

## O LORD my Rock

Psalm 28: 1-9

Again we have read a psalm of David. Like many others, this psalm was undoubtedly written during a difficult season in the life of David – a time when he faced those who sought his life. This particular psalm is known as an imprecatory psalm. In these imprecatory psalms, David cries out unto the Lord to bring judgment upon his enemies, dealing with them according to His sovereignty and with His mighty power. These are not psalms of hatred, but inspired of the Spirit while trusting in the Lord. David found himself in a hopeless situation and cried out for the Lord to meet his need.

The words David penned so long ago have the ability to comfort and guide our lives today. Like David, the believer enjoys the presence and power of God. While we are often opposed and forced to deal with adversity in life, we have one who knows our needs and possesses the power to provide for every situation we encounter. Let's examine the various [facets](#) of David's prayer as we consider his thought: [O LORD my Rock](#).

**I. David's Desperation** (1-2) – In the opening verses of this psalm we discover the desperation felt by David. Consider:

**A. His Focus** (1a) – [Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock](#). In his moment of desperation, David knew the Lord was his only hope and help. If he had any chance of surviving this difficult situation, God would have to move on his behalf. David maintained his focus on the Lord as he trusted solely in Him. The Lord was his rock, his refuge of strength and security.

- This is very simple and yet profound. We too need to maintain our perspective in moments of difficulty and adversity. Unfortunately we often look to every source imaginable and wait to seek the Lord as a last resort. We should always be focused on the Lord and immediately look to Him for every need.

**B. His Fear** (1b) – [be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit](#). The situation David faced was so severe and overwhelming that he realized apart from God he would never survive. He knew if God refused to move on his behalf, he would perish under the present circumstance. David feared silence from the Lord much more than his enemies.

- As I considered this powerful statement, I was again reminded of our dependence on the Lord. He alone is our source of strength and life. We need Him more than the air we breathe. I am

aware that He has promised to never leave or forsake us. I am not worried about being abandoned by the Lord, but I never want sin or disobedience to create separation, which could lead to the Lord allowing me to handle a situation within my own wisdom and strength. [Lam.3:22-24](#) – *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* <sup>[23]</sup> *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.* <sup>[24]</sup> *The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

**C. His Fervency** (2) – [Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.](#) David knew he needed the Lord and he was determined to cry out unto Him until God moved in this situation. He was committed to the Lord and devoted to prayer and supplication. This was not a hurried prayer that lacked faith, but an earnest prayer of expectation.

- This serves as a good reminder of our need for fervent prayer. We must be a people of prayer, seeking the Lord continually for the needs in our lives. We are admonished to pray without ceasing, making our requests known unto the Lord for every need we face. If you haven't faced such a situation yet, eventually you will encounter a need that requires much prayer. It is good to have the lines of communication open, while being in good practice, prior to such an event.

**II. David's Desire** (3-5) – Here we discover the desire of David's heart, the supplication he made before the Lord. He sought:

**A. Profitable Separation** (3) – [Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.](#) While being kept and guided by the Lord, David desired to remain separated from the workers of iniquity while being close to the Lord. Those who opposed David and sought his demise were operating according to the sinfulness of their hearts and lusts of the flesh. He wanted no part in such sin and rebellion.

- While we are called to be a light among the world, we are not to be engaged in the sinful activities promoted by the world. We need the Lord's help and guidance to keep us separated from the world, as we strive to live upright before the Lord. The church needs those who will live a separated life, refraining from the lusts of the flesh as we strive to proclaim the Gospel, while revealing the grace of God that brings a total transformation in the lives of individuals.

**B. Reasonable Condemnation** (4-5) – Here we discover the heart of David's imprecatory prayer. He sought the Lord to deal with his enemies according to his sovereign will. He speaks of:

**1. Their Actions (4)** – Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert. David requested that God would deal with them according to their sinful ways. He mentioned their deeds, their endeavors, and the work of their hands. David lived in the days of the Law, and he prayed that God would render their just reward.

- I am thankful we live in the day of grace. I rejoice that the Lord did not deal with me according to what I deserved. We are to pray for the grace of God to be extended to those who live in unbelief. However, it is dangerous to continually sin against the Lord. His grace is available, but when it is rejected, judgment is all that remains. I do not believe we are wrong to pray that God would defeat the plans of the wicked and deal with those who seek to defeat the church and hinder the Gospel being shared.

**2. Their Attitude (5)** – Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up. David knew his enemies had no regard for the works of the Lord. They had no desire to promote the true and living God, submitting to His will for their lives. They lived a life of rebellion toward God. David knew God would deal with them according to the hardness of their hearts and rebellious attitudes.

- It is dangerous to sin against the Lord and purposely work against the body of Christ. Those who reject the Gospel of grace will indeed face the wrath of God for their sin and rebellion. We must do all we can to warn the wicked of the wrath to come. We will all stand before the Lord in judgment, and those who die in their sin will stand accountable for their sin. I rejoice that my sin has been atoned by the blood of Christ and I stand acceptable to God in Christ!

**III. David's Declaration (6-9)** – The closing verses reveal David's declaration of God's goodness and grace. David knew:

**A. He was Heard (6)** – Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

Although we find nothing in the text that reveals David's situation had changed, he rejoices that God had heard his prayer. He remained in the midst of an intense trial, and yet he rejoiced in the Lord, knowing God would respond to his request. He was living by faith in the Lord.

- There are times when we must wait upon the Lord for an answer to our prayers. At times He answers in a way that we didn't expect. Whatever the circumstance, we can rest knowing the Lord hears our pleas for help and that He will respond in His time according to His will.

**B. He was Helped (7)** – *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.* While David remained in a volatile situation, he rejoiced in the help of the Lord. He did not know exactly how the situation would be resolved, but he knew the Lord was more than able to provide. God was his strength and his shield. God stood as his security and protector. Men may have come against him, but David knew he was safe within the Lord. This created a song of rejoicing and praise, even in the midst of great adversity.

- This offers great comfort to every believer. We all face unknown situations that create great concern, but we can rest in the security of the Lord. Even in trials we have the promise of the Lord's help and grace. Even in the valley, He is good. We can rejoice while facing the storms of life.

**C. He was Hopeful (8-9)** – *The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.* <sup>[9]</sup> *Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.* David rested in the Lord and he knew that God would preserve His people. While it may have appeared that the enemy had the upper hand, Israel would not suffer defeat. He trusted the Lord to intervene and continue to bless them.

- Our culture is changing and opposition is increasing. It is easy to get discouraged if we focus on the world around us and those who oppose us. We will likely face many battles in the days to come, but there is no reason for panic or alarm. Christ purchased our redemption on the cross. He loved us enough to bear our sin and endure the judgment we deserved. We may face persecution, but the church will prevail. We are secure in Christ with the promise of an eternal inheritance when this life is through. There is no reason to fear the church's demise. She will prevail triumphantly in Christ!

**Conclusion:** This psalm bears resemblance to others we have studied, and yet it reminds us again of the hope and security we have in Christ. God has never forsaken His people, and He isn't about to forsake the church. Life is difficult, but we can live victoriously in Christ.

Are you struggling in life? Are your burdens too heavy to bear? Bring them to Jesus. He stands ready, willing, and able to meet your need. If you are unsaved, I encourage you to respond to the call of salvation in repentance and faith. Be saved today!