

Psalm 18: Thank you for Saving Me

04-07-19 PM

Psalm 18 is interesting in that it is found two times in the bible. It is also located in 2 Samuel 22. It is a Psalm with a backstory; we are told that it was written when God had delivered David from King Saul. David and Saul had multiple confrontations; the last one was 1 Samuel 26:9-25. There David, by a fortuitous event, found himself with Saul at his feet. Saul had been pursuing David for many years with the intention of killing him. Yet now Saul was at David's mercy. What would he do?

David's counselors gave "good" advice: Abishai said that this was the will of God, that he should kill Saul and be safe (1 Samuel 26:8). This had happened before, and at that time the men of David counseled to kill Saul (1 Samuel 24:4). But David did what respected God.

David refused to strike the king of Israel. He declared that it was GOD'S place to do this; since God had made him king, God must be the one to undo this. There is an important lesson here: David knew that to have God on his side he needed to honor the things of God.

Event today we are still told that we need to trust God to bring justice to our lives. *Do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord* (Romans 12:19). This lesson matters to us.

But there is a second, more subtle lesson here too. It is unusual that this Psalm is placed in the records of Samuel at the end of David's life. This implies that the context at the end of his life is similar to the moments of 1 Samuel 26. In life there is one last enemy we all face: death. *The last enemy that will be abolished is death* (1 Corinthians 15:26). David's victory is not over Saul, but over death itself.