

## SING WE THE KING! (Ps. 18)

This psalm was written by young David, after the Lord delivered him from his enemies, including King Saul. It is related to II Sam. 22:1-51 but contains some variations, omissions and alterations for he probably reviewed the psalm in later life.

From the outset, the Lord Jesus features highly, for example,

- **Ps. 18:4** The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men [*Pilate, Herod, chief priests*] made me afraid.
- **Ps. 18:5** The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death [*sheol*] prevented [*lay before me*] me ... **Mt. 26:38** Then saith he [*Jesus*] unto them [*His disciples*], My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death
- **Ps. 18:6** In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God ... **Mt. 26:46** about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, ... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
- **Ps. 18:7** Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth ... **Mt. 27:50** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent

There are two direct quotations in the New Testament from this Messianic Psalm. Firstly, **Ps. 18:2** The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, *in whom I will trust* ... This is quoted in ... **Heb. 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. **10** For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12** *Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee [from Ps. 22:22].* **13** And again, *I will put my trust in him.*

In its original setting, David is thanking the Lord for protecting him against his enemy, in whom [*God*] I will trust [*I will flee for protection, I will seek refuge*] ... It indicates his strong personal reliance upon Jehovah, **Ps. 18:1** And he said, *I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.* **2** The LORD is *my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower* ... 'my' is used no less than nine times. ... Some of these terms are developed in relation to the Lord Jesus, for example, - The LORD is *my rock*, a description Paul applied to Christ upon Whom the Church is built, **Eph. 2:19** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; **20** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being *the chief corner stone* ... **1 Cor. 10:1** Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea ... **4** And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. Paul also referred to Jesus as the *Deliverer*, **Rom. 11:26** as it is written, There shall

come out of Zion the *Deliverer* [also see *Ps. 14:7* *Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad ... Is. 59:20* *And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.*]

Particularly though, the writer to the Hebrews in quoting *Ps. 18:2* encourages the believers to be strong in Jehovah, as was the Lord Jesus, *Heb. 2:13* *And again, I will put my trust in him for throughout His earthly life, - until His death on the cross, - the Son trusted unwaveringly in His Father's plan, ... the example to all God's children.*

The second of the two quotations in the New Testament, comes near the end of this Messianic Psalm, *Ps. 18:49* *Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. ... Rom 15:9* *And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. ... Let's read it carefully again, from v.8, Rom 15:8* *Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister [διδάκωνος, servant ... Mt. 20:28* *the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister] of the circumcision [the Jews, Jn. 1:11* *He came unto his own] for the truth of God, to confirm the promises [covenants] made unto the fathers [Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Patriarchs, etc]:<sup>9</sup> And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.<sup>10</sup> And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people [*Dt. 32:43* *Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people].<sup>11</sup> And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people [*Ps. 117:1* *O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people].<sup>12</sup> And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse [*Is. 11:1* *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, - that's Jesus the Messiah], and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust [*Ps. 117:10* *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious]. ... Paul, - a Jew, longing for his fellow-Jews to be saved, Rom. 10:1, - emphasises from the Old Testament Scriptures God's plan in the salvation, - and in the inclusion, - of the Gentiles because he has always known Rom. 11:28* *As concerning the gospel, ... as touching the election, they [the Jews] are beloved for the fathers' sakes ... and he is looking forward to when Is. 11:11* *it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people [the Jews], which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.<sup>12</sup> And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth ...<sup>16</sup> And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.*****

This was prophesied *long* before in the Old Testament that salvation was for the Jews, - Jesus would come to save His own people. But *also*, in God's grace He had already, - it wasn't an afterthought, but from the foundation of the world, - ... God had already made plans Jesus would save Gentiles, even as Simeon quoted from the Old Testament, **Lk. 2:30** For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, **31** Which thou hast prepared before the face of *all people* from **Is. 52:10** The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of *all the nations*; and *all the ends of the earth* shall see the salvation of our God ... and **32** A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel from Is. 42:6 and Is. 49:6.

Psalm 18 was written by David who became the king of Israel, the king of the Jews. And in this psalm, he was directed by the Holy Spirit to point further ahead to a greater reign of a greater 'David' ... the Messiah, - King Jesus, Who will one day reign on this earth, **Zech. 14:9** the LORD shall be king over all the earth. Confidently, this young Jewish psalmist affirms the salvation of those outside his own race, followed by the long-awaited salvation of his own people, **Ps. 18:49** Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen [*goyim, the nations, the Gentiles*], and sing praises unto thy name. **50** Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, *and to his seed for evermore.*