

Message #29**II Samuel 22:1-51**

This is one of the most beautiful, God-exalting, praise songs and chapters in the entire Old Testament.

In II Samuel it is the longest text written and sung by David to the LORD. These were words spoken directly to the Lord. What David is doing here is looking back over his life and remembering all the things God had done.

It is a praise song of deliverance and he probably wrote it near the end of his life. More than likely he wrote it after the defeat of Sheba. He wrote it after he had been delivered from “all his enemies” (v. 1), which not only includes Saul, but also his own sin.

The chapter is rich in theology. It is filled with metaphors that describe God at the highest level. God is very personal to David, which is clearly evidenced by the use of the personal pronouns “my,” “I” and “me.” David recognized the involvement of God all the way through his life.

God is very much alive in David’s life. He is personal, it is theological and it is practical.

DAVID PRAISES GOD FOR ALL GOD HAD PERSONALLY DONE WITH HIM AND FOR HIM ALL OF HIS LIFE AND FOR ALL ETERNITY.

There are some amazing things revealed in this chapter and some of the things go beyond David to a future Davidic king, who will be none other than Jesus Christ.

There are fourteen praise items to see in this Psalm. These are things that David experienced in life. These are things David came to know about God. These are things we need to know as well.

PRAISE ITEM #1 – God is David’s rock. 22:2a, 3a, 47, 47

God is David’s personal rock. The rock is something immovable and foundational. If we track the theme of rock through the Scriptures, we conclude that the metaphor of God being a rock is one that means God is immovable, unchangeable, stable and strong.

Moses really developed this idea of God being a rock in Deuteronomy 32:4, 15, 18, 30-31. He is the God who is rock solid perfect. He is the Rock who saved us. He is the rock who was strong enough to give us birth. He is the rock strong enough to defeat our enemies.

PRAISE ITEM #2 – God is David’s fortress. 22:2b

God is David’s personal fortress. David knew that God was the one who protected him. God is the One who protects His people.

PRAISE ITEM #3 – God is David’s deliverer. **22:2c, 51**

God is David’s personal deliverer. David had been delivered in life time and time again. No matter how David’s enemies tried to destroy him, God always delivered him.

PRAISE ITEM #4 – God is David’s refuge. **22:3a, 3c**

God is David’s personal refuge. David learned that in threatening and in intimidating circumstances, he could flee to the Lord because the Lord was his refuge.

PRAISE ITEM #5 – God is David’s shield. **22:3b**

God is David’s personal shield. David learned that it was God who was protecting him and deflecting various things that sought to destroy him.

PRAISE ITEM #6 – God is David’s salvation. **22:3c, 47**

God is David’s personal horn of salvation. This is a very interesting concept. The previous metaphors like rock, fortress, refuge and shield are passive and defensive, but “horn of salvation” is active and aggressive action. So God not only is our defense, but He is also our offense.

God is the One in whom you rest for salvation, but He is also the One who actively keeps us in our salvation. When someone thinks he can save himself or that he is responsible to keep his salvation, he is actually demeaning God.

PRAISE ITEM #7 – God is David’s strength. **22:3d**

God is David’s personal strength. This is such an important lesson to learn. Our strength is not in us, it is in the Lord.

PRAISE ITEM #8 – God is David’s savior. **22:3e**

God is David’s personal savior. Do you see this theology? David is a man after God’s own heart and he is crediting God with being his savior and giving him salvation. This is important. God is the Savior of the world, but He is also David’s personal Savior.

PRAISE ITEM #9 – God saves David from violence. **22:3f**

God is David’s personal deliverer from violence.

PRAISE ITEM #10 – God saves David from enemies when he calls upon God. **22:4-7**

God answers David’s personal prayers when he is in trouble. David literally found himself threatened by various waves of death and destruction. Many times he faced physical death from a physical enemy.

In **verse 5**, he describes his facing death as coming at him in waves and various torrents that tried to destroy him. Until near the end of David's life, he lived his life under one threat after another. Death chased after him. His life was anything but easy. Everywhere he turned, he faced death threats. He faced threats from the Philistines, from Saul, from Absalom, and most recently from Sheba. Before that as a shepherd, he faced lions and bears. David said I learned an important lesson in this and that is when I cried to God, He answered me and delivered me. He also could have been executed for his own sin. But in those moments of distress, he called on God and God heard him and listened to him.

What David learned is that God was a warrior who would help him and who would fight for him.

This is one of the most important things we can learn when we are being hit with threatening situations. We need to call out to God. In moments of distress, we need to cry out to Him.

PRAISE ITEM #11 – God was angry with David's enemies and He delivered David. **22:8-20**

God was continually caring for David and was continually angry at David's enemies. God literally and physically moved and gave David victory.

David never saw himself or his military as being responsible for victory over enemies. He always saw God as giving the victory.

David describes the awesome power God displayed in coming to His rescue (**22:9-16**). God is sovereign over the whole earth and the sovereign God over all the heavens.

Now there is nowhere in Scripture where we find some of these things happening during the days of David. So we conclude that this was partially fulfilled when David was here, but not completely fulfilled yet (**i.e., v. 8, 10, 11, 13**). God did dramatically deliver David from his enemies, but the ultimate fulfillment of this will be when God dramatically delivers the world from all enemies.

There is a description here of another Davidic King who will come to destroy all enemies and deliver His people. That King will be Jesus Christ. He will return at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Here is how Jesus Christ, Himself, described that moment:

“But immediately after the Tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens will be shaken and the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory” (Matt. 24:29-30).

PRAISE ITEM #12 – God rewarded David for his righteousness. **22:21-29**

It is clear that David had committed himself to righteousness. He was a sinner, who had fallen, but he was also forgiven, and he dedicated himself to being a righteous man of God and God rewarded him for that.

Now the kind of righteousness David had is described here and it is attainable and doable. This is the kind of righteousness God did reward in David's life and God will reward in any person's life. In the aftermath of David's sin, he took full responsibility and went to work on his own life.

- 1) You must keep your life and hands clean. **22:21** You must purpose to keep yourself clean.
- 2) You must guard (shamar) the ways of God that are found in His word. **22:22a**
- 3) You must not act wickedly in anything or any way against God. **22:22b**
- 4) You must stay highly committed to the written word of God. **22:23**
- 5) You must stay blameless before God by keeping yourself away from iniquity. **22:24**
- 6) Understand that righteousness and cleanness is achieved before God's eyes. **22:25**
Do not let unclean things go before your eyes so they aren't before God's eyes.
- 7) We must be a kind person to others. **22:26a**
- 8) We must purpose to be a blameless person before others. **22:26b**
- 9) We must be a pure person before other pure people. **22:27a**
- 10) We must be astute (show one is twisted) before a perverted person. **22:27b**
- 11) We must be about saving afflicted people. **22:28a**
- 12) We must watch and expose haughty people. **22:28b**
- 13) We must realize God and His word is our lamp. **22:29a**
- 14) We must realize that God turns darkness into light. **22:29b**

This is the kind of righteousness that David had and this was the kind we are to have, for this is the kind of righteousness that is rewarded by God.

PRAISE ITEM #13 – God gave David victory over every enemy. **22:30-46**

David was a great soldier and warrior, but he did not believe his success was due to him. He believed it was God who enabled him to fight and win.

According to **verse 30**, David learned that it was God that enabled him to do things "beyond his own limitations." Even when David was outnumbered and faced barriers, God gave him ability to win.

In **verses 31-33**, David faced many things knowing six key realities about God:

- 1) God's ways are blameless. **22:31a**
- 2) God's word is tested - devoid of any impurity or imperfections. **22:31b**
- 3) God is the one and only LORD God. **22:32a**
- 4) God is the only rock. **22:32b**
- 5) God is our strong fortress. **22:33a**
- 6) God is blameless and perfect in His way. **22:33b** - Anything God does or permits.

In view of the greatness of God, David says this is what God personally did for me:

- 1) God made his feet like that of a deer. **22:34a** - able to navigate tricky things in life.
- 2) God set me on high places. **22:34b** - enabled David to live an elevated life.
- 3) God trained my hands. **22:35a** - David had to train with weapons, God helped him.
- 4) God strengthened my arms. **22:35b** - God gave him strength to handle what he needed.
- 5) God was my shield of salvation. **22:36a** - David knew God protected him and saved him.
- 6) God was the factor in being great. **22:36b** - As great as David was, he knew God did it.
- 7) God enlarged his steps. **22:37a** - God controlled David's direction and expansion in life.
He took David from watching sheep to being His chosen, anointed King.
- 8) God kept his feet from slipping. **22:37b** - God controlled David's movements in life.
He saw to it that David could never slip away from Him.
- 9) God gave David the stamina to relentlessly pursue and destroy enemies. **22:38-40**
- 10) God let David destroy those who hated him. **22:41**
- 11) God refused to answer David's enemies when they cried to Him. **22:42**
- 12) God let David crush and stamp out his enemies. **22:43**
- 13) God delivered David and made him head over all people. **22:44-46**

PRAISE ITEM #14 – God was David's personal God, who is the reason for his worship and praise. **22:47-51**

As David reflected on all of this, he was again moved to worship God and praise God. The God of the Bible, including who He is and what He does, is our reason for praise:

- 1) The LORD lives. **22:47a**
- 2) The LORD is David's blessed rock. **22:47b**
- 3) God is exalted. **22:47c**
- 4) God is the rock of David's salvation. **22:47d** - **God is the rock and God is the Savior.**
- 5) God executes vengeance in David's behalf. **22:48** - God brings people down under David.
- 6) God delivers from David's enemies. **22:49a**
- 7) God elevates David above his enemies. **22:49b**
- 8) God rescues David from violent men. **22:49c**

Because of these things that God had done for David, David says to God:

- 1) David will give thanks to God among the nations. **22:50a**
- 2) David will sing praises to God's name. **22:50b-51**

God is to be praised for His salvific deliverances. God is to be praised for His annihilation of arrogant enemies.

- A. God is a tower of deliverance for His king.
- B. God has shown loving kindness and mercy to His anointed.
- C. God has shown loving kindness and mercy to David's descendants forever.