

# The LORD Delivers the Righteous

## Psalm 34:17-18

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**Passage Context-** This Psalm is said to have been written by David at a time in his life in which he had to pretend to be insane before the King of Gath Achish (1 Samuel 21:10-14), as he constantly ran from Saul. After killing Goliath (1 Samuel 17), David was praised by the people (1 Samuel 18:7), and, because of his jealousy, Saul tried to kill David on multiple occasions (1 Samuel 18:10-11; 1 Samuel 19:9-11). Despite this, David was able to recognize how God delivered him through everything he went through. Thus, Psalm 34 is a psalm of praise and instruction!

#### The LORD hears the Righteous (v. 17)

- **Righteous-** just, innocent, devout, upright
- The Heb. *ṣedeq* probably derives from an Arab. root meaning 'straightness,' leading to the notion of an action that conforms to a norm.
- When we move from relations between men to those between God and men (though this distinction is arguably somewhat formal since the thought of God was probably never completely absent whenever the Hebrew used the word *ṣedeq*), righteousness implies a correct relationship to the will of God which was particularly expressed and interpreted by Israel's covenant with God.
- Who are the righteous?
- David teaches us in this psalm (vs. 11-14)
  - They don't speak evil or deceit (vs. 13)
    - **Deceit-** tick or fraud
  - They leave evil to do good (vs 14a)
  - Seek peace (vs.14b)
    - Seek- to discover, find, try and possess, search for, call on, consult.
- The righteous person is the one who is committed to God's way, despite his circumstances. This is an act of faith!

- **Cry-** shout, call out, muster up.
- Crying out to God shows an utter desperation and dependency on him as you recognize that he is the only one who can save you (vs. 4)
  
- **The LORD**
- **Yahweh-** The supreme being and Creator of the universe. Known by the personal name Yahweh. The New Testament sees God as Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit.
  - The name God gave to Moses—Yahweh (Exod 3:6). By doing so, He demonstrates that He is not an aloof deity hiding from His people. Rather, He wants His people to know Him by name and establish a trusting covenant relationship with them.
  - Yahweh- God who is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding with loyal love and faithfulness, keeping loyal love to the thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.
  - Yahweh is seen as God's personal name for His people with whom He is in covenant. Therefore, if His people cry out to Him, He hears them (Vs. 15).
- **Delivers-** pull out, to be saved, tear from, remove, withdraw.
- **Troubles-** need, stress, anxiety, enmity
- How does God deliver us?
  - David marries Saul's Daughter Michal (1 Samuel 18:27-28), and she helps to save David (1 Samuel 19:11-17)
  - Jonathan helped to save David on multiple occasions (1 Samuel 19 1-7; 1 Samuel 20:35-42)
  - God has those who are faithful to Him in every place, and he will use them to help us (vs. 7)!

### **Comfort for the Broken and Crushed**

- **Near-** near, close, nearby
- Some of the connotations of the word suggest that near means that God is a friend in those times.
- **Brokenhearted-** shatter, smash, break of one's inner-self.
- The Bible defines the heart as the center or seat of all emotions. It can be seen as a person's inner man (soul), so this word refers to one who is broken from the inside.
- The Bible says that God is a comforter, and He wants those who are comforted to comfort others (2 Corinthians 1:3-7).
- **Saves-** help, save, receive help, be victorious.
- The definition of the word suggests that a person must be humble enough to ask for help so that he may be victorious.

- **Spirit**- inner-self, mind
- In using the two words (brokenhearted, crushed spirit), the author is portraying a person who is completely defeated internally. Both their soul and their spirit need to be rescued.