

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

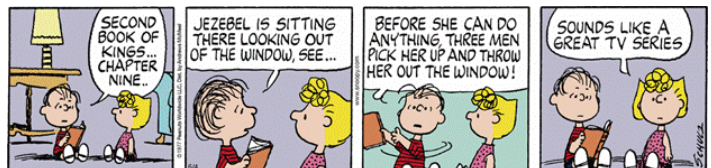
1) 01 June.....	Psalm 001.....	God's Wisdom
2) 08 June.....	Psalm 119.....	God's Truth
3) 15 June.....	Psalm 019.....	God's Glory
4) 22 June.....	Psalm 096.....	God's Reign
5) 29 June.....	Psalm 132.....	God's Promise
6) 06 July.....	Psalm 110.....	God's Messiah
7) 13 July.....	Psalm 018.....	God's Deliverance
8) 20 July.....	Psalm 105.....	God's Faithfulness
9) 27 July.....	Psalm 038.....	God's Conviction
10) 03 Aug.....	Psalm 032.....	God's Forgiveness
11) 10 Aug.....	Psalm 023.....	God's Care
12) 17 Aug.....	Psalm 139.....	God's Greatness
13) 24 Aug.....	Psalm 005.....	God's Righteousness
14) 31 Aug.....	Psalm 042.....	God's Presence

INTRODUCTION

- **Psalm 18** is mirrored in **2Samuel 22** where David expresses his gratitude for God's ability to rescue and restore him to his throne
- According to Charles Spurgeon, "this Psalm is the song of a grateful heart overwhelmed with a retrospect of the manifold and marvelous mercies of God" src. *The Treasury of David*
- **Special Note:** The 2nd and the 49th verses are both quoted in the NT (**Heb 2:13 & Rom 15:9**) as the words of Jesus Christ, indicating that a greater than David is alluded to in these passages, per C. Spurgeon.

Passage	Comments
Ps 18:1-3	<p>1) For the choir director. A [Psalm] of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to 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, "I love You, O LORD, my strength."</p> <p>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..... of Heb 2:13</p> <p>3) I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.</p>
<p>Remember: David is writing from his perspective as he is on the run from King Saul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall that God came through for David • BUT, does God always come through for ALL others? • Consider that 10 out of 11 Apostles met horrendous deaths, along with many other martyrs of the faith • Consider also how Jesus met His fate on the Cross • YET, God is still worthy to be praised whether we are saved from our enemies or not <p>Consider Job's perspective</p> <p>Job 1: 21 ...The Lord gives and the Lord takes away</p> <p>Job 2:10 Shall we accept good from God and not accept adversity?</p> <p>Job 6:10 I take consolation & joy in my unrelenting pain, knowing that I have not denied God</p>	
Ps 18:04-15	<p>4) The cords of death encompassed me, And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.</p> <p>... </p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Again, recall this is David's perspective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God came through for him superbly • Why doesn't God come through for others in similar fashion? • Again, most Apostles and many martyrs died horrendously 	
Ps 18:16-29 ETB	<p>16) He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters.</p> <p>17) He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.</p> <p>18) They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my stay.</p> <p>19) He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.</p> <p>20) The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.</p> <p>21) For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not wickedly departed from my God.</p> <p>22) For all His ordinances were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me.</p> <p>23) I was also blameless with Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity.</p> <p>24) Therefore, the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His eyes.</p> <p>25) With the kind You show Yourself kind; With the blameless You show Yourself blameless;</p>

Passage	Comments
	<p>26) With the pure You show Yourself pure, and with the crooked You show Yourself astute (NASB) / tortuous (ESV)</p> <p>27) For You save an afflicted people, but haughty eyes You abase.</p> <p>28) For You light my lamp; The LORD my God illumines my darkness.</p> <p>29) For by You I can run upon a troop; and I can leap over a wall.</p>
<p>More Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (v17) How does God us deliver from our enemies, including from Satan? • (v20) How does God reward us for our righteousness? Is it in <input type="checkbox"/> Something tangible like cash or higher position in life? <input type="checkbox"/> Something intangible such as good feelings? <input type="checkbox"/> Or something else? • (vv21-23) How do we keep "the ways of the Lord"? And are we Blameless in staying away from sin? Can we be Blameless? • (vv25-26) How does God show Himself "astute" or "tortuous" with the crooked or wicked? <input type="checkbox"/> Do they get what is coming to them? <input type="checkbox"/> Or do they get more than they bargained for? • (v29) How does God enable us to outrun or chase down a troop on horses or to leap over walls higher than we are? Is this <input type="checkbox"/> Literal or <input type="checkbox"/> Figurative language? 	
Ps 18:30-50	<p>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.</p> <p>31) For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,</p> <p>32) The God who girds me with strength and makes my way blameless?</p> <p>33) He makes my feet like hinds feet, and sets me upon high places.</p> <p>34) He trains my hands for battle, my arms can bend a bow of bronze.</p> <p>35) You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.</p> <p>36) You enlarge my steps under me, and my feet have not slipped.</p> <p>37) I pursued my enemies and overtook them, And I did not turn back until they were consumed.</p> <p>38) I shattered them, so that they were not able to rise; They fell under my feet.</p> <p>39) For You have girded me with strength for battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.</p> <p>40) You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, And I destroyed those who hated me.</p> <p>41) They cried for help, but there was none to save, [Even] to the LORD, but He did not answer them.</p> <p>42) Then I beat them fine as the dust before the wind; I emptied them out as the mire of the streets.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>44) As soon as they hear, they obey me; Foreigners submit to me.</p> <p>45) Foreigners fade away and come trembling out of their fortresses.</p> <p>46) The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation,</p> <p>47) The God who executes vengeance for me and subdues peoples under me.</p> <p>48) He delivers me from my enemies; Surely You lift me above those who rise up against me; You rescue me from violent men.</p> <p>49) Therefore, I will give thanks to You among the nations, O LORD, And I will sing praises to Your name..... of Rom 15:9</p> <p>50) He gives great deliverance to His king, and shows lovingkindness to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever.</p>
<p>More Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (v30) How is God a shield to those who take refuge in Him? <input type="checkbox"/> Does this guarantee no physical harm? <input type="checkbox"/> Is this a lifetime guarantee or is it short term protection? • (v35) How does God's right hand uphold us? And how does God's gentleness make us great? • (vv37-40) Should we pursue our enemies and consume/annihilate them? Recall David took the inhabitants of some of his captured cities and horrendously executed / tortured them. Hence, David was known as a man of blood... 2Sam 12:31 • (v50) Skeptics would have fun with this passage. They could say they found another contradiction in the Bible. Recall Jeremiah, during the reign of King Josiah, was told by God not to pray for Israel (Jer 7:16), for He would not answer them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We must realize many of God's promises are conditional, though there may not be any conditions listed. We must always consider the "whole counsel" of God. ♦ In this case, God told David's son, Solomon, if he and his sons faithfully walked in God's ways, then he shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel..... 1Kings 2:4 	



Passage	Comments
Let's stroll through Psalm 18 and 2Samuel 22 and glean some of the highlights.	
Ps 18:17 2Sam 22:18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [My enemies] were too strong for me, but God [finally] delivered me
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does God wait till the last minute before He delivers some of His saints from harm? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 41:17-20, God waits till the thirsty are left parched and near death before he finally rescues them, for then they will realize it was God who delivered them and not any false gods or fate.
Ps 18:20-24 2Sam 22:21-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was David as righteous as this passage makes him out to be? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1Kings 15:5 states that David did what was right in the sight of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that God commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite. • BUT – WAIT! David had more sins than just killing Uriah & his troops and taking his wife, Bathsheba! <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He numbered the people and God brought a plague that wiped out 70,000 2Sam 24 2. He had multiple wives & concubines 2Sam 5:13 3. He took the path of least resistance with disciplining his children 2Sam 13:21; 14:24 4. He withheld sex from his wife (Michal) and ten concubines 2Sam 6:20-23; 20:3 5. He was "a man of blood" who not only murdered Uriah, but committed genocide 1Sam 27:9 • We find here a teaching of "imputed righteousness," elaborated on in Davidic Psalm 32:2, "How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity." Yes, David was as righteous as this passage portrays for he sought forgiveness and received it fully Ps 51 • ...and don't forget 1John 1:9, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Ps 18:25-26 2Sam 22:26-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the kind You show Yourself kind; With the blameless You show Yourself blameless; With the pure You show Yourself pure, and with the crooked You show Yourself tortuous (ESV)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are exceptions to this general principle. E.g., Job felt God treated him as an enemy Job 33:10 • God prefers to save the wicked (2Peter 3:9), but He is prepared to repay 7x for sins of the wicked (Lev 26) & even to cast the wicked into Hell at the final judgment
Ps 18:29 2Sam 22:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For by You I can run upon a troop; and I can leap over a wall
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This passage cannot be adequately articulated. Like Job, one has to live through a hard time and experience God giving them much needed insight or strength to overcome Ps 34:8; 1Pet 2:3
Ps 18:35 2Sam 22:36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great
	<p>How does gentleness make one great? Don't we have to drive and badger people for them to do their jobs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvin's teachings claim the Law acts as a whip, urging a man on like a lazy donkey (Calvin Institutes, 2.7.12) • Scripture, however, calls the Law a tutor which leads us to Christ (Galatians 3:24), and God's gentleness leads men to repentance, and God draws us in a loving way (Jeremiah 31:3), and His word is not a whip that goads us to go where we don't want to go • Can you imagine how great some kids would be if they saw more gentleness instead of harshness from their dads provoking them to wrath? Eph 6:4 • Is there a time for harshness or cracking the whip? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we can be angry & take appropriate action, but we are commanded not to sin while angry Eph 4:26 • ...and Yes, there are sins which should not be tolerated in the family or in the church – and "stern" action may be required to protect the sheep Acts 5 • Some endearing qualities of an Elder (or a dad) are gentleness, self-control, not quarrelsome, not overbearing, even when disciplining 1Tim 3; Titus 1 • We may not all be qualified to be an Elder, but we can all have the character qualifications of an Elder
Ps 18:40 2Sam 22:41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, And I destroyed those who hated me
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is another tough passage that is hard to articulate in a sentence or 2. It deserves a lesson to itself. Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God had no problem wiping out Noah's generation, or Sodom & Gomorrah; the Canaanites – men, women, children, and their animals • God also had no problem wiping out most of Benjamin's tribe, all but a remnant of Israel for their gross sins of homosexuality, bestiality, & child sacrifice

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's mechanism to destroy the wicked involved God, Himself, or He used Israel to destroy another wicked nation, or He used a wicked nation to destroy wicked Israel, or He used natural catastrophes • In this case, it looks like God allowed David to take matter into his own hands and commit horrendous acts of war. Again, recall David took the inhabitants of some of his captured cities and horrendously tortured / executed them. Hence, David was known as a man of blood 2Sam 12:31; 1Chron 22:8
Ps 18:50 2Sam 22:51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He gives great deliverance to His king, and shows lovingkindness to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God shows mercy to whom He wants to show mercy • Yet, God wants to show mercy to all since He is not willing for anyone to perish (2Pet 3:9). After all, Christ died for ALL. Christ even died for us, while we were yet unsaved sinners heading for Hell Rom 5:8

LAST THOUGHTS ON DAVID'S LEGACY

God blessed the kings of Israel simply because of David's sake:

- **1Kings 11:11-12** The LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have not kept My ways which I have commanded you, I will tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to another. Nevertheless, I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David."
- **1Kings 11:32** But [Rehoboam] will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem
- **1Kings 11:34** "Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of [Solomon's] hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments
- **1Kings 15:4** But for David's sake, the LORD allowed [Abijam] to raise up his son and to establish Jerusalem;
- **2Kings 8:19** However, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised to give him a lamp through his sons always
- **2Kings 19:34** "For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake."
- **2Kings 20:6** "I will add 15 years to [Hezekiah's] life, & I will deliver you and this city from the king of Assyria; & I will defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David's sake."

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

Can you imagine your legacy being similar to David's?

Your epitaph could read:

- Your kids & grandkids are blessed for your sake, for you observed God's commandments and statutes; or
- Your business ventures succeeded because of your sake since you followed God wholeheartedly; or
- You were blessed mightily because you did not turn to the left or the right from following God.

Only YOU can make it so...Therefore, live for God as David did, wholeheartedly and humbly (...but try to avoid the murder, lust, adultery, pride, and genocidal stuff he got himself into).

