

## **Bible Readings**

### **Old Testament Reading**

2 Samuel 22:1-51

#### **David's Song of Praise**

**22** David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. <sup>2</sup> He said:

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

<sup>3</sup> my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield and the horn of my salvation.

He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—  
from violent people you save me.

<sup>4</sup> "I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,  
and have been saved from my enemies.

<sup>5</sup> The waves of death swirled about me;  
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

<sup>6</sup> The cords of the grave coiled around me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>7</sup> "In my distress I called to the LORD;  
I called out to my God.

From his temple he heard my voice;  
my cry came to his ears.

- <sup>8</sup> The earth trembled and quaked,  
the foundations of the heavens shook;  
they trembled because he was angry.
- <sup>9</sup> Smoke rose from his nostrils;  
consuming fire came from his mouth,  
burning coals blazed out of it.
- <sup>10</sup> He parted the heavens and came down;  
dark clouds were under his feet.
- <sup>11</sup> He mounted the cherubim and flew;  
he soared on the wings of the wind.
- <sup>12</sup> He made darkness his canopy around him—  
the dark rain clouds of the sky.
- <sup>13</sup> Out of the brightness of his presence  
bolts of lightning blazed forth.
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD thundered from heaven;  
the voice of the Most High resounded.
- <sup>15</sup> He shot his arrows and scattered the enemy,  
with great bolts of lightning he routed them.
- <sup>16</sup> The valleys of the sea were exposed  
and the foundations of the earth laid bare

at the rebuke of the LORD,

at the blast of breath from his nostrils.

<sup>17</sup> "He reached down from on high and took hold of me;  
he drew me out of deep waters.

<sup>18</sup> He rescued me from my powerful enemy,  
from my foes, who were too strong for me.

<sup>19</sup> They confronted me in the day of my disaster,  
but the LORD was my support.

<sup>20</sup> He brought me out into a spacious place;  
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

<sup>21</sup> "The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness;  
according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

<sup>22</sup> For I have kept the ways of the LORD;  
I am not guilty of turning from my God.

<sup>23</sup> All his laws are before me;  
I have not turned away from his decrees.

<sup>24</sup> I have been blameless before him  
and have kept myself from sin.

<sup>25</sup> The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness,  
according to my cleanness in his sight.

- <sup>26</sup> "To the faithful you show yourself faithful,  
to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
- <sup>27</sup> to the pure you show yourself pure,  
but to the devious you show yourself shrewd.
- <sup>28</sup> You save the humble,  
but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.
- <sup>29</sup> You, LORD, are my lamp;  
the LORD turns my darkness into light.
- <sup>30</sup> With your help I can advance against a troop;  
with my God I can scale a wall.
- <sup>31</sup> "As for God, his way is perfect:  
The LORD's word is flawless;  
he shields all who take refuge in him.
- <sup>32</sup> For who is God besides the LORD?  
And who is the Rock except our God?
- <sup>33</sup> It is God who arms me with strength  
and keeps my way secure.
- <sup>34</sup> He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;  
he causes me to stand on the heights.
- <sup>35</sup> He trains my hands for battle;  
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

<sup>36</sup> You make your saving help my shield;  
your help has made me great.

<sup>37</sup> You provide a broad path for my feet,  
so that my ankles do not give way.

<sup>38</sup> "I pursued my enemies and crushed them;  
I did not turn back till they were destroyed.

<sup>39</sup> I crushed them completely, and they could not rise;  
they fell beneath my feet.

<sup>40</sup> You armed me with strength for battle;  
you humbled my adversaries before me.

<sup>41</sup> You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,  
and I destroyed my foes.

<sup>42</sup> They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—  
to the LORD, but he did not answer.

<sup>43</sup> I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth;  
I pounded and trampled them like mud in the streets.

<sup>44</sup> "You have delivered me from the attacks of the peoples;  
you have preserved me as the head of nations.

People I did not know now serve me,

<sup>45</sup> foreigners cower before me;  
as soon as they hear of me, they obey me.

<sup>46</sup> They all lose heart;  
they come trembling from their strongholds.

<sup>47</sup> "The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock!  
Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!

<sup>48</sup> He is the God who avenges me,  
who puts the nations under me,  
<sup>49</sup> who sets me free from my enemies.

You exalted me above my foes;  
from a violent man you rescued me.

<sup>50</sup> Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations;  
I will sing the praises of your name.

<sup>51</sup> "He gives his king great victories;  
he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed,  
to David and his descendants forever."

### Sermon

**To God be the Glory (2 Samuel 22:1-51)**

**15-Nov-20**

It would be good to have your **Bibles opened to 2 Samuel chapter 22.**

There's an **outline** - if you want to take **notes**.

Let me **pray** before we begin...

Let's pray...

## Intro/Context (2 Samuel 22:1)

This morning we're talking about Praise

So - we'd better get a **definition**

[PowerPoint 1-Praise]

Praise means to: *Express one's respect and gratitude towards God, especially in song.*

- In our **reading** today from **2 Sam 22** - that's what King David does - he **expresses** his **respect** and **gratitude** towards God - **in song**
- **2 Sam 22** is a **song** - and if you **compare** this chapter with **Psalm 18** - you'll see they're **pretty much identical** - Psalm by the way means song
- When we sing hymns at church - we're **doing** the **same thing**
- We're **expressing** our **respect** and **gratitude** to God
- Look at our hymns this morning:

1<sup>st</sup> hymn

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!*

*O my soul, praise Him, for He is  
your health and salvation!*

2<sup>nd</sup> hymn

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;*

3<sup>rd</sup> hymn

*To God be the glory! Great things He has done;  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son*

- But **I wonder** how often we **actually stop** and **praise God** - other than at church?
- Think about our **prayers** - for example...
- There are basically **4 types of prayers**
- **Praise** (adoration), **Confession**, **Thanks** and **Supplication** (Shopping List)
- When we pray - **which** of these types of **prayers** do we major on?
- I **expect** we'd **find** - we all too often - **focus** on the **Shopping List**
- And **forget** to **confess** our sins to God, and **forget** to **thank** God and especially forget to **praise** God.
- **Praising God** is not the same as **thanking God**
- Praising is **saying how good God is** - and telling Him **how good His character is**
- So, for **example** in **praising** God we might say - He is **loving, trustworthy, powerful, all-knowing, full of wisdom, gracious, merciful** and so on.
- We're describing what God is like and **saying we appreciate that about Him.**
- That's what David's doing here.
- **V1** gives us the **context**
- David is singing this song of praise to God - when

THE LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

- It's interesting that David doesn't see Saul as his enemy.
- Saul saw David as his enemy - but David doesn't regard Saul as his enemy - because Saul - was God's anointed King at the time - David would never harm Saul - because Saul was God's anointed.

So, verses 2 to 7 describe what God is like to David

[PowerPoint 2-What God has been to David]

### What God is like to David (2 Samuel 22:2-7)

- David says God is like: my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my shield, my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge and my saviour
- What we get from these words is that
  - A. God is personal to David - he has a close and personal relationship with God
  - B. We get a sense of God protecting David - we get a sense of security - Like hiding in an impenetrable castle -
  - C. and we get a sense of safety - God is David's saviour - and saves Him from His enemy
- And because God is David's protector and saviour - David says v4 - God is worthy to be praised - that's something worth praising God for?

### Application

- Do we have that close personal relationship with God - as David had?
- How would we describe God? What picture do we have of God in our mind's eye?

- Do we see Him as our protector? Our Saviour?
- Write down on your outline how would you describe God...

(pause)

- In **verses 6 & 7** - David is faced with the very real threat of death from his enemies and from Saul
- So, he calls out to God in his distress - and God heard him - God is a listening God!

### Application

- When do we talk to God? Only when we're in trouble?
- Is God our first option? Or our last resort? He should be our first option!

### [PowerPoint 3-God's response]

#### God's response to David's plea for help (2 Samuel 22:8-20)

Next David describes God's response to his plea for help - verses 8 to 20

- We see that God gets angry when His people are being attacked or persecuted
- David uses **some poetic images** here to describe what it seemed like to him when God came and helped him
  - God is so angry that the heavens and the earth shook
  - **Smoke** came out of **God's nostrils** (like cartoon image)
  - And **God** comes riding on **cherubim** [heavenly beings]
  - **God thundered** from **Heaven** and he scattered David's enemies

- The picture we get here from David - is that **God's intervention was so real for him** - it was **so obvious** God was acting in his life
- And **God had come personally to rescue him** (v20)
- And **David realizes that God delights in him**
- **Delight means greatly pleased** - God is greatly pleased with David - **that's why he comes to help David**

### Application

- **God delights in us** - Psalm 147:11 says **the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**
- **He will help us when we cry out to Him**
- **We know that to be true**
- **Because God the Father **sent His Son** - whom He also delighted in (Matt 3:17)**
- And **Jesus stepped into History - stepped into human lives - and **rescued us from sin and death****
- **Now that's worthy of our praise** - isn't it?
- **If God helped us with this big thing - **rescuing us from sin and death** - we can be sure He's working to help us in the little things too**

### [PowerPoint 4-Why?]

### Why God delivered David (2 Samuel 22:21-37)

Next David says **why God delivered him** - that's verses 21 to 37

- **Now verses 21 to 25 are a bit hard for us to take from David**

- **David says he's righteous - his hands are clean - he's kept the ways of God - he's not guilty of turning from God - he's not turned away from God's laws and decrees - he's blameless before God - and kept himself from sin - and God has rewarded David for his righteousness and cleanness**
- In the words of Daryl Kerrigan from the Castle - 'David must be dreaming'
- **Has he forgotten what he did with Bathsheba and how he had Uriah killed?**
- How do we reconcile this?
- Well - remember this chapter is the same as Psalm 18
- **Psalm 18 was written when David was relatively young perhaps after Saul had been defeated but before David's sin with Bathsheba**
- As a younger man - David - a man after God's own heart - might have thought I won't fall into such sin
- Now as an older man in 2 Samuel 22 - **he can now sing this same psalm/song again - and still say he is blameless -**
- Why?
- Because he confessed his sins to God - and God forgave him
- As Psalm 103:10 says: **God has removed our sin as far as the East is from the West**
- And he can say he's blameless now because of God's grace and mercy

### Application

- We can make that same claim to be blameless - just as David did

- Because of God's wonderful grace and mercy in sending Jesus
- Our faith in Jesus - means we are righteous and **blameless** and **not guilty**
- As **1 John 1:9** says: **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**
- And as **Romans 8:1** says: **Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**

David continues describing why God delivered him from his enemies in v26 to 37

- And it's because God is **faithful, blameless and pure**
- It's because God 's a **lamp** that **draws people out of the darkness** of their **sin** - just as He drew David out of the darkness of his sin
- And it's because God's ways are not like human ways - **God's ways are perfect**
- And it's because God's Word is the **flawless** - there's no mistakes in the Bible - there's no false information - no fake news - only Good News!
- And it's because God is a **rock** - that **we can build our lives on**
- And it's because God is the **source of our strength** - He **keeps us standing firm** - and He **trains us how to fight** the **spiritual battle** we have in this world against evil

### Application

- Why would we put our trust in anyone else or anything else - but God and His Holy Word?

## [PowerPoint 5-How?]

### How God delivered David (2 Samuel 22:38-46)

Next David looks at how God delivered him - verses 38 to 46

- David describes how he pursued his enemies and **crushed them** completely
- Some of his enemies ran away afraid
- But notice David attributes the victory to God - v40 - You armed me - v41 - You made my enemies turn their backs in flight - v44 - You delivered me from the attacks - You have preserved me

### Application

- God has given us victory over the power of Satan and the darkness of evil - and through His Son Jesus - He has brought us into His Kingdom
- As Colossians 1:13 says: God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
- And he's given us victory over death
- As 1 Cor 15:54-57 says:  
 "Death has been swallowed up in victory."  
<sup>55</sup> "Where, O death, is your victory?  
 Where, O death, is your sting?"  
<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## [PowerPoint 6-Praise]

### David praises God for his deliverance (2 Samuel 22:47-51)

- So, having sung about how and why God delivered him from his enemies

- **David finishes his song by praising God** - in verses 47 to 51
- See v47 - **The Lord Lives!**
- We must realize **we worship a living God!** Not a dead God! Not a lump of wood or statue?
- We have a God that lives and reigns and controls the Heavens and the Earth
- David says **God is a Rock** - that we build our lives on
- A rock-solid foundation
- And He is a **Saviour** - he saves us from sin and death - and gives us the certain promise of Heaven
- So, can we join King David - and do as he says in v50 - and can we say:  
I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praise of your name
- Will we praise the Lord to our family, our friends, our neighbours - even to strangers
- Or is that too embarrassing?
- I bet in the last week - we've talked to people either about the **US Election** or the **COVID19 pandemic** - or about the **State of Origin**
- But have we openly praised the Lord to those same people?
- If not? Why not?

The song finishes with a promise in v51

**David says:**

God gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

Here God promises to show His unfailing kindness to David's descendants forever.

1000 years after David - one of David's descendants - King Jesus - came to this Earth on a Rescue Mission.

All the adjectives and awesome ways God is described in this chapter - apply to King Jesus - God's Son.

*To God be the glory! Great things He has done;  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son*

Let's pray...