

## Praise the Lord

### Text: 2 Samuel 22

**Introduction:** Last Sunday's text, 2 Samuel 21, is one of those texts where we had to remind ourselves that what we were looking at is the inspired Word of God. 2 Samuel 21 is a difficult text that challenges our commitment to the fact that all Scripture is breathed out by God.

Our text this morning, however, 2 Samuel 22, is one of those inspirational texts that I hope will fill our hearts with worship to our God who is in fact worthy of our worship. The amazing thing is that it is equally the inspired Word of God.

Go ahead and turn in your Bible to 2 Samuel 22. It begins on page 255 in the black pew Bible in front of you. 2 Samuel 22. If you don't own a Bible, we invite you to take the pew Bible with you when you leave.

(Read 2 Samuel 22...Pray)

On Tuesday, I had the privilege of leading the staff devotional for the Choices Women's Center. To get started, they always have an ice breaker question that everyone has to go around the table and answer. The question this time was "If you could have a meal with any person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?" My answer was King David.

As we have made our way through 1 and 2 Samuel, I have been fascinated by David. I think that prior to this study, I had a very one-dimensional view of David. I, of course, knew the basic details of his life and reign as king, including his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah in 2 Samuel 11, but I did not really have a firm grasp on just how much that impacted David's life and reign from that point on.

There's so much to love and appreciate about David in 1 and 2 Samuel. And there is also a lot of ugliness that we wish wasn't true. We sometimes try to explain away the ugliness by pointing to the fact that David is referred to as a "man after God's own heart." But David was a complex person. And his sin and failures as a man and leader are not so easily explained away. I'd love to be able to talk to him about all of that. Especially now on this side of the cross of Christ with all the perspective David has undoubtedly gained concerning his own life.

You'll remember from last week that chapters 21-24 of 2 Samuel form the epilogue to the book. The things recorded in these chapters are not necessarily in chronological order. And in chapter 22, we have a song written by David to the Lord. We don't know exactly when it was written. Perhaps it was written earlier in David's life. But it seems to fit here near the end of the book because it really does feel as if David is looking back on his life and his relationship with the Lord, and the response of his heart is one of praise.

Look at the introduction to the song in verse 1. (Read vs. 1)

The text says that David "spoke to the LORD the words of this song." Do you realize that when we sing together on Sunday mornings, we are speaking to the Lord? We're not just singing along to a song like you might do while listening to the radio in your car. We're here to worship God. We are speaking to the God of the universe.

Which, I think, requires us to ask ourselves some self-reflective questions about our singing during corporate worship on Sunday mornings. First, is your mind engaged? Are you thinking about what we're singing, or are you thinking about something that happened during the week or what you're going to do this afternoon? If it is true that we are speaking to the Lord when we sing, our minds ought to be engaged. We ought to be thinking about what we're singing. Some of the songs we sing have extremely rich lyrics. Think about them. Reflect on them. Sing them. We're speaking to the Lord!

Second reflection question, is your heart moved? When we sing to the Lord, our hearts ought to be moved in worship. I can't speak with certainty about what is going on in your heart when we sing to the Lord on Sundays. Only you and the Lord know that. But is your heart moved? Are you filled with love for the Lord and worship to Him? If not, why not?

And third, if your mind is engaged and your heart is moved, is it evident externally? If your mind is engaged and your heart is moved, can people see evidence of that on the outside? I want to be careful here because this might look different for different people. I'm not saying you have to close your eyes, dance around, and raise your hands. Though I'm very happy for you to do all of those things.

But if your mind is engaged and your heart is moved in worship to the God of the universe, it does seem that there would be some external evidence of that. At least your lips should be moving. A sound should be coming out of your mouth. You certainly shouldn't look like you're bored. Like you can't wait for the music to end so you can sit down.

Goshen, David sang to the Lord because He had something to sing about. The LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies. What about you? He made you. He woke you up this morning. He has provided for your most basic needs. He saved you by the precious blood of His Son Jesus. What other things has the Lord done for you? Surely you have something for which to praise Him.

I want you to see this morning that **David's God is our God, and He is worthy of praise.** So,...

## **I. Praise the Lord for His protection (2 Samuel 22:1-4).**

### **A. That's what David sings about in verses 2-4.**

- 1. The protection of the Lord.**
- 2. David sings... (Read vs. 2-4)**
- 3. Notice that David uses a string of images to communicate the truth that God is his place of safety. That God is his protector. God is his ROCK. His FORTRESS. His DELIVERER. His GOD. His ROCK. His REFUGE. SHIELD. SALVATION. STRONGHOLD. REFUGE. SAVIOR.**
- 4. It's interesting that David uses rock and refuge twice each. It's like he runs out of synonyms. Maybe you've experienced something like this before in your prayer life. You were so overcome with the awesomeness of God that you kept grasping for words, but you couldn't find one that adequately expressed how you were feeling towards God. So, you circle back to ones you've already used. It kind of seems that's what's happening here with David.**

- 5. Notice also David's repeated use of the possessive pronoun "my." MY rock. MY fortress. MY deliver. MY God. MY rock. MY shield. MY salvation. MY stronghold. MY refuge. MY savior. This is personal for David. David knows the Lord. He is in relationship with the Lord. God is not just God. He is David's God.**

### **B. David experienced the Lord's protection throughout his life.**

- 1. I think all the way back to 1 Samuel 17 when we were first being introduced to David. When no one else in all of Israel was willing to stand against the Philistine giant Goliath, David said, "I'll go." When Saul said, "You are just a kid," David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:32-37). When Goliath taunted David and threatened him, David responded, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head" (1 Sam. 17:45-46). And so, he did. The Lord protected David.**
- 2. I think about when Saul was pursuing David to kill him. Time and time again, the Lord protected David. When David's men wanted David to take Saul's life, David responded, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish" (1 Sam. 26:10). Ultimately, that's what happened. Saul died in battle.**
- 3. Or what about when David's son Absalom tried to kill him? God protected him. And David wrote Psalm 3 in response to the Lord's protection: "But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head" (Ps. 3:3).**
- 4. See, this was personal for David. When he praises the Lord for His protection, he's not just speaking empty words. He is writing and singing out of personal experience.**

**C. I want you to see that David's song is not just his. It's our song too. David's song is our song. And David's God is our God.**

- 1. We have experienced the protection of the Lord. Probably in some ways we are aware of. And likely in many ways of which we are not aware.**
- 2. You can sing with David, Christian,... (Read vs. 2-4)**
- 3. Praise the Lord for His protection!**

## **II. Praise the Lord for answered prayer (2 Samuel 22:5-7).**

**A. David continues to speak of the trouble he has faced in verses 5-6.**

- 1. He calls it "the waves of death." They "encompassed [him]" (vs. 5a).**
- 2. He says that "the torrents of destruction assailed [him]" (vs. 5b).**
- 3. The "cords of Sheol entangled [him]" (vs. 6a).**
- 4. The "snares of death confronted [him]" (vs. 6b).**
- 5. And we know from studying the life of David that all of that is true, isn't it?**

**B. So, what did David do?**

- 1. Look at verse 7. "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called."**
- 2. What did David do? He called upon the Lord. And not just THE Lord. Though He is certainly that. He is MY God, David says.**
- 3. We saw last week in 1 Samuel 21 that David sought the face of the Lord in the midst of a three-year famine in Israel.**
- 4. When the Philistines were attacking Keilah and robbing the threshing floors, David sought the Lord to determine whether he should attack the Philistines in response (1 Sam. 23).**
- 5. And after Saul's death, David inquired of the Lord whether he should return to Judah (2 Sam. 2).**

**6. Time after time throughout David's life, we have seen him do exactly what he says here that he did. We've seen him call upon the Lord.**

**C. And how did the Lord respond?**

- 1. David says, "From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears."**
- 2. In the Old Testament, the temple (particularly the throne of God) is the place where God hears cries of distress and issues divine verdicts (Greear, 250).**
- 3. Think about any other king seated on his throne. He would likely be too busy or consumed with other things to hear someone's cry. But David's cry came to God's ears. The Lord heard him.**
- 4. What a wonderful comfort and encouragement this must have been for David. To know that the Lord heard his voice. His cries came to his ears.**

**D. It's true that David was a pretty important person in the Old Testament. But we know that the Lord also hears our voice. Our cries come to his ears.**

- 1. It was in his distress that David called upon the Lord. Have you ever been in distress? What did you do? Worry? Call for help? Buckle down and work harder? David "called upon the LORD."**
- 2. And the Lord heard him! I want you to know this morning that the Lord hears your voice too. Your cries come to his ears. As His child, He invites you to boldly come before His throne of grace in prayer. All because of what Jesus did for you on the cross. You've been given access to God. You've been brought near to God. Take advantage of that. Call upon the Lord. Cry out to the Lord. He desires to hear from you.**

Praise the Lord for His protection. Praise the Lord for answered prayer.  
Number 3...

### III. Praise the Lord for His justice (2 Samuel 22:8-20).

#### A. See, God didn't just hear David's cry. He acted on David's behalf.

1. Look at the imagery David uses here. "The earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry" (vs. 8).
  - a. I wonder, does it bother you that David describes God as angry?
  - b. We tend to think of anger as a negative emotion. And often it is. Especially for us. It certainly can bring out and expose the sin in our hearts.
  - c. But anger isn't always bad. And it certainly isn't bad when we're talking about God.
  - d. It's actually a good thing that God gets angry. Can you imagine if God were indifferent to sin and injustice? What kind of God would He be? Not a very good God.
  - e. If someone does something to harm my child, guess what, that makes me angry.
  - f. God is David's God. David is God's anointed. It makes sense that someone trying to harm David would make God angry. It wouldn't make sense if God didn't care. God cares. He is a God of righteousness and justice.
2. Look at the imagery David uses for God's anger in verse 9: "Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him." God doesn't play around when it comes to harming those who are His.
3. Notice in verse 14 that God's anger led to action. "The Most High **UTTERED HIS VOICE**. And He **SENT OUT** arrows and **SCATTERED THEM**; lightning, and **ROUTED THEM**." This is certainly what we've seen throughout David's life and reign as king, isn't it?
4. The Lord gave Him victory over all his enemies.

5. David says, "[The LORD] rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me" (vs. 18). That's some self-awareness on the part of Israel's king, isn't it? David's enemies certainly were too mighty for him. But they were not too mighty for the Lord.
6. Look at verse 20. (Read vs. 20) David says that the Lord delighted in him. Wow! It's amazing that this could be said about the way that the God of the universe views a human being. It's true that there was a special relationship between God and David because David was God's anointed. God made a covenant with David. God's heart was for David.

#### B. But I want you to know this morning, Christian, that God's heart is for you too.

1. You are His. And He is yours. You belong to Him. And He belongs to you.
2. God delights in you. He has entered into covenant with you too. A new covenant. A covenant that has been sealed by the precious blood of Jesus.
3. Don't you think you ought to worship Him? Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord for His protection. Praise the Lord for answered prayer. Praise the Lord for His justice. And number 4...

### IV. Praise the Lord for His righteousness (2 Samuel 22:21-31).

#### A. This one is tough.

1. Let me read verses 21-25, and you tell me if this describes the David we've been following in the second half of 2 Samuel. (Read vs. 21-25)
2. What do we make of this? This is the guy who **TOOK** Bathsheba and then had her husband Uriah killed to cover his sin.

3. Now he says that the Lord dealt with him according to his righteousness. He says he has kept the ways of the Lord. He calls himself blameless before the Lord.
4. Some commentators explain David's words here by saying that David must have written this song prior to his sin in chapter 11. And that's possible, but even if so, the author of 2 Samuel places it near the end of the book after having recorded David's sin. Also, we know that David was far from perfect even prior to chapter 11. We saw the seeds of the sin that grew into a full-grown tree with Bathsheba and Uriah long before we ever got to chapter 11.
5. So, I don't think we can explain away David's words here by simply saying that this was written prior to his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah.

**B. I think the key to understanding what David says here is found all the way back in chapter 12 verse 13.**

1. In chapter 12, the prophet Nathan confronted David in his sin. And David repented. David said, "I have sinned against the LORD." We know from Psalm 51 the attitude of David's heart in that moment. David said to the Lord, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Ps. 51:4).
2. And in 2 Samuel 12:13, the prophet Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin."
3. Do you see that? We may still count David's sin against him, but the Lord does not. David was not righteous because he was actually righteous. He was righteous because it was counted to him as righteousness. God cleansed him from his sin. He was made "whiter than snow" as he prays in Psalm 51.

**C. And the same is true for all who are in Christ.**

1. There is not a righteous person in this room this morning. Not you. Not me. Not anyone else. There is none righteous, no not one. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

2. But if you have turned from your sin and placed your trust in Jesus, you have been declared righteous by God. The righteousness of Jesus has been credited to your account. God looks at you and doesn't see your sin anymore. He sees the righteousness of Jesus. Such that you can sing with David, "The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight." Knowing that really it is not your righteousness for which God has rewarded you. But the righteousness of the Lord Jesus.
3. If you are here this morning and you are not yet in Christ, that can be true for you too. If you will turn from your sin and place your trust in Jesus and be reconciled to God your Creator.

Praise the Lord! Number five...

**V. Praise the Lord for His strength (2 Samuel 22:32-46).**

**A. We've read of David's strength as a mighty warrior throughout 1 and 2 Samuel, but David understood that his strength came from the Lord.**

1. He says that God is His strong refuge (vs. 33a).
2. Notice in verse 33 that it is the Lord who has made David's way blameless.
3. David says of God, "He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze" (vs. 35).
4. He says in verse 38... (Read vs. 38)
5. Look at verse 40... (Read vs. 40)
6. The point is that the strength we've seen in David throughout our study of the books of Samuel has come from the Lord. And for that David gives the Lord praise.

**B. David was referring to the strength he received from the Lord militarily, but we also have received strength from the Lord. And for that we owe Him praise.**

1. **In fact, the Lord's strength is made perfect in our weakness. God delights to intervene in our weakness and strengthen us in Him.**
2. **In what ways have you experienced this in your life? Maybe in a time of sickness. Maybe in a time of financial uncertainty. Maybe in a time of despair. I trust many of you could testify this morning to the ways you have experienced the Lord's strengthening in your life.**
3. **Maybe you are in a situation right now where you need the Lord's strength. Ask Him. He loves to give good gifts to His children. He will not forsake you. He will strengthen you.**

Praise the Lord for His strength. And finally...

## **VI. Praise the Lord for His salvation (2 Samuel 22:47-51).**

### **A. David has experienced the Lord's salvation, and for that, he praises the Lord.**

1. **Look at verse 47... (Read vs. 47)**
2. **Verse 50... (Read vs. 50-51)**

### **B. Have you experienced the salvation of the Lord?**

1. **Give Him praise! David's song is your song.**
2. **(Read vs. 47)**
3. **(Read vs. 50-51)**

**Conclusion:** We've seen that David's song is our song. We've said that **David's God is our God, and He is worthy of praise.** We ought to give Him the praise He is due. Our hearts ought to overflow in worship to our great God.

This song also points us to the Lord Jesus. David's song only makes sense fully when we realize that the one it really fits is Jesus. Jesus is the Son of David who perfectly fulfilled everything of which David writes.

Look at verse 51 again. (Read vs. 51) The hope of David's kingdom is the Lord's promise concerning his offspring. And we know that ultimately, Jesus is David's promised offspring. He is the fulfillment of God's covenant with David.

David sang, "I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from guilt" (vs. 24). We talked about how righteousness was credited to David's account, but he was not actually righteous. The Lord Jesus, on the other hand, is the perfectly righteous one. The truly blameless one who kept Himself from guilt. And through repentance and faith, His righteousness has been credited to our account. God looks at us who are in Christ, and instead of seeing our sin, He sees the righteousness of Jesus.

Notice also David's statement in verse 20, "He delighted in me." Surely the Lord did delight in David. And He delights in us as well as His children. But we know that God the Father said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). God delighted in Jesus, the Son of David.

Finally, David says in verse 44, "You kept me as head of the nations." He says, "Foreigners came cringing to me; as soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me" (vs. 45). We're reminded that God's king will be one before whom every knee will bow. This king will rule the world. His rule will extend to all nations. There's certainly some limited sense in which this was fulfilled in David, but it finds its ultimate fulfillment in David's greater son, the Lord Jesus.

He is the true king of the nations. King of kings. And Lord of lords. He is the one to whom all authority in Heaven and earth has been given. And He will rule and reign forever.

As we reflect on David's song, may our hearts overflow in worship to our God. And may we trust in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.