

A God to be Loved

--10/19/08

Psalm 18

"I love thee, O Lord, my strength." What do we say next when professing love toward someone? We rehearse the reasons why: He is my rock, my fortress, and my deleverer; My God, my strength, in whom I trust. He is my buckler, the horn of my salvation and my high tower.

1 Samuel gives us an account of the years of terrible fears, flight and jeopardy that David suffered with the royal government trying to destroy him. His only recourse was to cry out to the Lord. "I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from mine enemies." Now watch Psalm 18 describe poetically God's response to David's prayers. "He heard my voice out of His temple..." 1. The earth shook and trembled... because He was wrath. 2. Smoke out of His nostrils and fire out of His mouth... 3. He bowed the heavens also and came down... 4. He rode upon a cherub and did fly, yea He did fly upon the wings of the wind... 5. Brightness before Him, thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire... arrows, lightnings. 6. Then channels of water were seen and the foundations of the world were discovered at the rebuke of the Lord, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils. 7. He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. 8. He delivered me from my strong enemy and from them which hated me: **for they were too strong for me.**

For David, the heights of faith were reached only from the depths of despair. Have you every experienced the overwhelming feeling of helplessness and vulnerability? What do you do about it? A man of faith will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised. God in heaven sends from above His holy angels, **Hebrews 1:13**. He draws you out of many waters, the floods of desperation and brings you forth also into a large place. He does that because He delights in you. He rewards you according to your righteousness and the cleanness of your hands; because you have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from your God. You did not put away his statutes from before your face. You were upright and kept yourself from sin. You were merciful and pure.

God lights the candle of the righteous because it is His will that his light should shine in this world. When His beloved are attacked, He notices. When they pray, He shakes heaven and earth. tp