

22[1] And David spoke to Yehvah the words of this song¹ on the day Yehvah delivered him from all his enemies palm and from Saul's palm. [2] And he said, “Yehvah is my rock² and my stronghold³ and my deliverer for me.⁴ [3] Gods of my rock, I will seek refuge in him, my shield and horn of my salvation, my fortress and my refuge, my savior. You save me from violence. [4] I call upon Yehvah, who is to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. [5] When waves of death encompassed me, torrents of Belial terrified me. [6] Cords of Sheol surrounded me. Snares of death confronted me. [7] In my distress I called upon Yehvah and to my Gods I called. And he heard my voice from his temple, and my cry was in his ears. [8] The earth shook and quaked. The foundations of the heavens quaked and shook because he was angry. [9] Smoke went up in his nostril⁵ and fire from his mouth consumed. Coals burned from him.⁶ [10] And he stretched out⁷ heavens and came down, and a cloud was under his feet. [11] And he rode upon a cherub and flew, and was seen upon wings of wind.⁸ [12] And he set darkness around him, huts of a collection of waters, masses of clouds. [13] From brightness in front of him coals of fire burned. [14] Yehvah thundered from heavens, and the Most High gave his voice. [15] And he sent arrows and scattered them, lightening, and troubled them. [16] And channels of the sea were seen. Foundations of the world were uncovered at the rebuke of Yehvah from the breath of the wind⁹ of his nostril. [17] He sent from the heights and took me and drew me out from many waters. [18] He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hate me, for they were stronger than I. [19] They confronted me on the day of my calamity, and Yehvah was my support. [20] And he brought me out to the broad place. He delivered me, because he delighted in me. [21] Yehvah dealt with me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me.¹⁰ [22] For I have kept the ways of Yehvah, and have not wickedly departed from my Gods. [23] For all his judgments are before me, and his statutes I have not turned aside from her.¹¹ [24] And I was blameless to him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. [25] And Yehvah recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness before his eyes. [26] With the kind, you will show yourself kind. With the strong in blamelessness, you will show yourself blameless. [27] With the pure, you will show yourself pure, and with the perverted, you will show yourself twisted.¹² [28] You will save poor people, and your eyes upon the haughty you will

1 // Psalm 18

2 סֶלֶעִי (sal'iy) “my rock”

3 מְצֻדָּתִי (metsudâtiy) “stronghold” - same word as “stronghold” in 1 Samuel 22:4-5; 24:23; 2 Samuel 5:7, 9; 17.

4 Psalm 18 starts differently.

5 בְּאַפּוֹ (be'apho) “in his nostril” - nostril is singular here.

6 מִמֶּנּוּ (mimenu) “from him” ERV; ESV; LEB, etc.; “by it” NKJV, NAS, YLT, KJV, etc.

7 יָט (yêt) “stretched out” (same root verb as in Isaiah 51:13 & Jeremiah 10:12, “stretched out the heavens” NKJV); NKJV, etc. “bowed”.

8 כַּנְפֵי־רוּחַ (kanphêy-ruach) “wings of wind” found also in Psalm 18:10[H11]; 104:3.

9 רוּחַ (ruach) “wind” - same word for “spirit” (e.g. 2 Samuel 23:2).

10 See also Psalm 7:8; Proverbs 11:31; 1 Kings 8:32; yet, Ecclesiastes 7:15[vs 14]

11 מִמֶּנָּה (mimmenâh) “from her” - feminine singular

12 תִּתְפַּחֵל (tittaphâl) “you will show yourself twisted” VOICE; “a wrestler” YLT; “shrewd” NKJV; “unsavoury” (=

bring down. [29] For you are my lamp, Yehvah, and Yehvah will enlighten my darkness. [30] For in you I will run against a troop. In my Gods I will leap over a wall. [31] The God, his way is blameless. The speech of Yehvah is refined. He is a shield to all who seek refuge in him. [32] For who is God except Yehvah, and who is a rock except our Gods? [33] The God is my strong fortress, and he will make his way¹³ blameless, [34] making his feet¹⁴ as deer, and he will cause me to stand on my high places. [35] Teaching my hands for the battle, and my arms bent a bow of bronze. [36] And you have given to me a shield of salvation, and your humility¹⁵ has made me great. [37] You enlarged my step under me and my ankles¹⁶ did not slip. [38] I pursue¹⁷ my enemies and exterminate them, and I did not return until they were all finished. [39] And I finished them and struck them through, and they did not arise; and they fell under my feet. [40] And you girded me with strength for the battle. You subdued under me those who rose against me. [41] And you gave my enemies, the neck of those who hated me, and I destroyed them. [42] They looked, and there was no savior, to Yehvah, and he did not answer them. [43] And I beat them as earth's dust, as dirt of streets, I crushed them and stamped them out. [44] And you delivered me from the strivings of my people. You kept me at nations' head. A people I did not know served me. [45] Sons of a foreigner pretended obedience¹⁸ to me. At a hearing of an ear they listened to me. [46] Sons of a foreigner faded away, and they girded up¹⁹ from their hideouts. [47] Yehvah lives, and blessed be my rock, and may the Gods of the rock of my salvation be exalted. [48] The God gives vengeance²⁰ to me and subdues peoples under me, [49] and delivers me from my enemies and raises me up. You lifted me up from violent men. You delivered me. [50] Therefore, I will thank you, Yehvah, in the nations, and to your name I will sing praise, [51] magnifying²¹ salvations of his king, and working kindness towards his anointed, to David and to his seed forever.”²

disagreeable) KJV; “appear perverse” Green – difficult to translate. This verb is found in Genesis 30:8 “wrestled”; Job 5:13 “cunning”; Proverbs 8:8 “crooked”; Psalm 18:26[H27] as here.

13 Written דַּרְכּוֹ (darko) “his way”; read דַּרְכֵי (darkiy) “my way”; Psalm 18:32[H33] has “my way.”

14 Written רַגְלָיו (raglâyv) “his feet”; read רַגְלֵי (raglay) “my feet”; Psalm 18:33[34] has “my feet.”

15 עֲנֻתָּךְ (‘anotkhâ) “your humility” MEV; “condescension” Green; “gentleness” NKJV; “lowliness” YLT – found also in Psalm 18:35[36] as here; Psalm 45:4[H5] “humility” NKJV; Proverbs 15:33; 18:12; 22:4 “humility” NKJV; Zephaniah 2:3 “humility” NKJV. See also Psalm 113:6; Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 11:29.

16 קַרְסָלָי (qarsullây) “my ankles” YLT; “feet” NKJV, NAS, KJV

17 אֶרְדֹּפְהָ (‘erddephâh) “I pursue” (cohortative) YLT; “I will pursue” DRA; “I have pursued” NKJV

18 יִתְכַחֲשׁוּ (yitkachashu) “pretended obedience”; “pretend obedience” NAS; “feign obedience” YLT; “submit” NKJV – see footnote for Genesis 18:15.

19 יַחְגְּרוּ (yachgru) “they gird up”; YLT “gird themselves”; NKJV “come frightened” - Psalm 18:45[H46] יַחְרְגוּ (yachregu) “come tembling.”

20 נְקָמַת (neqâmot) “vengeances” - plural

21 Written מַגְדִּיל (magdiyl) “magnifying” YLT; read מִגְדּוֹל (migdol) “tower” NKJV – Psalm 18:50[H51] similar.