

Psalms 18

I Love You, Lord

A song to the Pure and Shining One by King David, his servant, composed when the Lord rescued David from all his many enemies, including from the brutality of Saul. He said:

¹I love You, Yahweh, and I'm bonded to You, my strength! ²Yahweh, You're the bedrock beneath my feet, my faith-fortress, my wonderful deliverer, my Dad (God), my rock of rescue where none can reach me. You're the shield around me, the mighty power that saves me, and my high place. ³All I need to do is to call on You, Yahweh, the praiseworthy Dad. When I do, I'm safe and sound in You - delivered from my foes! ⁴⁻⁵For when the cords of death wrapped around me and torrents of destruction overwhelmed me, taking me to death's door, ⁶in my distress I cried out to You, the delivering Dad, and from Your temple-throne You heard my troubled cry, and my sobs went right into Your heart. ⁷The earth itself shivered and shook. It reeled and rocked before Him. As the mountains trembled, they melted away, for His anger was kindled on my behalf! ⁸Fierce flames leapt from His mouth, erupting with blazing, burning coals as smoke and fire encircled Him. ⁹⁻¹⁰He stretched heaven's curtain open and came to my defense. Swiftly He rode to earth as the stormy sky was lowered. He rode a chariot of thunderclouds amidst thick darkness; His steed was a cherub, soaring on outstretched wings of Spirit-Wind. ¹¹Wrapped in the thick-cloud darkness, His thunder-tabernacle surrounded Him. He hid Himself in mystery-darkness; the dense rain clouds were His garments. ¹²Suddenly, the brilliance of His presence broke through with lightning bolts and hail — a tempest dropping coals of fire. ¹³My King thundered; my great Dad above every god spoke with His thunder-voice from the sky. The Most High uttered His voice! ¹⁴He released His lightning-arrows, and routed my foes. See how they ran and scattered in fear! ¹⁵Then with His mighty roar He laid bare the foundations of the earth, uncovering the secret source of the sea. The hidden depths of land and sea were exposed by the blast of His hot breath. ¹⁶He rescued me from the mighty waters and drew me to Himself! ¹⁷Even though I was helpless in the hands of my hateful, strong enemy, You were good to deliver me. ¹⁸When I was at my weakest, my enemies attacked— but my King held on to me. ¹⁹His love broke open the way, and He brought me into a beautiful, broad place. He rescued me—because His delight is in me! ²⁰He rewarded me for doing what's right and staying pure. ²¹I will follow His commands and I'll not sin by ceasing to follow Him, no matter what. ²²For I've kept my eyes focused on His righteous words, and I've obeyed everything that He's told me to do. ²³I've been blameless before Him and followed all His ways, keeping my heart pure. ²⁴And so, Yahweh has rewarded me according to my righteousness, because I kept my heart clean before His eyes. ²⁵Good people will taste Your goodness. And to those who are loyal to You, You love to prove that You are loyal and true. ²⁶And for those who are purified, they find You always pure. But You'll outwit the crooked and cunning with Your craftiness. ²⁷To the humble You bring heaven's deliverance, but the proud and haughty You disregard. ²⁸Dad, all at once You turned on a floodlight for me! You are the revelation-light in my darkness, and in Your brightness I can see the path ahead. ²⁹With You as my strength I can crush an enemy horde, advancing through every stronghold that stands in front of me. ³⁰Yahweh, what a perfect Dad You are! All Yahweh's promises have proven true. What a secure shelter for all those who turn to hide themselves in You, the wraparound Dad. ³¹Could there be any other god like Yahweh? For there is not a more secure foundation than You. ³²Dad, You have wrapped me in power and made my way perfect. ³³Through You, I ascend to the highest peaks to stand strong and secure in You. ³⁴You've trained me with the weapons of warfare-worship; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵You empower me for victory with Your wraparound presence. Your power within makes me strong to subdue. By stooping down in gentleness, You made me great! ³⁶You've set me free, and now I'm standing complete, ready to fight some more! ³⁷I caught up with my enemies and conquered them and didn't turn back until the war was won! ³⁸I smashed them to pieces and I finished them once and for all; they're as good as dead. ³⁹You've placed Your armor upon me and made my enemies bow low at my feet. ⁴⁰You've made them all turn tail and run, for through You, I've destroyed them all! ⁴¹They shouted for help, but no one dared to rescue them. They cried out to Yahweh, but He refused to answer them. ⁴²So I pulverized them to powder and cast them to the wind. I swept them away like dirt on the floor. ⁴³You gave me victory on every side, for You make me a leader of nations. Even those I've never heard of come and bow at my feet. ⁴⁴As soon as they heard of me, they submitted to me. Even the rebel foreigners obey my every word. ⁴⁵Their rebellion fades away as they come near; trembling in their strongholds, they come crawling out of their hideouts, cringing in fear before me. ⁴⁶Yahweh lives! Praise is lifted high to the unshakable Dad! Towering over all, my Savior-Dad is worthy to be praised! ⁴⁷Look how He pays back harm to all who harm me, subduing all who come against me. ⁴⁸He rescues me from my enemies; He lifts me up high and keeps me out of reach, far from the grasp of my violent foe. ⁴⁹So I thank you, Yahweh, with my praises! I will sing my song to the highest Dad, so all among the nations will hear me. ⁵⁰You have given me, Your king, great victories. You've always been tender and kind to me, Your anointed one, Your loving servant, David, and to all my descendants!

Psalms 27

Fearless Faith

David's poetic praise to God before he was anointed king

¹Yahweh is my revelation-light and the source of my salvation. I fear no one! I'll never turn back and run, for You, Yahweh, surround and protect me. ²When evil ones come to destroy me, they will be the ones who turn back. ³My heart will not fear, even if an army rises to attack. I will not be shaken, even if war is imminent. ⁴Here's the one thing I crave from Yahweh, the one thing I seek above all else: I want to live with Him every moment in His house, beholding the marvelous beauty of Yahweh, filled with awe, delighting in His glory and grace. I want to contemplate in His temple. ⁵⁻⁶In the day of trouble, He will treasure me in His shelter, under the cover of His tent. He will lift me high upon a rock, out of reach from all my enemies who surround me. Triumphant now, I'll bring Him my offerings of praise, singing and shouting with ecstatic joy! Yes, I will sing praises to Yahweh! ⁷Hear my cry. Show me mercy, and send the help I need! ⁸I heard Your voice in my heart say, "Come, seek My face;" my inner being responded, "Yahweh, I'm seeking Your face with all my heart." ⁹So don't turn Your face away from me. You're the Dad of my salvation; how can You reject Your son in anger? You've been my only hope, so don't forsake me now, when I need You! ¹⁰My father and mother abandoned me. But You, Yahweh, took me in and made me Yours. ¹¹Now teach me, Yahweh, all about Your ways and tell me what to do. Make it clear for me to understand, for I am surrounded by waiting enemies. ¹²Don't let them defeat me, My King. You can't let me fall into their clutches! They keep accusing me of things I've never done, breathing out violence against me. ¹³Yet I believe with all my heart, that I will see again Your goodness, Yahweh, in the land of life eternal! ¹⁴Here's what I've learned through it all: Don't give up; don't be impatient; be entwined as one with my King. Be brave and courageous, and never lose hope. Yes, keep on waiting—for He will never disappoint you!

Psalms 91

Safe and Secure

¹When you abide under the shadow of Shaddai, you are hidden in the strength of our Dad, Most High. ²He's the hope that holds me and the stronghold to shelter me, the only Dad for me, and my great confidence. ³He will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and He will protect you from false accusation and any deadly curse. ⁴His massive arms are wrapped around you, protecting you. You can run under His covering of majesty and hide. His arms of faithfulness are a shield keeping you from harm. ⁵You will never worry about an attack of demonic forces at night nor have to fear a spirit of darkness coming against you. ⁶Don't fear a thing! Whether by night or by day, demonic danger will not trouble you, nor will the powers of evil be launched against you. ⁷Even in a time of disaster, with thousands and thousands being killed, you will remain unscathed and unharmed. ⁸You will be a spectator as the wicked perish in judgment, for they will be paid back for what they have done! ⁹⁻¹⁰When we live our lives within the shadow of our Dad Most High, our secret hiding place, we will always be shielded from harm. How then could evil prevail against us or disease infect us? ¹¹Dad sends angels with special orders to protect you wherever you go, defending you from all harm. ¹²If you walk into a trap, they'll be there for you and keep you from stumbling. ¹³You'll even walk unharmed among the fiercest powers of darkness, trampling every one of them beneath your feet! ¹⁴For here is what my King has spoken to me: "Because you loved Me, delighted in Me, and have been loyal to My name, I will greatly protect you. ¹⁵I will answer your cry for help every time you pray, and you will feel My presence in your time of trouble. I will deliver you and bring you honor. ¹⁶I will satisfy you with a full life and with all that I do for you. For you will enjoy the fullness of My salvation!"