

2 Samuel 22

As we get started this morning I just want to remind you that when we completed chapter 20 of 2 Samuel we really kind of ended the chronological order of this book of the Bible. In chapter 21-24 we have almost like an appendix to the rest of the book or you could say that the author being led by the Holy Spirit was led to record a few more events that took place during the life of David.

Last week in chapter 21 we had the story of the Gibeonites and how they were mistreated and if you remember there was a famine for three years in the land...David then sought the Lord and learned that Saul had mistreated the Gibeonites and if you remember the Israelites had made a covenant to watch over and protect this people group some 400 years before. Saul and his bloodthirsty family had broken that and now the land was experiencing a famine because of it.

David in response went to the Gibeonites and to make a long story short 7 of the relatives of Saul were then hanged as really a payment for the wrongs that had been done and then the Lord worked on behalf of the land.

After this we saw that there were four additional giants that were spoken of and they were the brother of Goliath and the sons of Goliath and these four we saw were killed in battle.

Now as we come to chapter 22 it is almost like David is taking a walk down memory lane as he is now seen recounting the faithfulness and the goodness of God that he had personally experienced in his life. You might say that this was David's heart song written about the Lord's great work in his life.

You might write down Psalm 18 next to this if you write in your Bible for Psalm 18 is nearly identical to what we have here before us today.

If you look at verse 1 with me, it will set the stage for what this chapter encompasses. It says **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.** So we learn here that this was a song that David spoke and it was really kind of a private song we can see as it says he spoke these words to the LORD and you might notice that the word LORD is all in capital letters and when you see that in the Bible it is referring to the covenant name of God which is known as YHWH or Yaweh.

We can also learn here a little about what time this was written during David's life...and I will say there is some debate about when exactly this was written and we'll get to some of that as we work through the text but this was at least written after Saul had died in the battle and we are told here that David had been delivered from his enemies...Notice that Saul was not bundled together with the enemies of his life and I don't think David ever really thought of Saul as an enemy.

So this was spoken to the Lord or sung unto the Lord during a time of peace in the life of David...And we know that David had multiple times in his life that serious and difficult situations had come upon him...It may be that this was after the death of Saul when the people initially made him king and it may be that it was at the end of his life after Absalom had been killed and he had been restored as the king. Either way the same truths applied to his life.

Look at what David says in verses 2-3 which say this ²**And he said:**

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

³The 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.

I want you to notice something about these verses here. David as he is speaking says what?...Does he say that the Lord is my brothers rock, or that the Lord is my friends fortress or does David say that God is HIS PERSONAL rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, salvation, stronghold, refuge and Savior?

I think we need to catch this here that David said these things from his own personal experience with God in life. I would venture to say that David was perhaps one of the characters in the Bible that had the most difficulties in his life and yet through it all the Lord had thoroughly proven Himself to David.

I want you to grab here that David had a personal experience with God in his life. He didn't believe in God just because it was the cool thing to do or because his parents said he should...Instead David had discovered all these things for himself personally as he saw the Lord at work in him.

I would say that David was a man that did not just know about the Lord but he had a personal everyday relationship with the God of the universe. I wonder if we could say that about ourselves? I wonder if we could just look at our lives and all the things we have been through in life what could we say about how the Lord has worked in us?

I know for myself I would immediately say that He is the one that set me free, The Lord is the one that gave me peace in my mind and heart, the Lord is the one that set my feet on solid ground, the Lord is the one that carried me when I had no strength, the Lord is the one that has miraculously worked when the odds were against me.

Can you personally say today that God has showed up in your life in a million ways? If you are here and you can't say that I would simply say that the Lord wants to walk through life with you...that he wants to be your fortress meaning you find your refuge in Him, that He wants to be your shield as you go through life...meaning you can hide behind Him...How many of us are trying to fight the battles of life on our own? WE forget that God will fight for us!

The Lord should be our refuge...Look when life gets all backwards and we don't know how to respond or what to say the best thing we can do is just jump into the arms of our heavenly Father.

I guess this is a little hard to admit but generally we who follow Christ learn the most about our Savior when we are in places of despair and difficulty. How do you learn that God is your protector? Well you watch as He protects you when you are in a hard situation...How do you learn that God is your salvation? You watch as He swoops in and rescues you when you couldn't rescue yourself.

David had been through incredible trials and yet God had proven Himself faithful...and I want to just encourage you today that if you are here and life is falling apart for you that you would just cry out to the Lord and ask Him to meet you and help you and I believe as you surrender to Him in life that He will show how good and how gracious He is.

And so David as he was thinking about all the Lord had done and been to him in life he then in verse 4 simply says ⁴I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies. I think if you have been through much in life then you know that the Lord is greatly to be praised, that He is worthy of our praise as He saves us from so many of the situations that we find ourselves.

Look at verses 5-7 with me which say ⁵“When the waves of death surrounded me,
The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.
⁶The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.
⁷In 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.

I’m not sure if you have ever felt like this in your life before but I appreciate it that we can see that David says that he was afraid. I think if you just look in the Bible you can see that fear is unfortunately part of life, it is an emotion that all of us encounter at some point or another.

Notice though what David does when he is faced with fear and with the ungodly coming after him and the sorrows of Sheol which is the place of the dead and the snares of death were upon him.

He says that in his distress he called upon the Lord...that he cried out to God and the Lord heard from His temple and heard his cry.

So often I think that you and I need to learn to call upon the name of the Lord, that we need to seek His face, that we need to bring our fears and our anxieties to Him. Over in Philippians 4:6-7 the Word says this **⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.** David gives us a great example of this as he simply called out to the Lord and the Lord we are told responded.

I want you to just understand that when you cry out to Jesus your words do not fall on deaf ears...At times it may seem in your mind like the Lord is not responding but remember the Lord works outside of how you and I do...He is listening, He is walking through things with you, He is building you in the faith and understand there is a purpose for the trials you are facing.

So David is seen crying out to the Lord in his struggles and the Lord was and is hearing him and then look with me at verses 8-16 which say ⁸**“Then the earth shook and trembled;**

The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken,
Because He was angry.

⁹Smoke went up from His nostrils,
And devouring fire from His mouth;
Coals were kindled by it.

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

¹¹He 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**

I think its fairly obvious here that David is simply attempting to provide a picture of how awesome and powerful the Lord had been in his life. David was seen crying out to the Lord, he was fearful, people were after him on numerous occasions in his life and as he called out to God the Lord had intervened repeatedly.

It was as if God would go and shake the foundations of the earth on behalf of David, or that the heavens were bowed down and the Lord had thundered from heaven and uttered His voice. The point is that when David called out God responded and I think we can see this repeatedly in the life of David as we look at his story.

We might remember when the Lord showed up in his life as he fought the giant Goliath, or how about the time when Saul was chasing after him and David was hiding in a cave and God put it on Saul's heart to go into that very cave to relieve himself and David watched as the Lord intervened. Or how about the times that Saul had thrown the spears

at David and had missed him allowing him to escape, or the friendship that God allowed him to have with Jonathon and I think that was perhaps just the tip of the iceberg.

The point David is making is that God repeatedly intervened in powerful ways in his life and I hope that you can honestly sit here today and you can say if it was not for God I don't know where I would be or whether I would be alive.

I suppose I would say that my experience with Christ and your experience with the Lord and how you have seen Him intervene in your life are going to be very different...We each experience the Lord differently in our lives...I think if we have the right heart its very easy to see that the Lord has stepped in and helped us when we cried out to Him.

I want to point out something to you in verse 8 where it says the words **Because He was angry.** Now this is speaking about God and I think we should just keep in mind that when we go through trials and people try and take advantage of us and they mistreat us that there is a certain righteous anger from the Lord. I mean if you think about it naturally you would probably say that if someone was coming against your kid what would you do? Well, you would probably take it personally and intervene in any possible way...and I believe that our good heavenly Father gets angry when people come against His kids.

I think we see an example of this when Saul who became Paul in the NT was confronted by the Lord and if you remember the Lord spoke to him and said **“Why are you persecuting me”** and that tells us that the Lord noticed when Saul was persecuting the believers and that the Lord took it personally.

Look at verses 17-20 which say 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.

Notice here how many times David says that God did something for him. He says that He being God sent from above, that He took me, that He drew me out of many waters, that He delivered me from my strong enemy...He then says in verses 19-20 that the Lord was his support and that He brought me into a broad place and delivered me.

David is here taking zero credit for how things had turned out in his life. He knew that all that happened was because God had showed up in his life to rescue him and help him. I think you and I need to be careful that we give the credit where the credit is due and certainly its not to us as we go through life. The Lord is the One that has done amazing things in us and through us.

David knew that his enemies and the situations he faced were too strong for him...have you ever felt like that in your life? Like what you were facing was far beyond what you could ever dream of working through? I believe that our God specializes in those times in our lives and He does move in us and through us and we should remember that the Lord can move mountains, and He can do the impossible and He does work on our behalf.

Notice at the end of verse 20 and then we'll move on that David says this **He delivered me because He delighted in me.** Have you ever thought about how the Lord delights in you? Have you ever just stopped and thought about how much the Lord loves you? Have you ever stopped and thought about how you are a treasure unto the Lord?

Listen to Psalm 139:17-18 which say this **How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.** I want you to know today that the Lord absolutely delights in you! The Lord is constantly thinking about you personally. And keep in mind that Jesus loved you so much that He went to the cross for you. That's some serious love because you and I when Jesus went to the cross were enemies of Him and yet He thought so much of us that He laid down His life on our behalf.

You know sometimes in life we can feel pretty alone, and we can feel like no one really cares and we can feel like God may not delight in us but I want you to know that you have a friend in Jesus, that you have a Father in heaven that loves you so much and He thinks of you regularly.

Perhaps today you just need to collapse into the arms of Jesus...that's kind of the idea I get when I see how David cried out to the Lord...Maybe you are here and you are just holding on to so much stress and so much pain and so much trauma in your life and maybe right now you just need to fall into the arms of your loving Savior...I pray you will do that right here and now and the Spirit of God will just work in you and you will sense the Lord right there with you.

Well let's move on here if you look at verses 21-25 which say

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.

Now when we first take a look at this section here we might think that David is being quite prideful...I mean who says that they have been rewarded according to their righteousness and according to how clean our hands are and who can truly say I have kept the ways of the Lord and I have not departed from His ways and who can say I am blameless before Him and I have kept myself from iniquity?

I mean the Bible does make it clear in Romans 3:23 when it says

²³ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** Let's just be real here that none of us could say what David is saying here in these verses if we honestly looked at ourselves...the Bible even says all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

We might look at this and say well this must have been written before David committed his sin with Bathsheba and before he had all the failures with his family...but I would just remind you that David before

this had made mistakes in his life. He had lied when he came to the priest at Nob saying Saul had sent him when he was clearly running for his life and as a result that priest ended up dying. He had also feigned that he was insane before a king as he drooled on himself. He had even killed those who were innocent and then come before a foreign king and lied saying it was the people of Israel he was killing.

The point is that David was a sinner there was no getting around it and how could anyone sit there and say they have done something in their life to earn all these blessings David speaks of.

I think we find a clue here in the text if you just look at verse 25 if you look at that again it says

²⁵Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes. I think that David said all this in light of what God had done in his life...I don't think David is saying I have accomplished all these things but he is saying that in the eyes of the LORD I am clean. He is speaking from the experience he had that God had forgiven and cleansed him from all his sin.

I think that one of the hardest things that you and I as believers in Christ might wrestle with is that if we are in Christ our sins are truly washed away. In Christ as we stand before the Father and the Father looks at us the only thing He sees is Righteousness...Not our own righteousness but the righteousness that Jesus places upon us the moment that we trust in Him with our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Remember what happened in David's life after he committed his sin with Bathsheba and had her husband killed? Nathan confronted him about it and then David confessed and if you remember Nathan told

David that he would not die for his sin and that the Lord had put away his sin. David spoke of this over in Psalm 32:1-2 when he said **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Remember that in Christ our sins are forgiven, we are washed clean, it is as if we never sinned. So you and I should also be able to say what David said here in these verses...That we DO stand rightly before God **not on our own merits** but based on what Christ has done in our lives. In Christ it truly is as if we never sinned.

We'll move on here in a second but I just want to say very clearly here that if you do not have Jesus Christ in your life then you are sitting here in your sin and because of your sin the Bible says that the wages you will receive are death and damnation. Because of your sin you are seen as imperfect and the perfect Creator cannot have you in His presence.

The good news though is that Jesus came to this earth, lived a perfect life and then paid the price for your sins by dying on the cross and the Bible is clear that if an individual comes to Jesus Christ by faith and they turn from their sins and ask for His forgiveness that they will be forgiven and they will have a right relationship with the Father and they will be granted an eternity in heaven.

The question is have you accepted Jesus Christ in your life? And if you haven't I would just tell you that today is the day that you can place your faith in Jesus and we will give you that opportunity at the end of the service.

Let's move on here and we need to move a little quicker here if you look at verses 26-28 which say 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.

This may remind you of some of the beatitudes that Jesus shared in what is called the Sermon on the Mount and you know I think that in life as a believer in Christ you and I often will receive that which we sow.

If we choose to be merciful to others I believe we often can see how merciful that God has been in our lives and when we are blameless in life we begin to see the blamelessness of God being worked out in our lives and when we are pure God shows Himself as being pure.

At the same time when people choose to sow to their flesh, when they live a life of mischief and sinfulness and pride the Lord is clearly against that person...and I think that David in his life had learned that humility is the place to be and he lived in that place of just calling out to the Lord and realizing he needed to be fully dependent on the mercy of God.

So often what keeps a person from truly coming to Christ and enjoying the abundant life that is found in Him is their pride. God always resists the proud and always gives grace to the humble.

Look at verses 29-31 which say 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.

David as he went through life had discovered that God’s presence in his life was like a lamp, that the Lord so often had shown him the way in those times of great distress and darkness.

I think likewise that you and I as we experience the grace of Jesus in our lives should also be able to say that the Lord has shown us the way. Would you agree that God so often makes a way when things seem impossible? I know that there have been times in my life that I have been faced with situations that I don’t really know what to do and as I have sought the Lord and sought His Word He has shown me the path to take.

David had discovered that as he followed the Lord that he could do anything. David if you remember was said to have slain his ten’s of thousands. David had fought the giant and won. David had seen God deliver him over and over when everything seemed like it was going to end in death.

David as he went through life discovered that the way of God was perfect, that His Word to him was proven and that God was a shield to all those that have trusted in Him.

That’s quite a verse there and you might just underline verse 31 and meditate on it...If God’s way is perfect then we should strive to stay in

that place of reliance upon Him...We should know that His Word is always proven true and that's why its so important that we seek His council in the Word on a regular basis. As we uphold His Word we will see that He is indeed faithful.

We should also learn to hide behind the Lord when we face difficult times. To allow the Lord to be the one to protect us and to work in our lives and to minister to us.

I would say its pretty awesome to have a shield like the Lord in our lives as we go through this difficult world.

Look at verses 32-35 which say 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.

David asks a question saying who is a rock except our God? As I have gone through life and you could probably attest to this as well but I have found that when I choose to build my life on anything other than Christ that when the difficulties of this world come along I quickly crumble...However when I build myself on Him and the foundation that Jesus has laid for me on the cross I find that I can stand when I shouldn't be able to... The Lord is the great stability of our lives isn't He?

David says that God is his strength and power and that He makes his feet like the feet of a deer and he sets David on high places...Perhaps David was thinking of a deer like animal called the Ibex native to the lands of Israel and how the Ibex can climb on the face of a mountain they are incredible animals really and so David is just saying that God has seen him through every situation.

Notice again that David attributes all success to who? To the Lord not to himself.

Look at verses 36-43 which say 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.

It's clear that David had experienced the incredible work of God in his life and in particular he had seen it in the battles that he faced. He had seen God give him the victory as he pursued his enemies and perhaps he was thinking of the times he had chased after the Philistines and defeated them.

Perhaps today you have a battle in your life that you are facing. Whether it's a personal battle with your flesh, or a spiritual battle in your mind or a situation within your family or at your work place. I would just encourage you to seek the Lord and His power in your life. You and I we need the Holy Spirit to be at work in us don't we?

And I think sometimes that we work so hard to fight the battles of life in our own strength...we can try to figure things out in our own understanding, we can try to shield ourselves from the battles we need to face. **We must learn that the battle is not ours to fight if we are in Christ.**

Look at verses 44-46 which say 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.

These verses make me sense that this was written later in David's life as he speaks of how God had kept him as the head of the nations knowing that God had been the one to keep him as the king...David

was probably just amazed that God had done so much on his behalf as he saw the Lord make even the foreigners submit to his authority.

And then look how David ends this chapter in verses 47-51 which say

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.”

What else could David do as he is recounting all the Lord had done in his life and how the Lord had shown up in so many ways...David simply praises the Lord.

I believe very firmly that as you and I cry out to the Lord and He works so powerfully on our behalf that we should be able to say Blessed be the Rock, that the Lord does live! That he is our salvation, that He protects us and watches over us and subdues our enemies before us. And because of all the Lord has done we should give thanks unto Him.

Today as we are closing here I can't help but think that there may be some here in our midst today that are going through a tremendous time in your life. And perhaps as you are here today you are just crying out in your soul that the Lord would help you as you are in the battle and I'm going to do something a little unorthodox here but I'm going to ask you that if you are here today and you are just going through it that you would stand up where you are and we as your church family would like to just lay hands on you and pray for you. So if that's you would you be so bold as to stand where you are...

Those of you that are around these brothers and sisters would you just stand and lay hands on them and I'm going to just pray and ask that the Lord would work in these individuals lives and show His power and authority to that individual and that His Spirit would just be poured out on them.

Pray

As we close I believe its imperative that we would worship Jesus and lift His name on high.

Let's worship our king.

2 Samuel 22 “Who Does the Battle Belong To?”

Cross References

Verses 5-7

Philippians 4:6-7

Verses 17-20

Psalms 139:17-18

Verses 21-25

Romans 3:23

Psalms 32:1-2