

November 13, 2005
Shepherd's Community Church
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Psalm 18:1-3

Royal Thanksgiving – Part Two

Review:

- 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** = *love deeply; have mercy, be compassionate*. It communicates an intimacy of his relationship based on experience.
- **My strength** = that which makes one able to do something, or have a certain character
- **Rock** = cliff, cleft in the rock
- 1 Cor. 10:13
- **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
 - Cf. Eph. 6:16

- **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 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?
2. How can you practically “take refuge” in God? What will this look like the rest of the week?
3. Why do you think David used the word for “shield” that refers to a small round shield as opposed to the word that would mean a great big shield (shield like a door that you stand behind)? Why do you think Paul used the Greek word for a great big shield in Eph. 6:16 instead of the word for a small shield?
4. How secure are we in Christ? What passages would support the doctrine that we are “eternally” secure?
5. How will meditating upon these truths impact our tendency toward worry, anxiety & fear? How will it impact our tendency toward pride & boasting?
6. How can it help us overcome our fear about witnessing?