

November 6, 2005
Shepherd's Community Church
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Psalm 18:1-3

Royal Thanksgiving – Part One

Background: 2 Samuel 22 (cf. 1 Sam. 31; 2 Samuel 8:1-14)

- A. Yahweh, the Rock of Israel (1-3)
 - B. Affliction (4-6)
 - C. The Lord's Coming to Help (7-15)
 - D. The Lord's Deliverance (16-19)
 - E. God's Faithfulness to the Faithful (20-29)
 - D. The Divine Perfections (30-36)
 - C. The King's Victory Over the Enemies (37-42)
 - B. The Glorious Deliverance (43-45)
- A. Yahweh, the Rock of Israel (46-50)

A. Yahweh, the Rock of Israel (1-3)

- **I love You, O LORD =**
 - Cf. Is. 49:15; Ps. 103:13; Jer. 50:42; Is. 13:18; Mic. 7:17
 - Genuine love produces _____! v. 20-24
 - cf. John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 6
- **My strength =**
- **God is _____ as well!**
 - John 15; Rom. 8:31-39; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Gal. 2:20; 5:16, 22-23; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12-13; 4:11-13, 19; 1 Thess. 3:11-13; 5:23-24; 2 Thess. 2:16-17; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:3-6; 5:10; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 John 5:4; Jude 24-25
 - Gal. 6:14
- **Rock =**
 - Judges 6:20; Jer. 13:4 = physical rock
 - Num. 27:14 = Symbol of spiritual truths
 - It symbolizes God as a place of security and refuge (Ps. 71:3) for the one who fears Him and lives righteously before Him (Ps. 31:3).
 - A cleft rock is a place where one can be _____ and _____.
- **Why did Moses get in such deep trouble for striking the rock twice?**
 - Exodus 17:1-6; Numbers 20:8-13
 - The rock was a _____ of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 10:1-4)
- **Jesus is that _____ for us every moment of every day! Because of His finished work on the cross we can know for sure that God loves us and therefore come to Him about everything! (Rom. 8:32)**
- **Fortress =**
 - Masada
- **Deliverer**
 - 2 Sam 22:2, 44; Job 23:7; Ps 17:13; 18:3, 44, 49; 22:5, 9; 31:2; 37:40; 40:18; 43:1; 56:8; 70:6; 71:2, 4; 82:4; 91:14; 144:2

- God not only keeps us away from danger (fortress), He _____ us from danger!
 - John 3:16-18; 36
- **My God, my rock =**
 - 1 Sam./ 2:2; Deut. 32:4, 15; Ps. 89:26; 94:22; Num. 1:6; 3:35; Ps. 62:2, 6, 7
 - Is. 26:4-5 – trust in Yahweh “the everlasting Rock” (or “Rock of Ages”) results in perfect peace
 - Hab. 1:12 – God the Rock will bring the wicked to judgment
 - 2 Sam. 22:32; Is. 44:8 – God is the only true Rock
 - Messiah = “a rock of stumbling” (Is. 8:14; Mt. 21:42ff; Rom. 9:32f; 1 Pet. 2:8)
- In whom I take **refuge** =
 - 2 Sam. 22:3; Nah. 1:7
 - Those who take refuge in God are “blessed” (Ps. 2:12) and “saved” (Ps. 17:7). They should “rejoice” (Ps. 5:11), find “goodness” (Ps. 31:19) and “possess the land” (Is. 57:13)
 - Proper name = “the Lord is a refuge” (Jer. 32:12; 51:59)
- **Shield** =
 - Gen. 15:1; Ps. 115:10; Deut. 33:29; Prov. 2:7; 30:5
- **Horn** of my salvation =
 - Rays of radiance streaming from Moses’ face after he met with God (Ex. 34:29 cf. Hab. 3:4)
 - Horns on the altar = symbolic of presence and power of God
- **Stronghold** =
 - Cf. Is. 26:5; Prov. 18:11; Is. 30:13
 - “Security” (Ps. 20:1; 59:1-2; 69:29; 91:14; Prov. 18:10)
- God is our _____!
- **I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.**

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is a “**rock**” a good metaphor for God? List all the ways that God is like a rock in your life.
2. What is unique about the word for “**love**” in v. 1? Do you love God that way? How does it show? How should it show?
3. In what ways does God strengthen us? For what? How do we appropriate that strength?
4. Why does David use two different Hebrew words for “rock” in v. 2? Why does Paul say that Jesus was the “spiritual rock” in the wilderness (1 Cor. 10:4)? What lessons can we learn from the mistakes of the children of Israel?
5. How can you practically “take refuge” in God? What will this look like the rest of the week?
6. How secure are we in Christ? What passages would support the doctrine that we are “eternally” secure?
7. How will meditating upon these truths impact our tendency toward worry, anxiety & fear? How will it impact our tendency toward pride & boasting? How will it impact our fear about witnessing?