

HE CAME FROM ABOVE Psalm 18:1-17

Introduction: The scriptures tell us that our “help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.” Because of this, the Psalmist says: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.” The writer of Psalm 121 knows that help is sent from on high.

We must keep in mind that courage is important, physical strength is helpful, skillful leadership is crucial, but as David recognizes in Psalm 18, VICTORY is due to God’s direct intervention. When Jesus came down to earth to die for sinners, it was God intervening for the sake of His people.

I. HOW HELP COMES FROM ON HIGH

- A. Throughout the Bible, we are given illustrations of how help comes from above.
 - 1. In Psalm 18:16, we are reminded of Moses who was drawn out of the river. His very name means “drawn”. The crocodiles could have gotten him, but there was an unseen hand sent from above.
 - 2. The Psalmist David could see the hand of God reaching down and saving him. Salvation brought joy and praise (Psalm 40:2-4).
 - 3. God’s hand from above guided the life of Joseph of old from being sold into slavery, to being lied on and imprisoned, to becoming Prime Minister of Egypt, and saving Israel. Joseph was a wise man, and he saw that unseen hand as is evidenced in Genesis 50:20: “As for you , ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive.”
 - 4. God sent Manna from above to feed the children of Israel in the wilderness– He came down.
 - 5. The Lord God Jehovah sent fire down on Mount Carmel to defeat the prophets of Baal– He came down.
- B. Prophetically, David in Psalm 18:16 was looking to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Jesus came down to die for sinners. Galatians 4:4: “But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” But He must also have been resurrected the first fruits among

many brethren.

2. His being drawn out of many waters speaks of the resurrection. The Gospel is not only that Christ died, but that He was buried and rose again the third day. God came down and lifted His Son up.

II. HELP COMES TO THE SINNER FROM ON HIGH

A. God above sent His Son to save His people from their sin.

1. John 3:16 speaks of God's gift of salvation to the believer. This gift was sent from above.
2. God sent His Son that we might live through Him (1 John 5:9). 1 John 5:11-12 tells us that to have the Son of God is to have life eternal.
3. God sent His Son to appease the wrath that God has for sin (1 John 5:10).
4. God sent His Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 5:14). Savior here is the Greek word *soter* meaning deliverer and preserver.
 - a. God sent His Son to earth to be born of a virgin.
 - b. His name is Jesus (Matthew 1:21) He was a mighty conqueror as was Joshua. Jesus came to conquer sin.
 - c. Jesus is the incarnate Son of God; He is God in the flesh; He is Emmanuel— God with us (Matthew 1:23).

B. Jesus came from on high to give light to a dark world.

Zacharias prophesied concerning the ministry of his son, John the Baptist, and the work of Jesus the Son of God.

1. Luke 1:76 tells us that John the Baptist was to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus. He did so by preaching the same doctrines that Jesus preached.
 - a. Luke 1:77 tells us that John was to impart to the people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of sins.
 - b. It is through the knowledge of sin that salvation is grasped. Our guilt and pollution can only be removed by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - c. Salvation is through forgiveness and not through the piling on of merits (Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness

of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”) This is what John the Baptist preached. Salvation in the Old Testament is the same as it is in the New Testament. It is by grace through faith.

2. Luke 1:78 tells us of the mercy of God and the visitation of the dayspring from on high.
 - a. “Dayspring” speaks of the dawn of the morning. Here we have an echo of the words of prophecy found in Malachi 4:2: “...the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings.”
 - b. “Hath visited us” is prophetic of the soon birth of Jesus.
3. Luke 1:79a gives us the purpose for the visit from the “Sun of righteousness.” He has come to give light.
 - a. “To give light to them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.” Darkness and death’s shadow tell of a state of danger, fearfulness and hopelessness. Hendriksen says: “A pining away, with no human help in sight...darkness...delusion (blindness of mind and heart)...depravity (Acts 26:18) and despondency.” (128)
 - b. The remedy for darkness and despair is light. This light comes by a true knowledge of the Jehovah God (Acts 36:9: “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.”). The Lord Jesus was sent to give light to them that sit in darkness.
4. Luke 1:79b: “To guide our feet into the way of peace.” The sadness of those who sat in darkness is now turned to rejoicing; they are glad. They are now walking and not sitting.
 - a. These sinners had gone astray, and now they are guided by the rising Son of Righteousness. The path is flooded with His light, and the believer is now on the path of peace.
 - b. As long as they, and as long as you sit in darkness, you will not know the way of peace (Isaiah 59:8-9).

Conclusion: God sent His Son from above to save us because we could never save ourselves. The lost man is in deep water and needs the mighty hand of God to reach down from above and save him (Psalm 38:4 "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me."). Remember that Burdens are Lifted at Calvary.