

PSALM 18

To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto 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 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.

3 I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken,

because he was wroth.

8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness *was* under his feet.

10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him *were* dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.

12 At the brightness *that was* before him his thick clouds passed, hail *stones* and coals of fire.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail *stones* and coals of fire.

14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy

rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.

18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

20. The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

22 For all his judgments *were* before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

25 With the merciful thou wilt

shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

29. For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

30 *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him.

31 For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God?

32 *It is* God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

33 He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*, and setteth me upon my high places.

34 He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

35 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and

thy gentleness hath made me great.

36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

37 I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

38 I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet.

39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

40 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

41 They cried, but *there was* none to save *them: even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

42 Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

43 Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; *and* thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people *whom* I have not known shall serve me.

44 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

45 The strangers shall fade

away, and be afraid out of their close places.

46 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

47 *It is* God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.

48 He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, 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.

PSALM 19

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

THE heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

3 *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.

4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

5 Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

6 His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

7. The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

12 Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

PSALM 20

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;

2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;

3 Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.

4 Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.

5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up *our* banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.

6. Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

7 Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

8 They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.

9 Save, LORD: let the king hear us when we call.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Psalm 18 is David's hymn of thanksgiving, on his accession to the throne. After years of flight from Saul the kingdom was now firmly established. David attributed it all to God, his Strength, Rock Fortress, Deliverer, Stay, Refuge, Shield, Horn, and High Tower. This is one of the best Psalms.

God's revelation to man is the theme of Psalm 19. It is amazing that God speaks to us at all! Men are sinners and have no desire to listen to God, yet He graciously continues to speak. The closing prayer of this Psalm is one of the best prayers in the entire Bible. "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." God's Word is perfect, sure, true, gives joy, and is sweeter than honey!

This prayer should be on our lips and in our hearts throughout each day. The meditation of our heart controls the words of our mouth. The word "meditation" used here has the image of a musician plucking the strings of a harp. Who controls the music of your heart? Is it God or Satan? Meditation is to the heart what digestion is to the body. It is the taking of the Word of God and making it a part of the inner man. As the heart and mind think on the Word of God, the Spirit guides the life. Is your Bible all to you that God wants it to be? Read this Psalm again and ask God to enable you to love the Word, to live in the Word, and to obey the Word.

Psalm 20 is a song of trust. It seems to be a battle hymn, with prayer for victory as David entered battle. His trust was not in chariots and horses, but in the Lord.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge"
(Proverbs 14:7).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 20: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

TRIVA CARTER
MAURICE JOHNSON
MAE NELL WILLIAMS

CARRIE WORRELL
WILLIAM MOORE

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

40 A.D.

SUPPOSED DATE OF THE DEATH OF THE VIRGIN MARY.

1525

MARTIN LUTHER MARRIED A FORMER NUN.

In connection with this, Hebrews 13:4 says, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

Martin Luther, of course, was known as the father of the Reformation. If you visit Rome, you can still see the location of the place where he lived in Rome. Also visible still are many of his footprints and traces of his ministry. Someone asked him on his deathbed if he died in the same faith in which he lived, and he gave out a hearty, "YES."

1963

PUBLIC SCHOOL PRAYER AND BIBLE READING WAS OUTLAWED BY THE SUPREME COURT.

One can hardly believe this was done in America. In Russia, yes; in China, maybe; in America, unbelievable! There is no organization in America that so controls and dominates American life as does the public school system. Our children spend more hours under the influence of the teacher than under the influence of parents. The reading of the Bible and the offering of public prayers have been taken out of the most influential institution in America. How sad! It simply means that parents are going to have to emphasize the Word of God more and to pray more at home. It means that we are going to have to be sure that our children are at church every time the doors are open and that they build their lives around the House of God and the work of God. It means that we are going to have to spend more time with our children teaching them the things of God and admonishing them to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1967

THURGOOD MARSHALL, U.S. SOLICITOR GENERAL, NAMED TO THE SUPREME COURT BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

He was confirmed by the Senate on August 30 and became the first black Supreme Court justice.

1866

HOUSE PASSED THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT WHICH WAS SENT TO THE STATES FOR RATIFICATION ON JUNE 16.

1910

WILLIAM D. CRUM, A SOUTH CAROLINA PHYSICIAN, APPOINTED MINISTER TO LIBERIA.

A Christian Life . . .

DAVID LIVINGSTONE 1813-1873

Missionary and explorer.

David Livingstone was born near Glasgow, Scotland. He studied medicine and theology at the University of Glasgow. He tried to go to China as a missionary in 1838, but when the Opium War in China closed the doors, he went to Africa.

He pushed 200 miles north of his assigned station and founded another mission station, Mebosta. Livingstone continued on the mission field and advanced 1400 miles into the interior in spite of the hardships he encountered. He was attacked and maimed by a lion; his home was destroyed during the Boer War; and his wife died on the field.

Eleven years later, Livingstone was found by his bed, kneeling, and dead. Natives buried his heart in Africa, as he had requested, but his body was returned to Westminster Abbey in London.



Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I MAY LOSE MY JOB AND POSITION"

(Assignment 20)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

() Mark 8:36

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

() Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

() Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

() Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

() Psalms 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.