

David's Hymn of Praise for the Lord's Deliverance

2 Samuel 22

2 Samuel 22 - *"Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ² And he said:*

"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; ³ The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. ⁴ I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁵ "When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁶ The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.

⁷ In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.

⁸ "Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. ⁹ Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.

¹⁰ He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

¹¹ He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.

¹² He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

¹³ From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled.

¹⁴ "The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice.

¹⁵ He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.

¹⁶ Then the channels of the sea were seen; The foundations of the world were uncovered, At the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

¹⁷ "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.

¹⁸ He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me. ¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. ²⁰ He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

²¹ "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. ²² For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God. ²³ For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. ²⁴ I was also blameless before Him,

*And I kept myself from my iniquity. ²⁵ Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness,
According to my cleanness in His eyes.*

²⁶ "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

²⁷ With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

²⁸ You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.

²⁹ "For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.

³⁰ For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.

³¹ As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven;

He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

³² "For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?

³³ God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect.

³⁴ He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places.

³⁵ He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁶ "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

³⁷ You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.

³⁸ "I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

³⁹ And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise;

They have fallen under my feet. ⁴⁰ For You have armed me with strength for the battle;

You have subdued under me those who rose against me. ⁴¹ You have also given me the necks of my enemies,

So that I destroyed those who hated me. ⁴² They looked, but there was none to save;

Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them. ⁴³ Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth;

I trod them like dirt in the streets, And I spread them out.

⁴⁴ "You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head of the nations.

A people I have not known shall serve me. ⁴⁵ The foreigners submit to me;

As soon as they hear, they obey me. ⁴⁶ The foreigners fade away,

And come frightened from their hideouts.

⁴⁷ "The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock!

Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!

⁴⁸ It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

⁴⁹ He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me;

You have delivered me from the violent man. ⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles,

And sing praises to Your name.

⁵¹ "He is the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore."

Background Notes

The first thing that to notice about the song of David in 2 Samuel 22 is that it's almost identical to Psalm 18. In fact, if you compare this chapter with Psalm 18, you will find a number of verses that are exactly the same. Psalm 18 only has fifty verses, while 2 Samuel 22 here has fifty-one verses. Why? That's because the title of Psalm 18 is verse 1 of 2 Samuel 22.

Another important point that we should keep in mind when we compare Psalm 18 with 2 Samuel 22 is that Psalm 18 is a Messianic psalm. That is, many verses in Psalm 18 go beyond the experiences of David, and look forward to the greater Son of David, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it stands to reason that the same is true of 2 Samuel 22. This song of David is prophetic of the experiences of coming Messiah, as well as being the inspired record of David's experiences. For example, in verse 50 we read "*Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.*" This was David's personal testimony of praise, and it is also quoted in Romans 15:9 as a testimony of Jesus Christ Himself.

In our doctrinal points, we will be emphasizing David's praise to the Lord in view of his own experiences, and how they apply to us. But keep in mind that many of these praises look beyond David and his experiences to our Lord Himself.

Doctrinal Points

1. Believers should praise the Lord for His deliverance.

David was able to say that the Lord was his rock, shield, fortress, and horn of salvation (v3). The horns of animals, as you know, are used for protection and defense. David looked to the Lord for his protection and defense, and for a solid foundation on which he could depend for deliverance. Is the Lord our Rock and Fortress? Do we look to the Lord for our security? Or are we looking to our financial investments and bank accounts for deliverance in the day of trouble?

In verse 5 and the verses following, David sensed that death was rapidly closing in on him. In his distress, David prayed to the Lord, and the Lord heard his cry for help (v7). Does the Lord hear our prayers when we cry to Him for help? Of course He does – whether we're aware of it or no! God not only hears our prayers for help, but He will deliver us - in His way and in His timing.

Notice in verses 8 and 9 that the Lord was angry with the forces that were against David, and that would include satanic forces. God used the forces of nature, including the wind and the weather, to bring about His deliverance. God always delivers His people when they cry to Him for help. In may be *from* death, as it was here in the case of David, or it may be *through* death, as it was in the case of our Lord Himself. Believers should praise the Lord for His deliverance.

2. Believers should praise the Lord for His principles.

In verses 21-28 we have several moral principles that operate in God's moral universe. "The Lord rewards righteous living" is one of those principles (v21-25). Righteous living means doing the right thing in all the various situations and circumstances of life. Do we strive to always do the right thing, or do we constantly have to learn the hard way?

The biggest question in these verses, of course, is how David could claim he was “doing the right thing” when we know that he was involved in adultery and murder. The key is in verse 1. David wrote this song before his great sins of adultery and murder, during the time when King Saul was wrongly trying to capture him and kill him. At that time David had done no wrong; he was blameless.

Another moral principle in these verses is that “you reap what you sow” (v26-27). If you show kindness and purity, you will reap kindness and purity, and if you sow deceit, God will allow you to be deceived. This moral principle is also brought out in Galatians 6:7-10.

In verse 28, the moral principle is that “the proud will be humbled.” Have you ever experienced that moral principle in your life? Believers should praise the Lord for His principles.

3. Believers should praise the Lord for His enablement.

Verses 29-36 sound a lot like Philippians 4:13 in the New Testament; don't they? Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Now *remember the context* of Philippians 4:13! Paul was not talking about scoring touchdowns in football or making a million dollars! No - he was talking about being enabled to endure any and all circumstances and situations and tests that the Lord calls us to go through. We can do it - because the Lord enables us!

And that's what David was saying in 2 Samuel 22. Whatever circumstances and situations, whatever enemy plans and plots, whatever temptations and tests, the Lord enables us to be and to do what He's called us to be and to do. He makes our feet steady like the feet of deer in the mountains (v34). He trains our hands for spiritual battle (v35). He gives us a solid foundation and footing (v37). He girds us with strength for spiritual warfare (v40). He subdues all enemies attacking us (v41-43). He enables us to rise above the bad mouthing (sometimes even from fellow believers) and verbal abuse of unbelievers (v44). Believers should praise the Lord for His enablement.

Practical Application

Let's give the Lord all the credit!

In verses 47-51, notice that David gave all praise and credit to the Lord for every victory and accomplishment in his life. Think of all the times that David could have claimed the key to victory was his own skill in using a sling shot, for example, or his own athletic ability or agility, as when he dodged King Saul's spear on more than one occasion. But David gave all credit to the Lord - and so should we!

David recognized the truth of 1 Corinthians 4:7 long before it was written. 1 Corinthians 4:7 - *“For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”* So let's be more like David in 2 Samuel 22. Let's give the Lord all the credit!