

## DAVID IN TROUBLE

David had some great trials and tribulations. Amid his stress, he wrote several Psalms. These Psalms were very real and honest. They help us to understand how we can be real with God in our struggles.

Events in David's Life	David's Response
1 Samuel 1-20	Psalms 11, 59
1 Samuel 21-24	Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34, 52, 56, 120, 140-142
1 Samuel 25-27	Psalms 17, 35, 54, 63
1 Samuel 28-31	Psalms 18

**You can read 1 Samuel 1-20 before reading:**

**Psalm 11 - For the director of music. Of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> In the LORD I take refuge.  
How then can you say to me:  
“Flee like a bird to your mountain.  
<sup>2</sup> For look, the wicked bend their bows;  
they set their arrows against the strings  
to shoot from the shadows  
at the upright in heart.  
<sup>3</sup> When the foundations are being destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD is on his heavenly throne.  
He observes everyone on earth;  
his eyes examine them.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD examines the righteous,  
but the wicked, those who love violence,  
he hates with a passion.
- <sup>6</sup> On the wicked he will rain  
fiery coals and burning sulfur;  
a scorching wind will be their lot.
- <sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous,  
he loves justice;  
the upright will see his face.

**Psalm 59 - For the director of music. To the tune of “Do Not Destroy.” Of David. A *miktam*.  
When Saul had sent men to watch David's house in order to kill him.**

<sup>1</sup> Deliver me from my enemies, O God;  
be my fortress against those who are attacking me.

<sup>2</sup> Deliver me from evildoers  
and save me from those who are after my blood.

<sup>3</sup> See how they lie in wait for me!  
Fierce men conspire against me  
for no offense or sin of mine, LORD.

<sup>4</sup> I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.  
Arise to help me; look on my plight!

<sup>5</sup> You, LORD God Almighty,  
you who are the God of Israel,  
rouse yourself to punish all the nations;  
show no mercy to wicked traitors.

<sup>6</sup> They return at evening,  
snarling like dogs,  
and prowl about the city.

<sup>7</sup> See what they spew from their mouths—  
the words from their lips are sharp as swords,  
and they think, “Who can hear us?”

<sup>8</sup> But you laugh at them, LORD;  
you scoff at all those nations.

<sup>9</sup> You are my strength, I watch for you;  
you, God, are my fortress,

<sup>10</sup> my God on whom I can rely.

God will go before me  
and will let me gloat over those who slander me.

<sup>11</sup> But do not kill them, Lord our shield,  
or my people will forget.

In your might uproot them  
and bring them down.

<sup>12</sup> For the sins of their mouths,  
for the words of their lips,  
let them be caught in their pride.

For the curses and lies they utter,

<sup>13</sup> consume them in your wrath,  
consume them till they are no more.

Then it will be known to the ends of the earth  
that God rules over Jacob.

<sup>14</sup> They return at evening,  
snarling like dogs,  
and prowl about the city.

<sup>15</sup> They wander about for food  
and howl if not satisfied.  
<sup>16</sup> But I will sing of your strength,  
in the morning I will sing of your love;  
for you are my fortress,  
my refuge in times of trouble.  
  
<sup>17</sup> You are my strength, I sing praise to you;  
you, God, are my fortress,  
my God on whom I can rely.

**You can read 1 Samuel 21-24 before reading:**

**Psalm 7 - A *shiggaion* of David, which he sang to the LORD concerning Cush, a Benjamite.**

<sup>1</sup> LORD my God, I take refuge in you;  
save and deliver me from all who pursue me,  
<sup>2</sup> or they will tear me apart like a lion  
and rip me to pieces with no one to rescue me.  
  
<sup>3</sup> LORD my God, if I have done this  
and there is guilt on my hands—  
<sup>4</sup> if I have repaid my ally with evil  
or without cause have robbed my foe—  
<sup>5</sup> then let my enemy pursue and overtake me;  
let him trample my life to the ground  
and make me sleep in the dust.  
  
<sup>6</sup> Arise, LORD, in your anger;  
rise up against the rage of my enemies.  
Awake, my God; decree justice.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the assembled peoples gather around you,  
while you sit enthroned over them on high.  
<sup>8</sup> Let the LORD judge the peoples.  
Vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness,  
according to my integrity, O Most High.  
<sup>9</sup> Bring to an end the violence of the wicked  
and make the righteous secure—  
you, the righteous God  
who probes minds and hearts.  
  
<sup>10</sup> My shield is God Most High,  
who saves the upright in heart.  
<sup>11</sup> God is a righteous judge,

a God who displays his wrath every day.

<sup>12</sup> If he does not relent,  
he will sharpen his sword;  
he will bend and string his bow.

<sup>13</sup> He has prepared his deadly weapons;  
he makes ready his flaming arrows.

<sup>14</sup> Whoever is pregnant with evil  
conceives trouble and gives birth to disillusionment.

<sup>15</sup> Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out  
falls into the pit they have made.

<sup>16</sup> The trouble they cause recoils on them;  
their violence comes down on their own heads.

<sup>17</sup> I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness;  
I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.

### **Psalm 27 - Of David.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When the wicked advance against me  
to devour me,  
it is my enemies and my foes  
who will stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup> One thing I ask from the LORD,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
and set me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice when I call, LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,  
God my Savior.

<sup>10</sup> Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will receive me.

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, LORD;  
lead me in a straight path  
because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  
for false witnesses rise up against me,  
spouting malicious accusations.

<sup>13</sup> I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the LORD.

### **Psalm 31 - For the director of music. A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> Turn your ear to me,  
come quickly to my rescue;  
be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me.

<sup>3</sup> Since you are my rock and my fortress,  
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,  
for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.

<sup>6</sup> I hate those who cling to worthless idols;  
as for me, I trust in the LORD.  
<sup>7</sup> I will be glad and rejoice in your love,  
for you saw my affliction  
and knew the anguish of my soul.  
<sup>8</sup> You have not given me into the hands of the enemy  
but have set my feet in a spacious place.

<sup>9</sup> Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,  
my soul and body with grief.

<sup>10</sup> My life is consumed by anguish  
and my years by groaning;  
my strength fails because of my affliction,  
and my bones grow weak.

<sup>11</sup> Because of all my enemies,  
I am the utter contempt of my neighbors  
and an object of dread to my closest friends—  
those who see me on the street flee from me.

<sup>12</sup> I am forgotten as though I were dead;  
I have become like broken pottery.

<sup>13</sup> For I hear many whispering,  
“Terror on every side!”

They conspire against me  
and plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup> But I trust in you, LORD;  
I say, “You are my God.”

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hands;  
deliver me from the hands of my enemies,  
from those who pursue me.

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.

<sup>17</sup> Let me not be put to shame, LORD,  
for I have cried out to you;  
but let the wicked be put to shame  
and be silent in the realm of the dead.

<sup>18</sup> Let their lying lips be silenced,  
for with pride and contempt  
they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

<sup>19</sup> How abundant are the good things  
that you have stored up for those who fear you,  
that you bestow in the sight of all,  
on those who take refuge in you.

<sup>20</sup> In the shelter of your presence you hide them

from all human intrigues;  
you keep them safe in your dwelling  
from accusing tongues.

<sup>21</sup> Praise be to the LORD,  
for he showed me the wonders of his love  
when I was in a city under siege.

<sup>22</sup> In my alarm I said,  
“I am cut off from your sight!”  
Yet you heard my cry for mercy  
when I called to you for help.

<sup>23</sup> Love the LORD, all his faithful people!  
The LORD preserves those who are true to him,  
but the proud he pays back in full.

<sup>24</sup> Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the LORD.

**Psalm 34 - Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek, who drove him away, and he left.**

<sup>1</sup> I will extol the LORD at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips.

<sup>2</sup> I will glory in the LORD;  
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

<sup>3</sup> Glorify the LORD with me;  
let us exalt his name together.

<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me;  
he delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant;  
their faces are never covered with shame.

<sup>6</sup> This poor man called, and the LORD heard him;  
he saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.

<sup>8</sup> Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

<sup>9</sup> Fear the LORD, you his holy people,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup> The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

<sup>11</sup> Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> Whoever of you loves life

- and desires to see many good days,  
<sup>13</sup> keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from telling lies.  
<sup>14</sup> Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.
- <sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
and his ears are attentive to their cry;  
<sup>16</sup> but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to blot out their name from the earth.
- <sup>17</sup> The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;  
he delivers them from all their troubles.  
<sup>18</sup> The LORD is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- <sup>19</sup> The righteous person may have many troubles,  
but the LORD delivers him from them all;  
<sup>20</sup> he protects all his bones,  
not one of them will be broken.
- <sup>21</sup> Evil will slay the wicked;  
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.  
<sup>22</sup> The LORD will rescue his servants;  
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

**Psalm 52 - For the director of music. A *maskil* of David. When Doeg the Edomite had gone to Saul and told him: "David has gone to the house of Ahimelek."**

- <sup>1</sup> Why do you boast of evil, you mighty hero?  
Why do you boast all day long,  
you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?  
<sup>2</sup> You who practice deceit,  
your tongue plots destruction;  
it is like a sharpened razor.  
<sup>3</sup> You love evil rather than good,  
falsehood rather than speaking the truth.  
<sup>4</sup> You love every harmful word,  
you deceitful tongue!
- <sup>5</sup> Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin:  
He will snatch you up and pluck you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living.  
<sup>6</sup> The righteous will see and fear;  
they will laugh at you, saying,  
<sup>7</sup> "Here now is the man



who did not make God his stronghold  
but trusted in his great wealth  
and grew strong by destroying others!”

<sup>8</sup> But I am like an olive tree  
flourishing in the house of God;  
I trust in God’s unfailing love  
forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> For what you have done I will always praise you  
in the presence of your faithful people.  
And I will hope in your name,  
for your name is good.

**Psalm 56 - For the director of music. To the tune of “A Dove on Distant Oaks.” Of David. A *miktam*. When the Philistines had seized him in Gath.**

<sup>1</sup> Be merciful to me, my God,  
for my enemies are in hot pursuit;  
all day long they press their attack.

<sup>2</sup> My adversaries pursue me all day long;  
in their pride many are attacking me.

<sup>3</sup> When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

<sup>4</sup> In God, whose word I praise—  
in God I trust and am not afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?

<sup>5</sup> All day long they twist my words;  
all their schemes are for my ruin.

<sup>6</sup> They conspire, they lurk,  
they watch my steps,  
hoping to take my life.

<sup>7</sup> Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;  
in your anger, God, bring the nations down.

<sup>8</sup> Record my misery;  
list my tears on your scroll -  
are they not in your record?

<sup>9</sup> Then my enemies will turn back  
when I call for help.  
By this I will know that God is for me.

<sup>10</sup> In God, whose word I praise,  
in the LORD, whose word I praise—

<sup>11</sup> in God I trust and am not afraid.  
What can man do to me?

<sup>12</sup> I am under vows to you, my God;  
I will present my thank offerings to you.  
<sup>13</sup> For you have delivered me from death  
and my feet from stumbling,  
that I may walk before God  
in the light of life.

### **Psalm 120 - A song of ascents.**

<sup>1</sup> I call on the LORD in my distress,  
and he answers me.  
<sup>2</sup> Save me, LORD,  
from lying lips  
and from deceitful tongues.  
  
<sup>3</sup> What will he do to you,  
and what more besides,  
you deceitful tongue?  
<sup>4</sup> He will punish you with a warrior's sharp arrows,  
with burning coals of the broom bush.  
  
<sup>5</sup> Woe to me that I dwell in Meshek,  
that I live among the tents of Kedar!  
<sup>6</sup> Too long have I lived  
among those who hate peace.  
<sup>7</sup> I am for peace;  
but when I speak, they are for war.

### **Psalm 140-142 - For the director of music. A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers;  
protect me from the violent,  
<sup>2</sup> who devise evil plans in their hearts  
and stir up war every day.  
<sup>3</sup> They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's;  
the poison of vipers is on their lips.  
  
<sup>4</sup> Keep me safe, LORD, from the hands of the wicked;  
protect me from the violent,  
who devise ways to trip my feet.  
<sup>5</sup> The arrogant have hidden a snare for me;  
they have spread out the cords of their net  
and have set traps for me along my path.

<sup>6</sup> I say to the LORD, “You are my God.”  
Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy.

<sup>7</sup> Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer,  
you shield my head in the day of battle.

<sup>8</sup> Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD;  
do not let their plans succeed.

<sup>9</sup> Those who surround me proudly rear their heads;  
may the mischief of their lips engulf them.

<sup>10</sup> May burning coals fall on them;  
may they be thrown into the fire,  
into miry pits, never to rise.

<sup>11</sup> May slanderers not be established in the land;  
may disaster hunt down the violent.

<sup>12</sup> I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor  
and upholds the cause of the needy.

<sup>13</sup> Surely the righteous will praise your name,  
and the upright will live in your presence.

## **Psalm 141**

### **A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> I call to you, LORD, come quickly to me;  
hear me when I call to you.

<sup>2</sup> May my prayer be set before you like incense;  
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

<sup>3</sup> Set a guard over my mouth, LORD;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.

<sup>4</sup> Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil  
so that I take part in wicked deeds  
along with those who are evildoers;  
do not let me eat their delicacies.

<sup>5</sup> Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness;  
let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head.  
My head will not refuse it,  
for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

<sup>6</sup> Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,  
and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken.

<sup>7</sup> They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth,  
so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”

- <sup>8</sup> But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign LORD;  
in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.  
<sup>9</sup> Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,  
from the snares they have laid for me.  
<sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets,  
while I pass by in safety.

## **Psalm 142**

***A maskil* of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.**

- <sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to the LORD;  
I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy.  
<sup>2</sup> I pour out before him my complaint;  
before him I tell my trouble.
- <sup>3</sup> When my spirit grows faint within me,  
it is you who watch over my way.  
In the path where I walk  
people have hidden a snare for me.  
<sup>4</sup> Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;  
no one is concerned for me.  
I have no refuge;  
no one cares for my life.
- <sup>5</sup> I cry to you, LORD;  
I say, “You are my refuge,  
my portion in the land of the living.”
- <sup>6</sup> Listen to my cry,  
for I am in desperate need;  
rescue me from those who pursue me,  
for they are too strong for me.  
<sup>7</sup> Set me free from my prison,  
that I may praise your name.  
Then the righteous will gather about me  
because of your goodness to me.

**You can read 1 Samuel 25-27 before reading:**

## **Psalm 17 - A prayer of David.**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear me, LORD, my plea is just;  
listen to my cry.  
Hear my prayer—  
it does not rise from deceitful lips.

<sup>2</sup> Let my vindication come from you;  
may your eyes see what is right.

<sup>3</sup> Though you probe my heart,  
though you examine me at night and test me,  
you will find that I have planned no evil;  
my mouth has not transgressed.

<sup>4</sup> Though people tried to bribe me,  
I have kept myself from the ways of the violent  
through what your lips have commanded.

<sup>5</sup> My steps have held to your paths;  
my feet have not stumbled.

<sup>6</sup> I call on you, my God, for you will answer me;  
turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

<sup>7</sup> Show me the wonders of your great love,  
you who save by your right hand  
those who take refuge in you from their foes.

<sup>8</sup> Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me in the shadow of your wings

<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who are out to destroy me,  
from my mortal enemies who surround me.

<sup>10</sup> They close up their callous hearts,  
and their mouths speak with arrogance.

<sup>11</sup> They have tracked me down, they now surround me,  
with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

<sup>12</sup> They are like a lion hungry for prey,  
like a fierce lion crouching in cover.

<sup>13</sup> Rise up, LORD, confront them, bring them down;  
with your sword rescue me from the wicked.

<sup>14</sup> By your hand save me from such people, LORD,  
from those of this world whose reward is in this life.

May what you have stored up for the wicked fill their bellies;  
may their children gorge themselves on it,  
and may there be leftovers for their little ones.

<sup>15</sup> As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face;  
when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

### **Psalm 35 - Of David.**

<sup>1</sup> Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me;  
fight against those who fight against me.

<sup>2</sup> Take up shield and armor;

arise and come to my aid.  
<sup>3</sup> Brandish spear and javelin  
against those who pursue me.  
Say to me,  
“I am your salvation.”

<sup>4</sup> May those who seek my life  
be disgraced and put to shame;  
may those who plot my ruin  
be turned back in dismay.  
<sup>5</sup> May they be like chaff before the wind,  
with the angel of the LORD driving them away;  
<sup>6</sup> may their path be dark and slippery,  
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

<sup>7</sup> Since they hid their net for me without cause  
and without cause dug a pit for me,  
<sup>8</sup> may ruin overtake them by surprise—  
may the net they hid entangle them,  
may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.  
<sup>9</sup> Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD  
and delight in his salvation.  
<sup>10</sup> My whole being will exclaim,  
“Who is like you, LORD?  
You rescue the poor from those too strong for them,  
the poor and needy from those who rob them.”

<sup>11</sup> Ruthless witnesses come forward;  
they question me on things I know nothing about.  
<sup>12</sup> They repay me evil for good  
and leave me like one bereaved.  
<sup>13</sup> Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth  
and humbled myself with fasting.  
When my prayers returned to me unanswered,  
<sup>14</sup> I went about mourning  
as though for my friend or brother.  
I bowed my head in grief  
as though weeping for my mother.  
<sup>15</sup> But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee;  
assailants gathered against me without my knowledge.  
They slandered me without ceasing.  
<sup>16</sup> Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked;  
they gnashed their teeth at me.  
  
<sup>17</sup> How long, Lord, will you look on?  
Rescue me from their ravages,

my precious life from these lions.  
<sup>18</sup> I will give you thanks in the great assembly;  
among the throngs I will praise you.  
<sup>19</sup> Do not let those gloat over me  
who are my enemies without cause;  
do not let those who hate me without reason  
maliciously wink the eye.  
<sup>20</sup> They do not speak peaceably,  
but devise false accusations  
against those who live quietly in the land.  
<sup>21</sup> They sneer at me and say, "Aha! Aha!  
With our own eyes we have seen it."  
  
<sup>22</sup> LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent.  
Do not be far from me, Lord.  
<sup>23</sup> Awake, and rise to my defense!  
Contend for me, my God and Lord.  
<sup>24</sup> Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God;  
do not let them gloat over me.  
<sup>25</sup> Do not let them think, "Aha, just what we wanted!"  
or say, "We have swallowed him up."  
  
<sup>26</sup> May all who gloat over my distress  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who exalt themselves over me  
be clothed with shame and disgrace.  
<sup>27</sup> May those who delight in my vindication  
shout for joy and gladness;  
may they always say, "The LORD be exalted,  
who delights in the well-being of his servant."  
  
<sup>28</sup> My tongue will proclaim your righteousness,  
your praises all day long.

**Psalms 54 - For the director of music. With stringed instruments. A *maskil* of David. When the Ziphites had gone to Saul and said, "Is not David hiding among us?"**

<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God, by your name;  
vindicate me by your might.  
<sup>2</sup> Hear my prayer, O God;  
listen to the words of my mouth.  
  
<sup>3</sup> Arrogant foes are attacking me;  
ruthless people are trying to kill me—  
people without regard for God.

- <sup>4</sup> Surely God is my help;  
the Lord is the one who sustains me.
- <sup>5</sup> Let evil recoil on those who slander me;  
in your faithfulness destroy them.
- <sup>6</sup> I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;  
I will praise your name, LORD, for it is good.
- <sup>7</sup> You have delivered me from all my troubles,  
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

**Psalm 63 - A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah.**

- <sup>1</sup> You, God, are my God,  
earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you,  
my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land  
where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.
- <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.
- <sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
- <sup>5</sup> I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> On my bed I remember you;  
I think of you through the watches of the night.
- <sup>7</sup> Because you are my help,  
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> I cling to you;  
your right hand upholds me.
- <sup>9</sup> Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;  
they will go down to the depths of the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> They will be given over to the sword  
and become food for jackals.
- <sup>11</sup> But the king will rejoice in God;  
all who swear by God will glory in him,  
while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

**You can read 1 Samuel 28-31 before reading:**



**Psalm 18 - For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD. He sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:**

<sup>1</sup> I love you, LORD, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,  
and I have been saved from my enemies.

<sup>4</sup> The cords of death entangled me;  
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

<sup>5</sup> The cords of the grave coiled around me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The earth trembled and quaked,  
and the foundations of the mountains shook;  
they trembled because he was angry.

<sup>8</sup> Smoke rose from his nostrils;  
consuming fire came from his mouth,  
burning coals blazed out of it.

<sup>9</sup> He parted the heavens and came down;  
dark clouds were under his feet.

<sup>10</sup> He mounted the cherubim and flew;  
he soared on the wings of the wind.

<sup>11</sup> He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him—  
the dark rain clouds of the sky.

<sup>12</sup> Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced,  
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD thundered from heaven;  
the voice of the Most High resounded.

<sup>14</sup> He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy,  
with great bolts of lightning he routed them.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
he drew me out of deep waters.

- <sup>17</sup> He rescued me from my powerful enemy,  
from my foes, who were too strong for me.
- <sup>18</sup> They confronted me in the day of my disaster,  
but the LORD was my support.
- <sup>19</sup> He brought me out into a spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted in me.
- <sup>20</sup> The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness;  
according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.
- <sup>21</sup> For I have kept the ways of the LORD;  
I am not guilty of turning from my God.
- <sup>22</sup> All his laws are before me;  
I have not turned away from his decrees.
- <sup>23</sup> I have been blameless before him  
and have kept myself from sin.
- <sup>24</sup> The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness,  
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.
- <sup>25</sup> To the faithful you show yourself faithful,  
to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
- <sup>26</sup> to the pure you show yourself pure,  
but to the devious you show yourself shrewd.
- <sup>27</sup> You save the humble  
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
- <sup>28</sup> You, LORD, keep my lamp burning;  
my God turns my darkness into light.
- <sup>29</sup> With your help I can advance against a troop;  
with my God I can scale a wall.
- <sup>30</sup> As for God, his way is perfect:  
The LORD's word is flawless;  
he shields all who take refuge in him.
- <sup>31</sup> For who is God besides the LORD?  
And who is the Rock except our God?
- <sup>32</sup> It is God who arms me with strength  
and keeps my way secure.
- <sup>33</sup> He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;  
he causes me to stand on the heights.
- <sup>34</sup> He trains my hands for battle;  
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
- <sup>35</sup> You make your saving help my shield,  
and your right hand sustains me;  
your help has made me great.
- <sup>36</sup> You provide a broad path for my feet,  
so that my ankles do not give way.

<sup>37</sup> I pursued my enemies and overtook them;  
I did not turn back till they were destroyed.  
<sup>38</sup> I crushed them so that they could not rise;  
they fell beneath my feet.  
<sup>39</sup> You armed me with strength for battle;  
you humbled my adversaries before me.  
<sup>40</sup> You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,  
and I destroyed my foes.  
<sup>41</sup> They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—  
to the LORD, but he did not answer.  
<sup>42</sup> I beat them as fine as windblown dust;  
I trampled them like mud in the streets.  
<sup>43</sup> 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,  
<sup>44</sup> foreigners cower before me;  
as soon as they hear of me, they obey me.  
<sup>45</sup> They all lose heart;  
they come trembling from their strongholds.

<sup>46</sup> The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock!  
Exalted be God my Savior!  
<sup>47</sup> He is the God who avenges me,  
who subdues nations under me,  
<sup>48</sup> who saves me from my enemies.  
You exalted me above my foes;  
from a violent man you rescued me.  
<sup>49</sup> Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;  
I will sing the praises of your name.

<sup>50</sup> He gives his king great victories;  
he shows unfailing love to his anointed,  
to David and to his descendants forever.