

## **Praising God for His Deliverances, Part IV**

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:97-112

1st Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1-28

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:29-35

Hymn Insert- *By Faith*

Hymn Insert- *Speak O Lord*

Hymn #79- *Though Troubles Assail Us*

### **Introduction:**

Generally, when a battle is about to be fought, both sides attempt to gather as much information about their opponents as possible, so that they don't go into the war blind. Gathering "intel" is often a critical part of a war, and sometimes, the side, which succeeds most in this regard, obtains the greater advantage, even if their army is much smaller in number. Positioning of troops, dispersement of supplies, methods of attack... etc, are all affected by the type of intel that is gathered before and during a war.

You can imagine the great challenge that exists, when a squad of troops, for some reason or another, loses their bearings, being forced into a situation, where they must fight "in the blind." Not being sure, which direction the enemy is coming from, what lies up ahead, and whether or not they are properly prepared for the next move, can add quite a bit of anxiety to an already difficult situation. Well, often times, David had encountered such situations, when facing his enemies. And here, in the midst of this Psalm of praise, David acknowledges the ways, in which, God's divine hand of providence, has always come to his aid, providing him with every resource necessary, which would enable him to overcome his enemies, though he was naturally at a great disadvantage.

### **I. God Provides David With Critical Resources**

In this portion of our text, there are three critical resources, which God provides for David, and which give David the upper hand, when fighting against enemies, which are naturally stronger than him.

1) God provides David with light. That is, God supernaturally directs David, such that he takes the best course of action, when warring against his enemies. He shows David the best way,

and leads him down the best path, rescuing David from the devious plans of his enemies, while providing him with the best position for striking them down.

Notice, in verse 29, David states, "For You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord shall enlighten my darkness." God Himself, is David's lamp! And the great encouragement here, is that David is given eyes to see, what the enemy cannot see, because God sees and knows all things; indeed, He ordains them unto the fulfillment of His glorious, unchanging and perfect will. Everything is out in the open for God, and if He be a lamp to anyone, than the advantage granted to the object of such blessing, is beyond tremendous. For, even the darkness is as pure light to God. And so, David had the eyes of God; He had the divine wisdom and perspective granted him, as a critical resource for the battle. [One of the ways, in which this was greatly confirmed, was when David made use of the priest, who interceded and sought direction on David's behalf, while wearing the ephod]

2) God provided David with supernatural strength. David knew full well, that the very skill of his might; indeed, the wise use and governance of his sword, were not the product of chance or genetic advantages, secured by the arm of the flesh. Though he felt them proceed out of his own body, He knew all too well, that God had supernaturally granted him, what he could never have on his own. The stone, which struck the head of Goliath, coming from the sling of David, was in every way, empowered and directed by God, perfectly positioned to sink into the giant's forehead, bringing the large tower down, like an unstable building. Just prior to the event, David had expressed his full confidence in God, knowing that He would give David the victory, on behalf of His chosen people, and for the glory of His great Name, which Goliath had blasphemed.

Again, in verse 30, with the utmost confidence, David states, "For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall." What is David saying? Namely, that with the help and aid of God, David can do extraordinary things. He, even on his own, can fight against and defeat an entire troop. He, with the supernatural help of God, can leap over a tall wall, which would normally be impossible for him to do. [Ex: Samson kills 1000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey; Some of David's mighty men, whom we will be reading about, shortly]

3) God provided David with the full assurance of His commitment to prosper him. Indeed, He covenanted with David. Even as a child, the anointing oil of God, administered by Samuel, upon the head of David (before David had encountered any problems with Saul or his enemies), assured David that he would be king. And God further covenanted with him, to prosper his house, indefinitely, when David had expressed a desire to build God a temple. And God was always faithful to His Word. And although David, at times, was but a step from death (from the standpoint of man), as he continued to press ahead, he had witnessed God's faithfulness in maintaining His Word, and this only served to strengthen David's faith, all along the way. God's covenant assurance, was a vital resource for David's stability and prosperity, throughout the course of his overcoming his enemies. And the fact that David could pen this Psalm during his later years, having made it to the present, was a perfect testimony to all that he was saying here.

Hear again, the words of verse 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." God never errs! What He determines to do, and what He expresses concerning that determination, as a revelation to His people, He most assuredly does! And that, without regret! And His Word is proven, every time! He is a Shield and a Protector of His people! Again, that David was alive to pen this Psalm, is a tremendous testimony to the truth of all that is stated here! David's life was a testimony to God's faithfulness, in every regard! He was the "poster boy," for declaring God's faithfulness! He was the living, visible evidence, for the invisible, and yet, substantial reality of the supreme and sovereign reign of God! And there is none other like his God!

And that is why David can strap on the words that follow in verses 32ff:

"For who is God, except the Lord?" (Who is the Eternal Creator and Supreme Ruler over all things, except YHWH, my covenant keeping, self-existent, ever present God) "And who is a Rock, except our God?" (Who is utterly and totally reliable? Who can give perfect and full assurance, under any circumstance, that He can, and will, hold us up? Who can provide us with an unbreakable and secure foundation, at all times... except our God?)

"God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect" (follows vs. 30-31). "He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places" (He makes me swift in my

fleeing and in my pursuing and He sets me on higher ground; in the stronghold, at the position of great advantage). "He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze" (He sparks and matures skill in me; He grants me supernatural strength, enabling me to do extraordinary things in battle).

All in all, "I am delivered from and victorious against enemies, who are naturally stronger than I am, because God is my Help, my Rock and my Refuge!" And so, brethren, here we find then, that God provides David with the essential resources of light, supernatural strength and assurance; all of which, serve to help grant David the victory over all of his enemies.

Next week, Lord willing, we will continue on with this same theme, as we pick up with verses 36 and following.

## **II. Closing Thoughts and Applications**

For now, then, let us spend the remainder of our time, considering a few closing thoughts and applications:

Brethren, all in all, David is providing us with information about our God here, which he wants us to come back to, again and again, as we trudge through our own paths of life. The general realities describing how God exercises care toward His people, are not *Old Covenant* realities. Now, He might do things a little differently in the *New Covenant*, because of all that has transpired since the time of David, but He does provide the same help, comfort and assurance, to all of His people. Consider then, how these same essential resources, given by God, to David, come to us, as well.

1) God is our lamp. In what way is God our Lamp, brethren? Well, while we don't have the ephod or the Ummim or Thummim or the Old Covenant high priest, we do have the completed Canon of Scripture! In this Book, God provides us with every ray of light that we need, to know how to contend with, and prevail against, every wicked power that seeks to come against us. Indeed, the devil and his minions are far more powerful than we are; and they are the ultimate powers, who stand behind all physical opposition. We are no match for the higher powers and principalities and the hosts of wickedness, who lurk in the heavenly places. But God is! And in His Word, He describes the spiritual weapons of warfare, which are wholly accessible

to us, in Christ! And unlike David even, we have a completed New Testament Canon, and a completed Old Testament Canon, for that matter! And to that end, even the least of us, is greater than the greatest of those, who lived under the Old Covenant!

We have the perfect revelation of Christ, who is the Light of the World, right here, brethren! And by His Word, He comes down, and fellowships with us, and He directs and guides us, so that we can remain steadfast on the path of eternal life. And in Him, we are unshakeable and immovable! We are not lost, wayward sheep, anymore! Rather, we now hear the voice of our Shepherd, loudly and clearly; we have the whole of His instruction, right here, and the Spirit of God, who indwells us, has a timely way, of opening our ears to the voice of our Beloved, so that, our hearts connect with the living Christ, through His everlasting Word! The Shepherd's care for His sheep, given in Psalm 23, is best materialized in the way, in which, He speaks to us, tenderly and compassionately through His Word! And by this means, He leads us beside still waters, He guides us into luscious, green pastures, where we are nourished and fed to the full, He sets a table for us, right there, in the presence of our enemies, our cup runs over, and even though we walk, as sheep, through the valley of the shadow of death, we fear no evil. He comforts us, and communes with us, through this very Word! The Light of the world, has inscripturated Himself, as it were; as the living Word of God, so that we walk not in darkness, no matter how difficult the path is, which lies in front of us!

And brethren, here then is the main point of this application. If God provides us with all that we need in this Book; if there is corrective light, exhortive light, encouragement light, convicting light, comforting light... etc, all within the confines of this Book, then we must be good stewards of this blessed gift. This is God's means of communicating to us, in a timely and relevant fashion. And you can read the whole Bible a thousand times, and unlike any other book out there, it will still be presently relevant for you. Let me put it another way. We know for certain that God is always, everywhere present, at every moment. We know this theologically, but we certainly don't always realize this, do we? Why? Because we can't see God with the naked eye. But, by means of His Word, we can be brought back to the realization of His presence, and find the help and comfort that we need, to persevere, to endure, and to press on, within the context of visible problems, which we face, daily. [Illustration of the telescope]

And so, brethren, recognize the importance of constantly delving in God's Word. This is the gateway, into the heavenly places. This is how we set our minds on things above, where Christ is. This is our means of communing with the living Christ. [Ex: In need of comforting grace - see our Lord cooking fish for Peter by the sea; In need of persevering faith - our Lord, walking over the stormy waters toward us; In need of assurance of God's providing care - feeding of the 5000... etc].

2) God still provides His people with supernatural strength. Greater is He, who is in you, than he who is in the world. The fact that you stand, today, desiring to worship and serve Christ; the fact that you have not returned back to the vomit of the world, but have instead, delighted in Christ; the fact that you are still on the path to glory, all evidence, in the profoundest of ways, that God is supernaturally upholding and directing you. Indeed, resurrection power is at work within you, doing what you could never do on your own, forming you into the image of His Beloved Son.

God has taken up residence in you, brethren! Now, do we always "feel" that reality? No, in fact, most often, we don't "feel" anything, which is why we walk by faith and not by our senses. And the evidence of His work and presence is yet beyond abundant! We just often lose sight of it. It gets clouded by sin and doubt and worldly things. But brethren, look at where you are in the present. Look at where you have come from! There are demonic powers that would invest all of their energies into keeping you from progressing one iota, if they could. But because it is God, who is at work in you, they are hindered and prevented from doing, what would otherwise be a simple task for them. We are no match for heavenly beings! But Christ in us, assures us of the certain victory! Indeed, in the world we will have tribulation, but we can be of good cheer, because He has, already, overcome the world. And nothing; nothing whatsoever, could ever separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus! Christ already fought that battle, brethren! And the last I heard, He said, "It is finished!" And so, we have supernatural strength, at work within us, enabling us to persevere and to press on, against all physical, and more importantly, all spiritual opposition!

3) And finally, God provides us with every bit of assurance we need, guaranteeing His unchanging commitment to prosper us unto glory! Again, you will find this, to the full, in His Word, but it is worth mentioning, nonetheless.

You see, it is one thing, brethren, to know that God is able. And it is another thing to know that God is willing. But, it is even another thing to know that He is wholly determined! He has covenanted with us, brethren, in Christ; He has shed the precious blood of His own incarnate Son, so as to wholly guarantee His unwavering commitment to our prosperity! You know, they say that the last rope that is cut, just before someone gives up on life, is the rope of "hope." Generally, if there is at least the "hope" that something will happen, a person; even a thoroughly crushed person, can persevere. But once hope goes, the will to live, generally soon follows. Well brethren, God has gone to incomprehensible lengths to provide us with a most certain, unshakeable hope. In fact, the hope we have in Christ, the Bible calls an "anchor for the soul." It keeps us fixed, even in the strong winds of the most destructive tornadoes of divine providence. We stand firm, and we prevail, because we know that God's Word is certain. It is sure! It cannot fail, ever! Not one jot or tittle; not one punctuation mark, can ever fall flat!

And so, we have God as our Lamp, divine supernatural strength, and a solid, unbreakable, assurance of hope, in Christ, as precious resources, which God freely grants us, in the battle!

Finally then, a word to the unsaved here, this morning. Know that you are presently living in total darkness, without divine strength, and without any assurance of hope, in this life or the next. Your entire life, rests on a single sheet of notebook paper, with a bottomless pit of condemnation, right below you. And if you fall through, without coming to Christ, you will suffer eternally, under the righteous, burning wrath of God's judgment. Flee to Christ; Get ye, upon the Rock, before it is too late. For, all other ground is sinking sand!

AMEN!!!

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25