

# PSALM 18

Play the Melody 

For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD. He sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

1543 / Geneva, 1551



1. I love You, LORD; You are my strength and pow-er.  
My for-tress is the LORD, my rock and tow-er;  
my strong de-liv-er-er to whom I flee,  
my shield, my help-er, who will res-cue me;  
my strong-hold and the horn of my sal-va-tion.  
To Him I bring my praise and ad-o-ra-tion.  
I call up-on the LORD; He hears my pleas,  
and I am saved from all my en-e-mies.

2. The cords of death were tightly coiled around me;  
the torrents of destruction nearly drowned me.  
I lay in death's entangling cords ensnared;  
the grave confronted me and I despaired.  
I called on God, the LORD my God, to save me;  
in my distress His mighty help He gave me.  
He from His heavenly temple heard my cry;  
it reached His ears: He answered from on high.

3. The earth then *reeled, its pillars rocked and* quavered;  
the *deep foundations of the mountains* wavered.  
They *trembled* when they saw *God's wrath* awake;  
his *blazing anger* made them *heave and quake*.  
Smoke *rose up* from His *nostrils, black and* frightening,  
and *from His mouth* flashed *scorching fire and* lightning.  
He *tore the heavens in His anger's* heat,  
while *clouds of darkness* swirled around His feet.
  
4. On cherubim *He rode, so bright and* splendid;  
on *wings of wind* He *soared and* He descended.  
With *darkness* covered was His *majesty*;  
clouds *dark with water* were His *canopy*.  
Out of the *brightness that advanced* before Him  
hailstones and fire *broke through the clouds* that bore Him.  
His *rolling thunder* *echoed through the* sky,  
the *mighty roaring voice of God* Most High.
  
5. As earth looked *on in fearful awe and* wonder,  
great *bolts of lightning* *split the skies* asunder.  
He *shot His arrows, routed all His* foes;  
none *dared the fury of His wrath* oppose.  
The *ocean's deep, the bedrock of* creation,  
You, *LORD, laid bare, exposing earth's* foundation;  
all *trembled at Your might and* stood aghast  
at *Your rebuke, Your nostrils' angry* blast.
  
6. From heaven *reaching down with His* protection,  
He *pulled me* from the *waters of* destruction.  
He *saved me* from my *fiercest* enemy,  
from *those who hate me, foes too* strong for me.  
In my *calamity the LORD* was *gracious*  
and *brought me to a place* *serene and* spacious.  
He *came to rescue me and* set me free,  
for *He, the LORD, showed His* delight in me.

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7. When foes at-tacked me, I was safe-ly guard-ed;  
thus was I for my right-eous-ness re-ward-ed.  
Ac-cord-ing to the clean-ness of my hands,  
God grant-ed me His gra-cious rec-om-pense.  
I have not from His ho-ly laws de-part-ed;  
be-fore Him I was blame-less and pure-heart-ed.  
I have com-mit-ted no in-iq-ui-ty;  
with His re-wards the LORD has fa-voured me.

8. To all those *just and faithful in their dealings*,  
You, *LORD*, are just, Your *faithfulness revealing*.  
Those *who are pure and innocent will see*  
Your *innocence and perfect purity*.  
The *shrewd and cunning You outdo in cunning*  
as *You expose the evil they are planning*.  
You *save the humble, for You hear their cries*,  
but *You bring low those who have haughty eyes*.

9. The dark around me into brightness turning,  
 You light my lamp, O LORD, and keep it burning.  
 With You I face a troop and crush them all,  
 and with my God I scale the highest wall.  
 How perfect is His way, how all-excelling!  
 His word has proven flawless, never failing.  
 He is for those who in Him refuge take  
 a mighty shield, a fortress none can shake.
10. Who but the LORD is God, so great in splendour?  
 Who is a rock but God, my strong defender?  
 He with His strength has armed and girded me;  
 my way He has prepared most perfectly.  
 With Him as guide, I will not fall or stumble;  
 He makes my feet like deer's feet, swift and nimble;  
 He lets me stand secure on mountain heights.  
 There I am safe, supported by His might.
11. O LORD, You for the day of battle train me,  
 and with Your help You strengthen and sustain me.  
 My arms can even bend the strongest bow;  
 all who attack me I will overthrow.  
 You granted me the shield of Your salvation,  
 and Your right hand upheld my place and station.  
 Your gentle care has made me strong and great.  
 I did not slip: my path is broad and straight.
12. I chased my enemies and overthrew them;  
 I did not stop until I could subdue them.  
 You gave me strength and armed me for the fight;  
 You made my foes all turn their backs in flight.  
 None heard their cries, their pleas for preservation;  
 I pounded them in their humiliation  
 fine as the windblown dust before my feet;  
 I cast them out like refuse of the street.

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13. You saved me when be-lea-guered by the na-tions;  
You made me rul-er of their pop-u-la-tions,  
and for-eign peo-ple, once to me un-known,  
now hon-our me and cringe be-fore my throne.  
When they but heard of me, they all o-beyed me,  
for You with ra-diant glo-ry have ar-rayed me.  
They left their strong-holds, o-ver-come with fear;  
all trem-bled as be-fore me they drew near.

14. The LORD, He lives! *Praised be my rock forever!*  
*Exalted be my faithful God, my Saviour.*  
*He gives me vengeance, justice He pursues;*  
*He hostile nations under me subdues.*  
*O LORD, You honoured me when foes disgraced me;*  
*You far above my adversaries placed me.*  
*You freed Your servant from the tyrant's might;*  
*the fierce and lawless You have put to flight.*

15. I will extol *You, LORD, among the nations*  
for *all Your wondrous works of vindication.*  
Your *perfect righteousness I will proclaim*  
by *singing praises to Your holy name.*  
Time *after time God makes His king victorious,*  
grants *His anointed triumphs great and glorious.*  
To *David and his offspring He extends*  
the *loving faithfulness that never ends.*