

A Mighty Fortress; Psalm 18:1-3

- I. Focus
 - a. Where is our focus?
 - i. Politics?
 - ii. Career?
 - iii. Survival mode?
 - b. Mrs. Nockels (she wrote the lyrics) encourages us to keep our focus on God (“we will keep our eyes on you,” and “we will set our hearts on you”)
 - c. There are so many distractions that can move our focus from God to the world
 - i. Politics
 - ii. Career
 - iii. Survival mode
 - d. This song is a great reminder of who our God is
- II. A Mighty Fortress
 - a. Psalm 18:2 (ESV) ² The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
 - b. Rock; literally, a cleft rock ¹
 - i. Moses was put in the cleft of the rock for protection
 - ii. Exodus 33:22 (ESV) ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.
 - c. Fortress; a mountain stronghold
 - i. Picture of Hohenzollern Castle
 - ii. People feel safe and secure nestled away inside their mountain stronghold
 - iii. Nothing can reach them
 - iv. Too often we run everywhere/anywhere except to the one who can protect us
 - v. We find our fortress in money, power, fame, careers
 - vi. We identify with certain aspects of our lives; First Sergeant, preacher, engineer, etc.
 - vii. Instead, we should identify with our savior whose blood covers us
 - viii. Then, when we run, we will run right into the Lord, who is our rock and our fortress!
 - d. Keep your eyes fixed on the Lord who is your fortress
- III. A Sacred Refuge
 - a. To hide oneself ²
 - b. We often think of bird or animal sanctuaries (refuges)
 - i. Picture of Aransas Wildlife Refuge
 - ii. A place where they are protected
 - iii. A place where they can find healing

¹ Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#), vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 352.

² Ludwig Koehler et al., [*The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*](#) (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 337.

- c. We must view the Kingdom of God in the same way
 - i. A place where we are protected by the blood of Jesus
 - ii. A place where we are cleansed from sin by His blood
 - iii. A place where we can focus on Jesus and the Kingdom of God
 - d. Set your heart on the Lord who is your refuge
- IV. An Unshakeable Kingdom
- a. Hebrews 12:28 (ESV) ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,
 - b. The author is referring to the Mosaic Law
 - i. Exodus 19:18–19 (ESV) ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. ¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.
 - ii. The Lord descends to the top of Mount Sinai and calls Moses up
 - iii. Moses then comes back down and delivers the 10 commandments
 - iv. Exodus 20:18–21 (ESV) ¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” ²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.
 - v. He is specifically referring to the fulfillment of the Mosaic Law with Christ
 - vi. Hebrews 12:25–27 (ESV) ²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.
 - vii. Hebrews 12:28–29 (ESV) ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.
 - c. The Kingdom is here and cannot be moved or ‘shaken’
 - d. We are heirs of the promise and citizens of the Kingdom
- V. Set Our Hearts
- a. We must keep our eyes on the Lord
 - b. We must set our hearts on the Lord
 - c. We will reign with Him

- d. 2 Timothy 2:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;