

**January 21, 2023**

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

**Ps. 18:1-2** *I love You, LORD, my strength. 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. (NIV)*

This very first statement of David shows an intensive and passionate love for the Lord. He is declaring that he has made the choice to love the One Who had delivered him. When you think of what David had faced in his very early and formative years, you can see the symbiotic relationship that was formed because of his love for the LORD. He had lived for approximately twenty years as a fugitive from Saul. He had lost everything. His youth, his family, his rights, his comforts and his people. But even in the middle of this, He clung to his LORD. Of course, we know the rest of the story. The LORD was preparing him to be king of Israel.

David then lists out Who the LORD truly is. He is my strength. The Hebrew word here is **chizki** which signifies the giver of strength. David knew he would have none without his LORD. He is my rock. The word is **Sali**, it is the cleft or hiding place in the rocks, where he could feel safe. He is my fortress. **Umetzudati** this is the inaccessible place of safety, a stronghold. He is my deliverer **umefalti** my place of escape. All of these names remind us of the way that the LORD will watch over His children. He holds us near and watches over us. This gave David the strength and freedom to serve the LORD, even when he was being sought after by Saul to be killed. **Ps. 91:1-4** *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. (NIV)*

**Dear LORD, thank You that we can know that You are always watching over us, no matter what may be happening around us. You are our comfort and strength. We praise You LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen**