

I. Review

Last week we finished up our study of Psalms 18:1-2. I think it's one of the easiest studies in the Bible on how you build your Christian life. So many pastors and teachers want to make the Bible and the Christian life almost unattainable. I think that is crazy. God is going to judge us someday because of what He wrote in the Bible and what we're supposed to do as Christians. How unfair would it be for God to write a Book that was so hard to understand then turn around and judge us for it. That's not the way it works.

Psalms 18 is kind of a step-by-step of how to build your Christian life as you grow, and the Bible talks about the seven stages of your spiritual growth. You get saved as a baby Christian then go through those stages and wind up as an elder or the aged; someone who is really equipped to handle the word of God. It's not a hard concept. When you get saved, the Bible says in I Corinthians 3 that is when you lay the foundation in your life. Then the rest of your Christian life, through a New Testament local church and ministries which help you grow, you build upon that foundation.

When you go back to Isaiah 28, it talks about laying the building blocks on that foundation. We know now that those building blocks are Bible doctrine. The way you learn the Bible is by building one doctrine at a time. It's what we do here. We start with Discipleship I where we lay the fundamentals down. Then we go to Discipleship II along with all of the other things we do. We now have Discipleship III ready to go, and some of you are already doing that. You can see how it builds and continues to build on that foundation which will make you mature spiritually in time and give you the spiritual strength through the Lord that you really need.

➤ The Building Blocks

In a quick recap, you'll remember that we started out looking at the rock which is the foundation you build, and that rock is Christ. You build a fortress upon it, and then you learn how God is your deliverer. He's going to protect you through the fortress. We talked about having the true God. Today so many of God's people are caught up with the wrong god and don't even understand the God of the Bible very well. We talked about how it must be done in His strength and not our own. Then we talked about a piece of the warfare, the buckler, which deals with the close combat of getting in and being an effective witness for Christ.

We talked about the horn of our salvation; lifting our horn on high and being able to have the message to take to the world. The final action that we talked about last week, when you get to that point in your spiritual growth, will be building the tower on the wall of truth which you've built with the building blocks. Each part, as you obviously know by now, is a good study unto itself, but tying them all together really helps you put the overall concept together of what our life really should be.

God will add things to your faith as you grow while the devil will subtract from your faith. Everybody sees and understands that, but most people don't think about it. You'll find young men and ladies who got saved in church when they were young. They went to church, grew, and loved God and the Bible. Then maybe they go to school or get a job someplace, and they begin to lose touch with the things of the Bible. Pretty soon, those that once loved the Bible and church don't love it anymore. What happened? How did they lose that? **It's because God will add to your faith if you stay in the word of God, and if you don't, the devil will subtract from your faith.** He'll take those things from you. He can never get your salvation, but he can still get a lot. It's a great principle to see and understand. It is the reason why so many Christians over the years lost what God had for them.

➤ Receiving a Full Reward

A great verse that everybody ought to keep before them and memorize is in II John 1:8.

*II John 1:8. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but **that we receive a full reward.***

That's what God wants for you, and it's also what I want for you. Oftentimes kids don't understand why their parents do some of the things they do or make them do certain things. As kids, they don't figure it out or appreciate it. They don't understand that mom and dad have lived long enough to know that there are some things out there that are not good for you. They want you to have a full life, and they don't want you to make the same mistakes they made.

In the ministry, it's the same thing. I not only want you to have a full life; I want you to have a full reward when the Lord comes back. So sometimes you've got to say some things, preach some things, or deal with some things, but at the end of the day, in this church it's about one thing. **It's helping you get everything that you need so that when you stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and it's not a matter of whether you will or won't but rather when you do, that you stand there with a full reward.** That's really what it's all about and what every pastor in every church should be focused on—helping you be everything that God wants you to be. And the towers are the key to that.

➤ Towers – The Key to Keeping What God has Given You

The towers are the key to keeping what God has given you that you can hide in the treasure room of your heart. I gave you the three towers found in the Bible, and we talked about each one of them.

1. The Tower of David—Song of Solomon 4
2. The Strong Tower—Psalms 61:3
3. The High Tower—Psalms 18

I showed you how they fit historically, doctrinally, and inspirationally in the book of Psalms.

II. How to Get the Book of Psalms to Open Itself Up to You

Today I want to look at the rest of Psalms 18. I waited until we got to this Psalm because it's such a long one, and I knew this would be an incredible opportunity to show you how you can get the book of Psalms to open itself up to you. Actually, the whole Old Testament will follow this same plan. I want to show you today how you break it down.

We're told in II Timothy 2:15, and most Christians have no clue how to do this (it's a shame but it's the day and age that we live in), that we are to rightly divide the word of truth.

*II Timothy 2:15. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.***

There are divisions in the Bible. Most Christians are oblivious to the divisions; they couldn't point them out if their lives depended on it. Obviously, the biggest division is the Old Testament and the New Testament. That's a major division, but within the Old and New Testaments, there are more divisions. If you get the divisions in the wrong place, you're going to have some problems in your Christian life such as getting some bad doctrine or allowing some heresy to creep in. It's the importance of being able to rightly divide it—know what the Bible is saying, who it's saying it to, and how to apply it. I want to show you how to do that particularly with the book of Psalms, and specifically with the rest of Psalms 18.

➤ Context is Everything

I told you when we started Psalms, our basic understanding of the book would be based on our seeing and laying out the context of the book. I beat you over the head with it, but you know my concept of a context. It's everything when it comes to the Bible. It's everything when it comes to life. When you open up your Bible and begin to read or study something, the key to rightly dividing it is to always get the right context at the beginning—what it really means, what it is really saying, and more importantly, who it is saying it to.

The first thing that I remember telling you about the book of Psalms is that it was written by a number of different authors. There wasn't just one guy who wrote the book of Psalms. In fact, the book of Psalms is much like the Bible; there were different authors who wrote the books of the Bible. David, who is one of our favorite characters in Psalms, wrote 73 of the Psalms by name. Asaph, who was David's chief musician, wrote some of the Psalms. It's interesting to look at Asaph's Psalms and then get an understanding of what the music in the church should be today. It's where the study starts, but that's completely lost today. Moses, Solomon, and Ethan wrote some of the Psalms as did the sons of Korah. There are 49 Psalms that are anonymous. We don't know for sure who wrote them.

Like the Bible, each one of the Psalms kind of comes at things from a different angle, but it all goes together when you tie it together, falling around three themes which you find in the book of Psalms. I want to show you today how you take Psalms 18 and break it down into an understandable context, and how the book is built around three areas.

III. Three Applications to the Bible

The word doctrine means to teach. Bible doctrine is pure truth being taught from the word of God. You're going to find, when you come to the Bible, that you basically have three applications to your Bible that you've got to learn.

- **The Historical Application.** This means that it actually happened in history.
- **The Doctrinal Application.** This deals with future events; prophetic stuff. Even though it's historically true, doctrinally it projects itself toward future events. I would say that 85% of your Old Testament, doctrinally, has yet to be fulfilled. You need to understand that.
- **The Inspirational or Practical Application.** This is how it applies to you.

When you begin to rightly divide the Bible, you want to keep those three things in your mind. All of the Bible was written for you, but not all of the Bible was written directly to you. You have to be able to distinguish between who it's being written to, why, and when. That's part of rightly dividing it. I think that Psalms is an easy book to show you this, but you can also take what I'm giving you today and use it anywhere in the Old Testament. Hopefully you'll see that before I'm finished today.

Let's talk about the prophetic application for a moment. Most of Psalms, prophetically, deals with the future. This is what we call the doctrinal application.

When you look at the book of Psalms in a prophetic application, it's going to be about three types of Psalms.

- **Tribulation Psalms.** These Psalms deal with Israel as they go through the tribulation which we know is called Daniel's 70th week. It's also called the great tribulation. You'll find that many of the Psalms prophetically are showing you what's going on there.
- **Second Coming Psalms.** Israel in the tribulation is being severely persecuted by the antichrist. The antichrist chases them, and they run down to Selah Petra. They're hiding and the antichrist is hunting and killing them. You'll find that laid out in Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Revelation. Then the Lord comes back and takes them out. The theme of the Old Testament, and actually the New Testament too, is the day of the Lord. You'll find it over 1,000 times in the Old Testament. Wherever you find *the day of the Lord*, you know it's the 2nd coming of Christ. Sometimes it's called *that day* or *the day*, but wherever you find those three, doctrinally, it's a prophetic statement and a teaching of what is coming. In Luke 21:28, where the antichrist has them surrounded, it says *lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*. That's the Lord coming back and taking them out of the tribulation period.
- **Millennial Psalms.** When Christ comes back, He establishes the millennium. The earth is at rest. Everybody is rejoicing. You will find Psalms that deal with the Lord on the throne and all the praise. The place to study that is Ezekiel 40-48.

When it comes to the book of Psalms, and the rest of the Old Testament too, this is how you start rightly dividing it. It sounds complicated, but it really isn't if you just follow some of the basic fundamental things I'm going to show you today and learn how to use the Bible to open itself up. The book of Psalms, as well as the Bible, will lay itself out around three key divisions. Once you understand and see this, this book will start to open itself up for you.

➤ Three Key Divisions in the Book of Psalms

You will find three themes in the book of Psalms. Wherever you're reading in the book of Psalms you want to remember this.

1. **Historical**. This is what actually took place in history. David's Psalms are about David going through his tough times in life. He is often struggling with the enemies that are after him. A big part of that is when Saul was trying to kill him. These are about David's struggles and tough times. You'll find historically where God delivers David from Saul, and David praising God because of the deliverance.
2. **Doctrinal**. David is a type of the nation of Israel. Where David went through it historically through the suffering, now it's a prophetic picture of Israel as a nation going through the tribulation period, so you find the tribulation Psalms. You'll see God delivering the nation of Israel which are the second coming Psalms. You'll also find Israel in the millennium giving thanks for everything that God has done for them which are the millennial Psalms.
3. **Inspirational**. This is when you and I go through tough times. Just like David went through his historically, and prophetically Israel is going to go through theirs in the future, the inspirational or practical application is that we're all going to go through some tough times in life. What will get us through is the same thing that got David through and the same thing that will get Israel through—trusting in God's strength for His deliverance. We go through our trouble, God delivers us, then God gives us the victory.

See how it works? When you begin to rightly divide the Bible, all three are the key to not only the book of Psalms but also the Old Testament. I'm not going to try to tackle the Old Testament this morning, but in my mind if you leave here today and understand this fundamentally, you're all smart enough to take it and use it. It's the same keys. There's nothing different. **These will be the three fundamental themes or the concepts of Psalms that will give you the context historically (David), doctrinally (Israel), and inspirationally (me and you).** The key is simply beginning to understand, when you begin to rightly divide it, that it's written three ways to three different groups. When you begin to look at Psalms with that in the back of your mind, you'll know that with anything you read that you're looking at one of three things. This is very important to see and understand.

➤ We get the Victory in Psalms then Proverbs Shows us How to Keep It

There's a reason why so many people, when they go through tough times, are drawn to the book of Psalms. Most people don't understand why. If you go through some tough times in life, you're not necessarily going to go to Romans or I Thessalonians unless you've got a particular verse there. You're going to draw strength and safety from the book of Psalms. **The reason for**

that, which most people never fully understand, is because the book of Psalms will contain every human emotion that we will ever feel. It's found through David's tough times and him being delivered then rejoicing in the Lord. It's found in Israel going through the tribulation period doctrinally, God delivering them, and winding up in the millennium. It's true of you and me. When we go through our tough times, we're drawn to those places in Psalms where David has his struggles, Israel has its struggles, and we have our struggles. It's an incredible book. Everything we feel and experience in life will be found in this one book. **The book of Psalms shows you our raw emotions.**

I've always thought that Psalms and Proverbs go together. **Psalms shows us that we struggle, God delivers us, and God gives the victory. Then in Proverbs, which is the next book, we find out what the real issues of life are all about.** After we go through Psalms and get the victory, Proverbs shows us how to keep the victory because the book of Proverbs shows us God's opinion about everything in life. So once we get to the victory in our life, the way to keep that victory is through Proverbs by looking at life, not the way we looked at it that got us into the problems we have, but looking at it through the eyes of the Lord and realizing that He is guiding us through Proverbs so that we don't ever have to make mistakes again in our lives. Obviously we're going to, but we don't have to. When we do, it's the book of Proverbs that starts in our hearts and shows us what God thinks about any given situation in life. As Proverbs 4:23 says, the book of Proverbs was written to deal with *the issues of life* that we all face.

➤ **You're Sitting on a Gold Mine!**

Psalms will be the one book in the Bible where God's people will go to in tough times. The problem is most of them, bless their hearts, don't understand what they have. They don't understand that they are sitting on a gold mine. Every time I see the (Coventry Direct) commercial about the lady worried about paying her bills and has all these insurance policies, with the two guys below like miners yelling up, "You're sitting on a gold mine," I think to myself, "That's what I do every Sunday to you guys!" You're sitting on a gold mine. That Bible is incredible, and most people will go to Psalms to get the comfort, but they never get into the book of Proverbs to find out the cause and the effect.

IV. Developing a Working Knowledge of the Bible

I want to use the rest of Psalms 18 as a teaching tool today. In our church, we have a number of Bible students. Many are on different levels, but they are men and women who have come in and fell in love with the word of God. They may not understand it all yet, but they're working on it. I have some who have an incredible handle on the word of God. They've been around for a number of years, done everything right, and really know their Bible. That's the healthiness of a church because you want everybody in different stages. You don't want a church full of intellectuals when it comes to the Bible. You want endline Christians, midline Christians, and baseline Christians with everybody working toward a goal. The beauty of that is, when you do it Biblically, everybody helps everybody else. Many of you are discipling younger Christians in D1 or D2. Many of you are working with younger Christians who are struggling through things

in their lives, with their marriages or with their kids, and you have learned the process and now you're trying to teach it to them. That's really what it's all about.

I know some people are just looking for a fun church with all the bells and whistles without getting deep into the Bible so they can go home with a good feeling. I never want you to go home with a good feeling unless God has really given you something in your life that you didn't see before. For those who are Bible students, however, I think this will help you today. I want to show you how you take Psalms 18, and I want to show you historically, doctrinally, and inspirationally how we break this chapter down into the tribulation, the second coming, and the millennium. **My main goal as your pastor is to help you develop what I call a working knowledge with the Bible.** There are a lot of people who know a lot of things about the Bible, but I don't want you just to know a lot of things about the Bible. I want you to know the Bible. A working knowledge means that you not only know how to use the Bible, but the Bible knows how to use you. You work together with it, and it starts with our ability to be able to rightly divide it.

Psalms 18 is one of the longest chapters in Psalms with 50 verses. Obviously, the longest Psalm is Psalms 119 which runs 176 verses. Psalms 78, which is another key Psalm, runs 72 verses. Psalms 89 runs 52 verses. I say all that because as I'm sure you already know, most of the Psalms are much shorter. Some only run 3-4 verses while others run maybe 10-12 verses. In each one of those, usually the tribulation, second coming, or the millennium will be the one theme in that little Psalm. It won't be multiple themes, and I give these to you as we go through them (Tribulation Psalm, Second Coming Psalm, or Millennial Psalm). The context or the theme is found within those few verses. In the longer ones, however, will have all three of them going back and forth in them. This is why this is such a good teaching tool. This is what I want to show you today. You will use this, not only in the rest of Psalms, but throughout the Old Testament.

V. Rightly Dividing Psalms 18

As you read through Psalms 18, there is a lot in those 50 verses. I ask you upper-level Bible students: what do you pick out of it? Were you able to rightly divide this chapter from the three themes that are found in the book of Psalms doctrinally?

➤ Two Key Things to Remember when Rightly Dividing

When it comes to rightly dividing the word of truth, you're going to find that there are two key things that you always want to remember, look for, and never forget. It has nothing to do with the Greek or the Hebrew. It has nothing to do with your education or how smart you are. It has to do with how in tune your heart is to the word of God.

1. The Paragraph Marks. Now there are no paragraph marks in this chapter, but you're going to find that throughout your Bible there are paragraph marks. They are crucial for you to begin to understand the context of what you're reading because the paragraph marks will show you when something changes from one subject or one theme to another.

Many times, it will be from the first coming of Christ to the second coming of Christ. Sometimes it will be from the tribulation to the second coming to the millennium. There is only one Bible in the world that has paragraph marks in it, and that's a King James 1611 Authorized Version. There are no paragraph marks after Acts Chapter 20. There is a reason for that.

2. The Key Words. The key words in the Bible are what God uses to unlock the Bible and rightly divide it. You're going to see that today in a major way. When I wrote the book *How to Study the Bible* almost 40 years ago (which has sold well under a million copies), I included a section on the key words in the Bible. **The key words will always mean the same thing as far as establishing a context.** I told you about *the day of the Lord*, *that day*, or *the day*. I don't care where you find it—99% of the time it will be dealing with the second coming of Christ. You see, it sets the context. There are key words in the Bible God used, that when we learn them and read them, it helps us understand the context of what we're reading. That's the beauty of the Bible.

The Bible is not a hard book. It's written in a third/fourth grade language. It's an easy book to understand. The reason why people don't understand it today is fundamentally that they don't want to understand it. They want everything in the world that we live in, including Christianity, as a quick fix.

➤ There are no Quick Fixes When It Comes to Learning the Bible

Now you can get a lot of quick fixes. I remember when the first McDonald's came out back in 1957. Most of you were not even born. The hamburgers were 15 cents, and the sign said, "Sold 20." Now they've sold 6 billion, but that was the beginning of it all. It was called fast food because normally you went into a restaurant, sat down and ordered, and they got your food in 30-60 minutes. Now you could get your food in 10 minutes or less, sit down and eat it, and be on your way in 20-30 minutes. As time went on and people got more impatient, fast food wasn't fast enough. They put in drive-through lanes so you could get your fast food faster. Now you can use your app and get it even faster. If that's still not fast enough, there is an uber guy who will bring it to you! You see, our society has gotten very impatient about things. We call it culture or style, but I call it being totally impatient because the world today doesn't want to wait for things.

When my mom and dad moved from Maryland to Ohio during World War II, they rented a little apartment. They were probably married for 20 years before they bought their first house. That's all changed now. I'm not saying it's bad; it's part of the culture now. When somebody gets married, they've already got their house. In fact, some of you single guys have already bought your house. I was 17 years old when I got my first car. It was a 57 Ford. I paid \$125 for it, and I paid for it by working at a little mom and pop grocery store making 75 cents an hour. Now when kids graduate from high school, if they don't get a brand-new car as a graduation present, they think something is wrong. I'm not fighting it, but back then people appreciated things more because they had to work and wait longer and harder to get it.

When I was your age, the coolest thing on the planet was a new pair of jeans. We all hated them at first because they were so stiff. You had to wear them, and your mom had to wash them 110 times before they got faded. Now you can go into any store and buy faded jeans off the rack. Nobody wants to wait any longer for them to fade. And you don't have to wait for them to wear out. I see some of you, my own kids included, wearing jeans with holes in them. You know how long it took me to wear out my jeans back in the day to get the knees out, and when I did, do you think my mom was going to let me go out like that? No! She got these big, awful patches that you ironed on your knees. You see, that's the culture you all live in now. But that won't work when it comes to the Bible.

When it comes to the word of God, you have to pay your dues. *Study to show thyself approved unto God* (not man), *a workman*. I'm going to show you how you do this with Psalms 18. I'm going to show you what you want to look for, and hopefully when you come out of this, you'll understand why I put such a preeminence on you learning the little things about the Bible. I'm not a fast guy when it comes to the Bible. I take my time. There are so many little things that a person needs to understand to unlock the big things, but the key to unlocking the big thing is just the little thing. If you get this down, and you begin to follow it, it will be easier for you to put the Bible together.

VI. Breaking Down Psalms 18

➤ Psalms 18:1-2 – Establishing a Context

Psalms 18:1-2. I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

2. The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.

I want you to notice how the first two verses will begin to set the context. You're going to see this a lot in Psalms. It's one of the things you'll want to look for. In the smaller Psalms, usually the first line in the verse will establish a context—not always, but certainly many times. In Psalms 18, you have everything here that you can see historically, doctrinally, and inspirationally.

Whenever you start with the Psalms or the Old Testament, the first thing you must establish is the historical. Once you get the historical understood, then the words and the types in the Bible will help you get to the doctrinal. Once you get to the doctrinal, following the historical, then the inspirational is a hop, skip, and a jump.

Let's apply this to Psalms 18:1-2

- **Historically:** This will be a Psalm of David. It's a song and a Psalm of the day God delivered him from the hand of Saul and all his enemies. That sets the context for me historically. Now, I've got it. I didn't have to go any more than two verses, and now I understand that this is a Psalm of David. He's thanking God for delivering him from the hand of Saul who wanted to kill him.

- **Doctrinally**: This will be a Psalm based on David as a type of Israel going through the tribulation period and God delivering them from the antichrist; then Israel praising Him at the second coming of Christ.

Do you see how easy that was? I know that David is a type of Israel. I know that Saul is a type of the antichrist. There are 18 types of men in the Old Testament who are a picture of the man of sin—the antichrist. Saul is one of them. This is why I’m so dogmatic with you about learning the little things of the Bible. I’m not interested in just a friendly acquaintance with the word of God. I want you to be inside that Book and that Book to be inside of you. When you have that, and you understand that the key to rightly dividing it is reading something like that and historically you see David running from Saul. Then doctrinally you know that David is a type of Israel and Saul is a type of the antichrist. So what you’ve got here in the future, in the doctrinal application, is Israel going through the tribulation period. But you see, it starts with history. You follow the types: David a type of Israel, Saul a type of the antichrist, Saul trying to kill David like the antichrist will try to wipe out the nation of Israel.

- **Inspirationally**: It’s God delivering you. You think there are not going to be antichrists in your life? When we use the word antichrist, we think of the man of sin; however, the Bible tells us that there are many antichrists. Anybody that’s in your life that’s against you, God, and the Bible is an antichrist. They’re “anti” against Christ. They’re going to come after you, too.

You see historically how it starts, and then David as the type going into the doctrinal, then the inspirational is easy. You and I will face antichrists in this life who want to stop us spiritually, and God will deliver you the same way He will deliver Israel and the same way he delivered David.

Now that you have the intro down and the context is pretty well set, watch how this develops itself. I’m going to take a section at a time and walk you through this.

➤ Psalms 18:3-6 – The Tribulation

*Psalms 18:3-6. I will call upon the LORD, [who is worthy] to be praised: **so shall I be saved from mine enemies.***

4. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

6. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, [even] into his ears.

We already know what we’ve got with the historical about David. We know what we have doctrinally, and I’m going to show you how this switches back and forth. It comes through a logical order of things doctrinally, and then we’ll apply it to us.

Look at verses four and five. *The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.* That’s Israel in the tribulation period. That is exactly what Israel goes

through. *The sorrows of hell compassed me about*—what does that mean? Is that figurative? No! In Revelation 9, during the last three and a half years of the tribulation period, hell is open and some of the most ungodly creatures come out to torment the nation of Israel.

You see, you learn all these things over here, you remember it, and when you get to places like this, you start to see and pull it altogether.

The snares of death prevented me. I could take you through Isaiah and Ezekiel showing you over and over again where in the tribulation, the antichrist is setting up snares for the nation of Israel. What about verse six? What is that? That's the book of Revelation. It's the souls under the altar; the tribulation saints saying *How long, O Lord?* When you know that, you know what you've got here, and you understand the types. This is clearly laid out in Matthew 24:21 where it says, *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

Historically, it's David going through his tough time, but doctrinally now we know through the types that the nation of Israel is going through their tough times, running away from the antichrist, and this is *the abomination of desolation* in Matthew 24:15 and Daniel 9:27. This is why I take the time on Thursday night, Sunday morning, or whenever I'm teaching the Bible to never just run over things because everything is important. My job is to make sure I give you all the details. Your job is to make sure you get the details.

Not everybody wants that; I get it. Some of you came today for the fudgesicles and popsicles, but some of you are Bible students and want a working knowledge of the Bible—that it just doesn't work in you, but it works for you. It's my job and responsibility to help you do that.

So in verses three through six, you see David, you see Israel, and you and me inspirationally. If I'm teaching this, I can teach it three ways. I can understand David's life and his struggles, but I also see prophetically it's dealing with Israel in the tribulation period in the future. I also understand that it can be for you and me as we go through the things in life.

➤ Psalms 18:7-15 – The Second Coming

When it comes to the Bible, the key going from the Old Testament and tying all these things together, is that you've always got to have a legitimate Biblical chain of evidence. **In other words, the things in Psalms that we're talking about will be defined by other places in the Bible that form the chain of evidence that shows you what you're dealing with.** I want you to see how easy this is when you just use a simple formula. It starts with the historical, then moves into the doctrinal, then the inspirational following the key words and the types that you have to establish with what you're dealing with. We just saw the tribulation. Let's look at the next set of verses.

Psalms 18:7-15. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

8. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

9. **He bowed the heavens** also, and came down: and darkness [was] under his feet.
10. **And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly:** yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.
11. **He made darkness his secret place;** his pavilion round about him [were] dark waters [and] thick clouds of the skies.
12. At the **brightness** [that was] before him his thick clouds passed, hail [stones] and coals of fire.
13. **The LORD also thundered in the heavens,** and the Highest gave his voice; hail [stones] and coals of fire.
14. Yea, **he sent out his arrows,** and scattered them; and **he shot out lightnings,** and discomfited them.
15. Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

Now what do we have here? This is the second coming. How can you miss that? *Then the earth shook... He bowed the heavens... He made darkness his secret place.* The context is in the right order like you often find in these larger Psalms. Notice *the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved....* that's the earthquake that you'll find in Revelation at the second coming of Christ. Notice in verse eight, *smoke out of his nostrils.* This is where the term "holy smokes" comes from.

Look at verse 10: *he rode upon a cherub.* Now if there wasn't any other thing in this, when I saw that I would go back to Ezekiel chapter one and chapter ten where you've got the cherubims, and it's the second coming of Christ right there. In verse 12, *At the brightness;* that's Ezekiel chapter one. In Ezekiel chapter one, there are seven or eight key words listed in one verse, where every time you find one of those words, the context will be the second coming. One of the words is *brightness.* The other place you'll find it is Matthew chapter 17 at the mount of transfiguration when his brightness shone as the sun. That's where before He died, He is transfigured; that is, He steps to the second coming of Christ where He is glorified as He will be then. It's called the mount of transfiguration because He is transformed from the first coming to the second coming. And you know what the key word is there? It's *brightness.* This is why I'm such a stickler with you about laying these things out and telling you to learn these key words. It's the entrance level to being able to rightly divide it.

The Lord also thundered...he sent out his arrows... he shot out lightnings. What do I do with that? I'll go to Matthew 24:27 where it says, *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* That's the second coming of Christ. You can't miss it.

When you begin to understand all these words and phrases, they unlock where you're at. They establish throughout the Bible the context of the second coming, and you learn to use them when you're trying to put the word of God together.

We saw the tribulation, and the Lord coming back at the second coming. Now watch this.

➤ Psalms 18:16-22 – The Rapture of the Tribulation Saints

*Psalms 18:16-22. He sent from above, **he took me, he drew me out of many waters.***

*17. **He delivered me from my strong enemy**, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.*

*18. They prevented me in the day of my calamity (that's the tribulation): **but the LORD** was my stay.*

19. He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

20. The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

21. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

22. For all his judgments [were] before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

Look at verse 16, *He sent from above, he took me.* Do you know what that is? It's the rapture of the tribulation saints in Revelation 11. Now the Bible never uses the word rapture; that's a term that we use. The Bible likens it to a harvest. In I Corinthians 15, you'll find that there are three parts to the harvest. You have the first fruits which are ripe before everything else, so you gather them up. Then you have the main body of the harvest, and you gather that up. Not everything is ripe, so you have what is called the gleanings which you gather later.

The Bible likens the rapture to a harvest, and just as there are three parts to a harvest, you'll find three times in your Bible where you find the phrase *come up hither*, and somebody goes up.

- Proverbs 25:7, it says *come up hither*. There is the first part of the harvest—the first fruits; the Old Testament saints going up at the resurrection.
- Revelation 4:1, it says *come up hither*. There is the main harvest—the body goes up. That's you and me. It should be any second now.
- Revelation 11:12, it says *come up hither*. There is the third part of the harvest—the gleanings. That's the tribulation saints.

So, we've seen them going through the tribulation, then we saw God coming down at the second coming, and now we see that He drew them out of many waters. If you go to Revelation 17:1 and Revelation 19:6, it shows you that the large bodies of water are people. It's God taking the tribulation saints out at the end of the second coming. It's all in the right order. Now God rewards Israel at the end of the tribulation, and He is coming to them. This will be the restoration of the nation of Israel that God has laid out all through the Bible.

➤ Psalms 18:20-29 – The Regathering & The Sure Mercies of David

Now they've been raptured out. We've got everything in the right place. We have the first two verses showing us what it's all about, then we've got a picture of the tribulation period, a picture

of the second coming, and the Jews being taken out at the end of the tribulation. Now let's see what we have here.

I'm reading this and I'm putting this together because I'm drawing from the other places that are key to understanding how to unlock the scriptures which I try to give you. And now we're going to see the regathering of God's people at the second coming of Christ going into the millennium.

*Psalms 18:20-29. **The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.***

*21. For **I have kept the ways of the LORD**, and have not wickedly departed from my God.*

22. For all his judgments [were] before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

23. I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

24. Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

25. With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

26. With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

27. For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

28. For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

*29. For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have **I leaped over a wall.***

You're going to find that the last part shows you the end of the second coming of Christ. *I leaped over a wall* is found in Joel chapter two where the battle takes place. Now I begin to see the promises that God made to the nation of Israel. Here's how it works. In the first three and a half years of the seven-year tribulation, Israel goes in believing the antichrist. She's completely and totally against God at this point just like she is today. She buys it hook, line, and sinker. She thinks that the antichrist is her messiah.

Then in the middle of the week (the 3½ year mark) of Daniel's 70th week, the antichrist does what the Bible calls the abomination of desolation. At this point, the nation of Israel sees the antichrist for what he is. At some point in the last 3½ years, when Israel is running from the antichrist, the Lord reveals Himself to the nation of Israel. Now they see who He really is, and this is what verses 20-21 are talking about. They get right with Christ and see Him as the Messiah. The antichrist is certainly still after them, but now God is showing us His undying love for the nation of Israel. This is found in the New Testament in Romans 11:29 and is another verse that most people don't understand.

- God will Never Take Away Israel's Salvation as a Nation

*Romans 11:29. For the gifts and calling of God are **without repentance**.*

People think that repentance means getting saved or getting right with God. I've been asked many times if Israel has to do anything to get right with God if there's no repentance. They don't understand it. **Repentance never has anything to do with us getting saved or getting right with God. Repentance means that we turn another direction.** You're going one way and then you turn another way. Back in Genesis when it says that God repented that He had made man, He wasn't sorry that He made man. That was part of His plan. It's that He's going to go another direction.

What He's saying in Romans 11:29 is that God is never going to take away Israel's salvation as a nation. They are His people. The gifts to God's people, Israel, are without repentance—God is not going to change that. If you go back to the Old Testament in places like Leviticus 26 and Jeremiah 30:15, you'll find where God says that the blessings to Israel are conditional. If they do what is right, they'll have the blessings of God. If they don't do what is right, He will chastise them with scorpions and send other nations down to chastise them; however, He won't bring Israel to a full end. It's a picture of the eternal security as a nation that God has given Israel.

- The Sure Mercies of David: A Picture of Eternal Security

Let's put it into a context, historically. This is called in Isaiah 55:3, Acts 13, and Psalms 13 the sure mercies of David. That's what he's talking about historically. David committed two sins there were no sacrifice for, and the only way to pay for it was to die; however, God didn't require him to do that. And then God gave him the sure mercies of David that he would not die. Israel gets those sure mercies of David in the tribulation. He puts them through the tribulation, they get killed and maimed, the antichrist is after them, but they get right with God and He brings them back.

Inspirationally, it's our eternal security. You and I also got the sure mercies of David. I don't want to say this to give you a license to sin, but if you're truly saved here this morning, no matter where your life winds up and the stupid things that you do, you're still going to heaven. Somebody will say that doesn't seem right. Well, none of us going to heaven seems right. Are you kidding me? What makes you think you're going to make it on your own? What I'm saying is this: God is going to get us home to heaven if He's got to do it in an emergency room, in a car crash, or in an iron lung. God made a promise to us, once we got saved, that no matter what we do as far as being unfaithful, He is faithful to us.

You can clearly see how this chapter is a picture of David going through his life and getting the sure mercies, Israel going through the tribulation doctrinally and getting the sure mercies (second coming and millennium), and you and me getting God's eternal security.

➤ Psalms 18:30-42 – The Shield of God’s Salvation

Psalms 18:30-42. [As for] God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he [is] a buckler to all those that trust in him.

31. For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?

32. [It is] God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

33. He maketh my feet like hinds' [feet], and setteth me upon my high places.

34. He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

*35. **Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation:** and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.*

36. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

37. I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

38. I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet.

39. For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

40. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

41. They cried, but [there was] none to save [them]: [even] unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

42. Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

In verse 35, you see that Israel has the shield of His salvation. That’s the key. Israel has the shield of God’s salvation and the sure mercies of David. David had the key to the shield of God’s salvation, and so do you and I.

➤ Psalms 18:43-50 – The Millennium

Everything in one chapter, in the right order, and when you rightly divide it, you have to use the other keys that are found through the word of God. Now watch this. We’ve seen the tribulation, God’s deliverance, God’s love for Israel, the second coming of Christ, the regathering of Israel and Him drawing them out of many waters; now look at this.

*Psalms 18:43-50. Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; **[and] thou hast made me the head of the heathen:** a people [whom] I have not known shall serve me.*

*44. **As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.***

45. *The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.*
46. ***The LORD liveth; and blessed [be] my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.***
47. *[It is] God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.*
48. ***He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me*** (there's the tribulation rapture again): *thou hast delivered me from the violent man* (antichrist doctrinally, Saul historically, and whoever is after you inspirationally).
49. ***Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen*** (there He is), *and sing praises unto thy name.*
50. *Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.*

These last verses down through here all deal with the millennium. Notice in verse 43 that Israel is now made head of all the heathen. See that? They're not today. Go to California, New York, or Columbia University and see the rioters out there. See if they're the head of all the people today. No, but they will be.

Verse 44 says *As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.* They riot now. They call for another holocaust now. They stand with Hamas now. They're against the Jew now. But there is coming a day when that's going to happen in the millennium.

The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. You betcha, brother! He's on the throne in Jerusalem. *He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me.* Somebody is singing *praises unto thy name.* Those are the millennial Psalms that we'll get to later on. **This is the millennium.**

Notice that everything is in the right order. When you go over to Matthew 5, you're going to find that this is the sermon on the mount which is dealing with the second coming and the establishment of the kingdom in a future reference with Israel. You find all of this stuff right here. The meek now inherit the earth, and the peacemakers shall be called the children of God. Israel is on the bottom right now, and the world has got its foot on their neck. In the millennium, Israel is going to be on top (verses 43-45), and the whole world is going to bow to the nation of Israel.

Look at verse 50. This is Israel in the millennium. Christ is on the throne, and David the prince is sitting next to Christ. It says He *sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.* That thing ends right there, and it picks up back in Genesis 15 if you know your Bible with the establishment of the nation of Israel with Father Abraham. God took him out on a starry night. He told him to look up at the stars and see how many millions and millions of stars were up there. Abraham said there were a lot, and God told him that someday his seed would be like those stars. There it is right there.

How about jumping over to Isaiah 9:6-7.

Isaiah 9:6-7. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7. Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Did you notice the order?

- *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given*—First Coming of Christ
- *And the government shall be upon his shoulder*—Second Coming of Christ
- *And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*—Into the Millennium

Then in verse 7, *of the increase of his government*—his seed (Genesis 15) *and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.* Now you have everything you need.

VII. Summary

I've shown you how just taking one Psalm and breaking it down into those components, and understanding how to use the key words, will help you rightly divide the word of truth. And now you have everything laid out doctrinally dealing with the restoration of the nation of Israel. You have in one Psalm the tribulation, second coming, and the millennium. At the same time, you have David going through his tough times, God delivering him, and God giving him the victory. Then inspirationally, you have you and me going through our tough times, God giving us the deliverance, and God giving us the victory.

It's all about learning to use the key words and phrases, and understanding that your whole Bible will be built around and break down into those concepts. I know I just used Psalms 18, but you can take that formula and use it in every book in the Old Testament. When you get to the New Testament, it changes a little bit, but there's a way to do that, too. **Most of God's people may have a Bible, but very few of them will ever know how to make it work for them.** *A workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*—A working knowledge and an understanding of the word of God and how not only it works in you, but how you take it and let it work for you as well as understanding everything that He has done.

The bottom line is that you receive a full reward. It's my responsibility before God and my job as a pastor to make sure I give you the best shot I can, but it's your responsibility to take what I give you and do something with it. That's the key.