10:4,5)
 - 1) Prayer - confident trust in God's power and timing (Rom 12)
 - 2) Obedience to God's word
 - 3) Using the blood of Christ as a power against their work in you
 - 4) Using kindness against them
 4. Trust God to enable you to win
 5. Beat your enemy down small
 6. The Bible is not a book for wimps who want to stay wimps! It is for failures who are tired of being defeated and dominated and destroyed at the drop of a hat!

D. Rejoicing in Victory (18:43-50)

1. God WILL deliver the trusting believer from strivings - conflict
2. The Lord will put you in charge - type of Christ - preparation for the Millennium
3. God's word will spread (Cf Acts 19:15) as God works and WE don't!
4. So, Go ahead and Praise God
 - a. He still lives
 - b. He deserves to be worshipped, and exalted – at work, at home, at school surrounded by "heathen"
 - c. He still avenges our enemies when we battle for right - this world needs to see victory, and know the fear of God in their hearts
 - d. Give Him thanksgiving - among the heathen - they need to see a believer rejoicing in His righteous and holy God
 - e. God gives so much to His King - David, and Jesus

IV. Conclusion

- A. Have you ever experienced Biblical victory? You will know you have when it was NOT by your own strength. When it was simply in answer to prayer, and out of obedience to God's will!
- B. God Helped David in his Battles **By HIS Abilities** (18:29)
 1. I can do all things, THROUGH Christ (Philp 4:13)
 2. Use God's weapons (Eph 6:10-13)
 3. Lean upon HIS strength in you (1Cor 15:10)
 4. Especially when you are weak and a failure (2Cor 12:9,10)

C. We Can Trust the Same God

1. Don't trust in your own strength (Ps 44:6,7; 20:7)
2. Don't trust in appearances (1Sam 16:7)
3. Just go ahead and attempt the impossible – do GREAT things – run through a troop, leap over an impossibly high wall... what else should a Christian attempt?
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D. It's Down to OUR Decisions - daily

1. Pursue and overtake your enemy – whatever it may be
2. Never quit until you win and he is defeated
3. Wound your enemy until he is defeated
4. Will you trust God to enable you to win?
5. Decide to BEAT your enemy down small

E. Start Rejoicing in EVERY Victory – no matter how small!