



QA: How Does the Old Testament Help Us? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: How does the Old Testament help us today?

ANSWER: A study from the Old Testament should help: Psalm 18: 1-50. This Psalm is exactly recorded in historical setting in **2 Samuel 22:1-51**.

- In picturing God and His deliverance, anthropomorphisms and theophanies abound!** An **anthropomorphism** (compound word, "**anthropos**" = "human" + "**morphos**" = "form, shape") is: "an interpretation of what is not human or personal in terms of human or personal characteristics." **Theophanies** (compound word, "**theos**" = "deity" + "**phaneros**" = appearance) are also mixed into this language. According to Jesus Christ, "God is Spirit" (**John 4:24**) and "a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (**Luke 24:39**), therefore there is no physical form for God to be described, except for Jesus Christ as "God was manifested in the flesh" (**1 Timothy 3:16**), and *there is absolutely NO physical depiction given of Jesus Christ in Scripture!* In **Psalm 18**, **God actually isn't a: "rock," "fortress," "shield," except as physical terms to help us understand what He means to one in distress.** God doesn't actually have: "ears," "nostrils," "mouth," "feet," except to help us visualize how He responds to us. God didn't actually move about on: "a cherub," or "wings of the wind," except to help us visualize how easily and quickly God does what He desires. By inspiring men to write the Scriptures, God has used their words and meanings to describe Himself to us in terms we may understand and appreciate, so that we may "know God" (**refer to 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Galatians 4:8-9; 1 John 4:6-7**).
- Psalm 18:20-28 explain that David strives to be righteous (obedient to God's Will), and God helps and sometimes delivers the righteous from dangerous enemies.** David's profession that his hands were "clean" obviously didn't mean that he had never sinned, but that he had confessed and repented of his sins and was currently obedient. In the New Testament, only the self-deceived say, "we have no sin," and only liars say, "we have not sinned" (**1 John 1:8-10**). David was neither of these, for God said he was "a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (**Acts 13:22**). *Everyone should learn this lesson of the Bible: God doesn't expect us to live without sin, as Jesus did (1 Peter 2:22), but to continually repent of our sins, as David did, but today we must appeal to the blood of Jesus Christ to wash us clean (1 Peter 3:18-22).*
- David was delivered to keep God's promise alive to send His promised "seed" (2 Samuel 7:12-16, which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, Romans 1:1-4) and to establish a people, both Jews/Israelites and Gentiles, which is the church of Christ and began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:29-36, 37-47).**

Psalm 18:49 contemplated a worship in song that included Gentiles, which was not done until the New Testament church of Christ (**Romans 1:16-17**; **Ephesians 2:11-22**). The only time Jesus used music on earth, He sang with His brethren (**Matthew 26:30**). But of all references to musical instruments used by David and Israelites when they lived under Moses' Law, there are only two which apply to the worship in the churches of Christ: **Psalm 18:49**, quoted in **Romans 15:8-9**; and **Psalm 22:22**, quoted in **Hebrews 2:12**, both of them specify "singing," or vocal music! "Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (**Ephesians 5:19**) is the only authorized music in Christian worship.

—- jtp II, August 23, 2020