

Psalm 18 NIV UK

¹ I love you, LORD, my strength.² The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.³ I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. ⁴ The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

⁵ The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. **⁶ In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.** ⁷ The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. ⁸ Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. **⁹ He parted the heavens and came down;** dark clouds were under his feet. ¹⁰ He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. ¹¹ He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him – the dark rain clouds of the sky. **¹² Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning.** **¹³ The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.** ¹⁴ He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy, with great bolts of lightning he routed them. **¹⁵ The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare** at your rebuke, LORD, at the blast of breath from your nostrils. **¹⁶ He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.** ¹⁷ He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. ¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support. **¹⁹ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.** ²⁰ The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

²¹ For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I am not guilty of turning from my God. ²² All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees. ²³ I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin. ²⁴ The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight. ²⁵ To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, ²⁶ to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the devious you show yourself shrewd. ²⁷ You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty. **²⁸ You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.** ²⁹ With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. **³⁰ As for God, his way is perfect: the LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.** **³¹ For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?**

³² It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. ³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights. ³⁴ He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁵ You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great.

³⁶ You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way. ³⁷ I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. ³⁸ I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. ³⁹ You armed me with strength for battle; you humbled my adversaries before me. ⁴⁰ You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes. ⁴¹ They cried for help, but there was no one to save them – to the LORD, but he did not answer. ⁴² I beat them as fine as windblown dust; I trampled them like mud in the streets. ⁴³ You have delivered me from the attacks of the people; you have made me the head of nations. People I did not know now serve me, ⁴⁴ foreigners cower before me; as soon as they hear of me, they obey me. ⁴⁵ They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds. **⁴⁶ The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Saviour!**

⁴⁷ He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, ⁴⁸ who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; **⁴⁹ from a violent man you rescued me.** **⁴⁹ Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.** **⁵⁰ He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing love to his anointed, to David and to his descendants for ever.**