

Praising God As Our Mighty Refuge

A note on the character of God in Psalm 18:2

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Psalm 18:3 (Hebrew Text)

יְהוָה סֹלֵעִי וּמִצּוּדָתִי וּמִפְּלִטִי אֵלֵי צוּרֵי אֶחָסֶה-בּוֹ מִגְּנִי וְקַרְן־יִשְׁעֵי מִשְׁגָּבִי

Psalm 18:2 (Author's Translation)

Yahweh is my Rock and my Fortress, and my Deliverer. My God, my Rock, I take refuge in Him; My Shield and the Horn of my salvation; my Stronghold.

Commentary

In this text, David cries out to God and found hope in the Lord in the midst of opposition. This verse alone contains nine different divine epithets (titles) for God.

- 1. The Lord is My Rock.** The Hebrew word here refers to a rocky cliff. A large, stationary rock that provides protection from a storm or a fierce wind. God alone is the large, stationary, rocky cliff that the man of God can hide in during stormy times.
- 2. The Lord is My Fortress.** The word here speaks of a large mountain stronghold. This may draw the picture of a large rocky mountain jutting up in the Judean wilderness in Southern Israel. This would comprise an ideal place to find seclusion from hostile enemies.
- 3. The Lord is My Deliverer.** This talks about God being the escape, the deliverer, the one who gives safety. He delivers His people from harm. He gives an escape to His children.
- 4. The Lord is My God.** That God can be spoken of in such a personal way as "My God" is remarkable. A person of God can cry out to the God of the world and call him "my own God." There is a personal note to this epithet.
- 5. The Lord is My Rock.** This word brings the image of a towering boulder or rock to mind. God is the one who is a towering boulder to His people to protect from gusty winds, falling precipitation, and from approaching enemies. God is this kind of rock to His people.
- 6. The Lord Is The One in Whom I Take Refuge.** To take refuge in the Lord means that God provides the covering overhead so that nothing can strike the head of the man of God. To take refuge in God means to find shelter under God's protective wings.
- 7. The Lord is My Shield.** God is the one who protects from the deadly arrows of enemies. He desires to protect His people and thwart the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- 8. The Lord is The Horn of My Salvation.** To speak of one's horn refers to the strength of an animal's horn. Thus, God Himself is the strength of the believer. He is the one who provides the full and complete salvation for the people of God.
- 9. The Lord is My Stronghold.** The word for stronghold contains the notion of something high. That is, a very high rocky protection that provides shade, shelter, and protection from any kind of hostile opposition. God protects His people in this way.

May we rejoice in the glory of our God and learn to pray like this with a confident trust in God and in His protective care for His people.