

Satan Series: I Am Not Defeated

A Bible Study Lesson of The Mt. Zion Church

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING  
Church!

We are Seeking the Face of God!

Introduction: The following lesson is designed to help students understand how God's enemies do not have the power to defeat us. We analyze a portion of David's poem, Psalm 18, which suggests that we may be under attack from those who should be close to us and from those on the outside who do not support us. David's writing could be our story because our enemy does not desire us to be successful. Perhaps you have felt under the assault of those who try to destroy your hope and joy or seek to undermine your ministry. David faced the same and even more. His conclusion was that through God, he was a champion. Today's lesson should be a reminder to each of us that Satan lies and his followers may think they can win, but in the end we, who are God's people, are not defeated.



Key Verse: Psalm 18: 31-45

Supporting Verses: 1 Samuel 18. Nahum 1: 2, 1 Corinthians 15: 25-26, 1 John 4: 3, and 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-12

### **Context of Verses**

The portion of Psalm 18 discussed in this lesson presents the theme of a conquering king who has triumphed over his foes. The first half of the Psalm indicates that the writer (attributed to David) has been under the attack of enemies who made false accusations against him. His deliverance and triumph would appear to be due to his own strength and might, yet the writer gives the credit for his success to God. In this instance we see a pattern of how the Lord works in the lives of His people. While the enemy may attack us, we do not faint because God is our protector and our champion.

Students will understand that the attacks of Satan can only succeed as much as God allows. Therefore, we need not fear the plans of the enemy. As long as we are under the care and in the will of the Lord, we are not defeated.

### **Poetic Structure**

While not exact, the poetic structure of 31-45 breaks down into lines of 2-4 verses. Students will remember that the original text was not written with verse

numbers. These were added so that you and I could easily reference where we are reading. To that end, some of the lines/ phrases break the pattern when translated from the original Hebrew into English or other languages. We can however identify groups of thoughts or sentences within the basic structure as follows:

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|-----------------------|---|
| Group 1: Verses 31-34 | Theme: There is no one like God                     |
| Group 2: Verses 35-36 | Theme: God protects and sustains me                 |
| Group 3: Verses 37-38 | Theme: I was successful in the fight                |
| Group 4: Verses 39-42 | Theme: My strength comes from the Lord              |
| Group 5: Verse 43-45  | Theme: God delivers and elevates me over my enemies |

**I. There is No One Like God--verses 31-34**

The writer ponders the majesty of God and asks the rhetorical question. Who is God but God/the Lord? Have you ever considered this thought? When you consider the powers that you and I come across each day, we should always have in mind that none of them are greater than God. The four verses in this thought cause us to reorient our thinking so that we realize that the power in the universe and the authority over all situations is none other than the Lord.

This thought is extremely important! Many people have been seduced by Satan to think that God is struggling in the battle against forces of evil. This is not the case. Even the forces of evil bow down to the Lord's authority. In the book of Job, we can see that Satan has limits on what he can do. In Exodus, we can read where Pharoah had limits on what he could do. In Daniel, we see that Nebuchadnezzar had limits on what he could do. In the four gospels we see that demons, sickness, weather, resources, and leaders (in the church and in government) had to obey the will of Jesus (God with us) during His ministry.

**QUESTION:** How does Satan try to trick us into thinking that God is not God?

- List a few situations where you were wondering about God's power. What was it about the situation that made you wonder if God could handle it?


**QUESTION:** How do you overcome the urge to believe that Satan is in control?

**II. God Protects and Sustains Me--verses 35-36**

In verses 35-36, the writer moves from questioning to making statements about God. When we consider that a king is writing these phrases it becomes a very uplifting portion to read. The king writes that someone other than his army and his might have been his protector. David identifies that God has been his help, shield, sustainer, and pathway. The military terms used here provide a picture for the reader that while in battle against an enemy that may be overwhelming, God showed up as help. Remember, the first half of Psalm 18 identifies that the writer

experienced people falsely accusing him and seeking to ruin his reputation.



**GOD SUSTAINS US WITH HIS MIGHT, BUT THE ENEMY WANTS US TO THINK THE BATTLE MIGHT BE LOST!**

Psalm 18 was most likely not written all at once, but the title indicates that some of the poem is in

reference to King Saul's attack on David as recorded beginning 1 Samuel 18. These attacks and David's subsequent fear for his life illicit his comments that "God has protected and sustained me" during the battles of my life. David writes these lines which remind us that God sustains us with his might, but the enemy wants us to think that the battle might be lost. In God, we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37) therefore we need not fear.

**QUESTION:** Do you have experiences where you know that God has been your sustainer? Write the below with an explanation of how you are sure it was no one but God who did it.

God sustained me...	He did it by doing

### III.I Was Successful in the Fight--verses 37-38

At this point, one might read and think that David is now bragging about his own prowess in battle. This, however, is not the case. David concludes his thought from the previous verses to show the result of what happens when God is on our side. He identifies the victory which comes from God. His testimony of success is an example of pride towards his Lord who has given him the ability to be victorious.

Each of us should come to a point in our relationship with God that we can confidently brag about His victories. Remember, the victory is not in yourself, but it is the Lord empowering you to achieve in spaces where you would have lost had it not been for Him. In response, you and I should acknowledge to others how the Lord helped us win. Did you know that while the enemies of God know they have not won, they hope that you do not give credit to God? Their desire is for you to take credit for yourself or to deny that the victory even happened!

- List one victory God has recently had in your life below and then find someone to tell!

God gave me victory in this area!

### IV. My Strength Comes from The Lord--verses 39-42

This portion of the poem extends the idea of the previous portion with one major addition. In verse 41, David writes that the enemy “cried for help but there was no one to save them.” This harsh reality is what all of those who oppose God will face. God protects His people. God is for His own. Everyone else is an enemy of God’s. We do not like to acknowledge these facts, but we must recognize this truth which is found in multiple scriptures. Examples can be found in passages such as Nahum 1: 2, 1 Corinthians 15: 25-26, 1 John 4: 3, and 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-12. Each passage supports the idea that God does not help the enemy when they are fighting against His people.

We must remember also that before we accept Christ as our savior, we are enemies of God as well. The fact that God holds back His judgment on our lives so that we have a chance to hear the gospel message should cause a sense of thankfulness in each of us. This is especially true when you consider the patience and love of God towards mankind. As former enemies of God, we should seek to help everyone become part of the Lord's side before time runs out. Once the end happens or a person dies, if they have not accepted Christ as their savior, they are an eternal enemy and will be like David's enemies. "They cried for help, but there was no one to save them."

**V. God Delivers and Elevates Me Over My Enemies--verses 43-45**

In this final section, David speaks to the Lord in a personal manner and gives credit for his deliverance. In this portion, he not only identifies that he has conquered, but he also identifies that he has been elevated. In David's time the elevating was over other nations who bowed down to his rule as king.

How has God positioned you over others? Do you recognize that God is moving you to leadership roles? While it may not be a conquering of a nation, it is a similar idea. God promotes His own and positions us so that we can be of influence and impact in a way that shows He is undefeated!



In the space below, write a few sentences about what you learned from this lesson? How will you use this to combat Satan's lie that you can be defeated?
