

## 1 SAMUEL 2.1-10

Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in YHWH; **my strength is exalted\* in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.** "There is no Holy **One like YHWH, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.** Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for YHWH is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. **The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength.**<sup>^</sup> Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. YHWH kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. YHWH makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, **he also exalts.** He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are YHWH's, and on them he has set the world. "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in **darkness\***; for not by might does one prevail. YHWH! His adversaries shall be shattered; **the Most High will thunder in heaven.** YHWH will judge the ends of the earth; **he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."**

## 2 SAMUEL 1.17-27

Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! **How the mighty have fallen!** Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor bounteous fields! For there **the shield#- of the mighty was defiled, the shield** of Saul, anointed with oil no more. From the blood of the slain, from **the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,** nor the sword of Saul return empty. Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. **How the mighty have fallen** in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. **How the mighty have fallen,** and the weapons of war perished!

## 2 SAMUEL 22.2-51 (CF. PSALM 18)

He said: **YHWH is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock,** in whom I take refuge, **my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior;** you save me from violence. I call upon YHWH, who is worthy to be praised, **and I am saved from my enemies.** For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of perdition assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me, the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon YHWH; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears. Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry. Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. He bowed the heavens, and came down; thick **darkness** was under his feet. He rode on a cherub, and flew; he was seen upon the wings of the wind. He made **darkness** around him a canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water. Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth. **YHWH thundered from heaven;** the Most High uttered his voice. He sent out arrows, and scattered them --lightning, and routed them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were laid bare at the rebuke of YHWH, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. He reached from on high, he took me, he drew me out of mighty waters. **He delivered me from my strong enemy,** from those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me. They came upon me in the day of my calamity, but YHWH was my stay. He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me. **YHWH rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of YHWH, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his ordinances were before**

**me, and from his statutes I did not turn aside. I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from guilt. Therefore YHWH has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.** With the loyal you show yourself loyal; **with the [mighty] blameless you show yourself blameless;** with the pure you show yourself pure, and with the crooked you show yourself perverse. You deliver a humble people, **but your eyes are upon the exalted to bring them down.** Indeed, you are my lamp, O YHWH, YHWH lightens my darkness. By you I can crush a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God--his way is perfect; the promise of YHWH proves true; **he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.** For who is God, but YHWH? **And who is a rock, except our God? The God who has girded me with strength** has opened wide my path. He made my feet like the feet of deer, and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. **You have given me the shield of your salvation,** and your help has made me great. You have made me stride freely, and my feet do not slip; **I pursued my enemies and destroyed them,** and did not turn back until they were consumed. I consumed them; I struck them down, so that they did not rise; they fell under my feet. For **you girded me with strength** for the battle; you made my assailants sink under me. **You made my enemies turn their backs to me, those who hated me, and I destroyed them.** They looked, but there was no one to save them; they cried to YHWH, but he did not answer them. I beat them fine like the dust of the earth, I crushed them and stamped them down like the mire of the streets. You delivered me from strife with the peoples; you kept me as the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me. Foreigners came cringing to me; as soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me. Foreigners lost heart, and

came trembling out of their strongholds. YHWH lives! **Blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation,** the God who gave me vengeance and brought down peoples under me, **who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above my adversaries,** you delivered me from the violent. For this I will extol you, O YHWH, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. **He is a tower of salvation for his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.**

*\*Hebrew for "to exalt," rvm, only 1 Sam 9.24 in the books of Samuel outside the first and third poems*

*# Hebrew for "shield," magen, only the second and third poems in Samuel*

*^Hebrew for "darkness," chushek, only first and third poems in Samuel*

*^Hebrew for "gird on strength," 'zr chayil, only first and third poem (= Ps 18.33, 40) in Bible*