

1/10/10

David's Praise Song To God
2Sam. 22:1-51

All of our founding fathers are recorded in history as giving praise to God for the founding of our nation, from George Washington to Lincoln.

What we have before us is the thanksgiving song by way of praise in the words of David, for his deliverance by God.

There are other songs of thankful praise to God for deliverance, recorded in the Bible.

1. The song of Moses for God's destruction of the Egyptian army, in the Red Sea. Ex. 15:1-21
2. Moses' song to the second generation going into the land of promise about the greatness to God and the covenant they were to hold to. Deut. 32-33
3. Some see Hannah's song of thanks and praise, at the beginning of the book of Samuel and David's song at the end, as two book-ends, binding the book together.

The thanksgiving song of David to God by way of praise for his deliverance falls into a simple division. 2Sam. 22:1-51

- I. The introduction to the song. vs. 1-4
- II. The body of the song. vs. 5-46
- III. The conclusion of the song. vs. 47-51

I. The introduction to the song. vs. 1-4

A. The superscription. vs. 1

1. The song is attributed to David. vs. 1a
 - a. David was the king of Israel and also called the "anointed of God and sweet Psalmist of Israel". 2Sm. 23:1e-f
 - b. David spoke the words to the LORD "Yahweh".
 - 1) The covenant God.
 - 2) The One Who anointed David as king.
 - c. The words David spoke to Yahweh were of a song "shiy'r" is used in various ways.
 - 1) For a lyric song.
 - 2) For a religious song.
 - 3) For a song of levitical choirs.
 - e. There are fifteen psalms (120-134) with this title, called the "Psalms of Degrees or Ascents" which were sung by the Jewish people in their pilgrimage up to Jerusalem on the Feast required by law.
 - * Every male Jew was to present himself three times a year at Jerusalem, the Feast of Unleaven, which included Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacle. Deut 16:16

- f. This song is identical to Psalm 18, with very few variations.
 - * There are varied opinions as to which came first, most believe this is the original one.
- 2. The time period is stated by two factors. vs. 1b-c
 - a. The first is a general and larger time period, “on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies” vs. 1b
 - b. The second is specific, “and from the hand of Saul.” vs. 1c
 - c. This would encompass from his exile running from Saul, till after he was made king by both the north and Jerusalem became the capital!
- B. The declaration of praise for deliverance. vs. 2-4
 - 1. David saw the Lord as his protection, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. vs. 2
 - a. The language of David is very picturesque and figurative of God.
 - 1) The image of a rock is one of the most used for God in the Bible, indicating protection and strength.
 - 2) “The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the **conies**.” Ps. 104:18 KJV

- 3) “The **conies** are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks.” Prov. 30:26 KJV
- b. Perhaps thinking when he hid in the wilderness from Saul!
 - 1) David emphasized his personal dependence and benefit by “my”, three times in verse two.
 - 2) David will use it five more times. vs. 3-7
- 2. David saw God as his complete confidence for life. vs. 3
 - a. The God of my strength, in whom I will trust. vs. 3a-b
 - b. My shield and the horn of my salvation. vs. 3c
 - c. My stronghold and my refuge. vs. 3d
 - d. My Savior, You save me from violence. vs. 3e-f
- 3. David praise God for His faithfulness. vs. 4
 - a. To depend on, “I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised.” vs. 4a-b
 - 1) The word praise “halal” means to boast and glory.
 - 2) The word indicates a form of the worship of God.
 - b. To be rescued, “So shall I be saved from my enemies.” vs. 4c

* Three times David makes his relationship to God again personal by the pronoun “I”. vs. 3-4

Illustration

Washington 1889, Preamble. “We the People of the State of Washington , grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution.”

* Every state in the Union has a preamble like this one, acknowledging God and Jesus!

Application

1. Thank God that all of us don’t have to be of a certain class or pedigree, for God to hear us.
 - a. God’s ear is open to all who will call on His name. Rom. 10:13
 - b. God respects no person. Acts 10:34
 - c. God rejects nobody, regardless of how vile or depraved they are, if they call for salvation. 2Pet. 3:9
2. Aren’t you glad that you do not have to be a good singer to worship God.
 - a. God delights in a joyful noise to Him.
 - * To the Chief Musician. A Song. A Psalm.
Make a **joyful** shout to God, all the earth!
Ps. 66:1
 - b. God is to be worshipped in every way. Ps. 150:1-6
 - * Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty

firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

- c. Listen to Isaiah “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who **inhabits** eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Is. 57:15
3. Jesus is to be our complete confidence in every situation of life, having a song in our hearts.
 - a. By being filled with the Holy Spirit constantly, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph. 5:18-20
 - b. By being full of the word, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom,

teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual **songs**, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3:16

- c. “The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.” Rev. 4:8-11

The introduction sets the stage for God’s faithfulness to David!

II. The body of the song. vs. 5-46

- A. The description of the miraculous deliverance. vs. 5-20
1. The dangers of David were great. vs. 5-6
 - a. Realizing his mortality, “When the waves of death surrounded me.” vs. 5a

- b. Resisting sin, “The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.” vs. 5b
- c. The reality of death was intensely present, “The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.” vs. 6
 - 1) The figurative language is very vivid and powerful, remember Saul tried to kill David five times with his spear! 1Sam. 18-20
 - 2) Also in his battles for the Lord, as men were dying all around him, Sheol, the place of departed spirits.
 - 3) The words of Jesus tells us of the two-fold compartment that the Old Testament kept silent. Lk. 16
2. The confident hope of David was in God. vs. 7
 - a. He recognized his need of help, “In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God.” vs. 7a-b
 - 1) The word distress “tsar” means to be in a narrow and tight place.
 - 2) The idea is one of anxiety and pressure, perhaps as he fled out the window of his house, as Saul sent men to kill David. 1Sam. 19:11-15
 - b. He realized his words were heeded, “He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.” vs. 7c-d

3. The miraculous intervention was manifested. vs. 8-20
- a. The anger of God against David's enemies is poetically described by the forces of nature, a storm. vs. 8-9
- 1) Through an earthquake, "Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry." vs. 8
 - 2) The natural forces are recognized as a Theophany of God of Divine judgment, "Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it." vs. 9
* The metaphor of a storm for God is common. 1Kings 19:11-12, Job 38:1, Joel 2:10-11, Nah. 1:3-6, Acts 2:2
 - 3) The third person pronoun "He, Him, His", is mentioned 20 times in this section, focusing on God! vs. 8-20
- b. The personal involvement of God is described poetically and figurative. vs. 10-16
- 1) The lack of sun, "He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet." vs. 10

- 2) The blowing wind, "He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind." vs. 11
* A cherub is one of the angelic being in heaven that are associated with the throne and government of God.
 - 3) The torrential rain, "He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters and thick clouds of the skies." vs. 12
 - 4) The lightning, "From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled." vs. 13
 - 5) The thunder, "The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice." vs. 14
 - 6) Lightning bolts, "He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them." vs. 15
 - 7) The sea was powerfully disturbed, "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." vs. 16
- c. The complete deliverance of David by God in heaven. vs. 17-20

- 1) God rescued David out of these perils, “He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.” vs. 17
- 2) God was stronger than David’s enemies, “He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me.” vs. 18
- 3) God strengthened David in his difficulties, “They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support.” vs. 19
- 4) God gave to David stability, “He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.” vs. 20

B. The expression of obedience in relation to deliverance. vs. 21-30

* This certainly has to be before his fall with Bathsheba. Ps. 32, 51

1. The righteous life of David before God. vs. 21-24
 - a. His integrity, “The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.” vs. 21
 - b. His commitment, “For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not

wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.” vs. 22-23

- c. His self-discipline, “I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.” vs. 24
2. The confidence of David’s right standing before God. vs. 25-30
 - a. God is just, “Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes.” vs. 25
 - b. God is a righteous judge. vs. 26-28
 - 1) First, “With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless.” vs. 26
 - 2) Second, “With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.” vs. 27
 - 3) Third, “You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.” vs. 28
 - c. God was his guide to spiritual truth. vs. 29
 - 1) He illuminates the truth of His word, “For You are my lamp, O LORD.” vs. 29a-b

- 2) He gives understanding of His word, “The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.” vs. 29c
- d. God made him courageous. vs. 30
 - 1) In the midst of battle, “For by You I can run against a troop.” vs. 30a
 - 2) In the strength of God, “By my God I can leap over a wall.” vs. 30b

C. The exaltation of God by David for the deliverance. vs. 31-46

- 1. The boasting of David was in God. vs. 31-37
 - a. To be hopeful, “As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.” vs. 31
 - b. To seek no other, “For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?” vs. 32
 - c. To strengthen him, “God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect.” vs. 33
 - d. To make him fast, “He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places.” vs. 34
 - e. To be a fierce warrior, “He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.” vs. 35

- f. To protect and preserve him, “You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.” vs. 36
- g. To make him stable, “You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.” vs. 37
- 2. The victory of David was due to God. vs. 38-46
 - a. To pursue and defeat the enemy, “I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet.” vs. 38-39
 - b. To subdue his enemies, “For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me. You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me. They looked, but there was none to save; Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them. 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.” vs. 40-43

- c. To rule over Israel and his enemies,
 “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. The foreigners submit to me; As
 soon as they hear, they obey me. The
 foreigners fade away, And come
 frightened from their hideouts.” vs.
44-46

* Perhaps as David fought against the
 Philistines, to deliver Keilah, their
 betrayal of him, Saul pursuing him
 and Jonathan coming to encourage
 David, that he would be king.
1Sam. 23

Illustration

A Picture was made of my son by a good friend of
 ours, Robin Hanley, when he was deployed to Iraq
 in 2005, He is kneeling over the American flag
 ready to engage the enemy. And David’s mighty
 man are all around him, as a cloud of witness. The
 Scripture under it was, Ps. 18:28-34, the very same
 one God had given to my wife regarding our son,
 as he went off to Iraq. 2Sam. 22:29-35

Application

1. The believer needs the Lord for all the pressures
 of life that tend to put fear in our hearts and minds.

- a. The pressure of earning a living to provide
 for the family.
 b. The pressure of raising children and dealing
 with their rebellions by prayer, the word and
 consequences.
 c. The pressure of not giving in to the worldly
 influence to destroy your walk with Jesus
 and your marriage.
 d. The pressure of dealing with illnesses and
 the normal realities of aging.

* Paul says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in
 everything by prayer and supplication,
 with thanksgiving, let your requests be
 made known to God; and the peace of
 God, which surpasses all understanding,
 will guard your hearts and minds through
 Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7

2. The believer needs their faith and hope in God,
 as they are walking and abiding in Christ, to
 deliver them from every situation.
- a. By seeking Him for direction.
 * “Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
 And lean not on your own understanding;
 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And
 He shall direct your paths. Do not be
 wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD
 and depart from evil.” Prov. 3:5-7
- b. By seeking God’s wisdom, not mine.
 * “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask
 of God, who gives to all liberally and
 without reproach, and it will be given to

him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” Ja. 1:5-8

- c. By knowing Jesus never tempts me but only tests me and enable me to pass the test.

* “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1Cor. 10:12-13

3. The confidence of our prayers is that we are living out the word of God and not being hypocrites.

- a. “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” 1Jn. 5:14-15

1) Sin hinders our prayers. Ps. 66:18, Is. 59:1-2

2) Bad marital relations. 1Pet. 3:7

- b. “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of

judgment; because as He is, so are we in this **world.**” 1Jn. 4:17

4. The believer always glories in the Lord Jesus Christ, not his Pastor, church, denomination or movement.

- a. “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph. 3:14-21

- b. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unreachable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” For of Him

and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-36

- c. “I can do all **things** through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13

The body of the song describes the faithfulness of God to David!

III. The conclusion of the song. vs. 47-51

- A. The praise of God for His uniqueness, as a person. vs. 47
1. He is not like the lifeless gods of the heathen, “The LORD lives! vs. 47a
 - a. God is the source of all life.
 - b. God created man after His image and likeness. Gen. 1:26
 2. He is personal, “Blessed be my Rock!” vs. 47b
 - a. The expression blessed “barak”, is one of gratitude and adoration, “my”.
 - b. The idea is that of being worthy of worship.
 3. He is supreme, “Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!” vs. 47c-d
 - a. No one is to be placed above God, exalted “ruwm”.
 - b. No other can save lost man, “the Rock of my salvation.”

- B. The praise of God for His justice. vs. 48
1. He is a defender, “It is God who avenges me.” vs. 48a
 2. He is a conqueror, “And subdues the peoples under me.” vs. 48b
- C. The praise of God for His protective deliverance. vs. 49
1. Against enemies, “He delivers me from my enemies.” vs. 49a
 2. Against plots, “You also lift me up above those who rise against me.” vs. 49b
 3. Against violence, “You have delivered me from the violent man.” vs. 49c
- D. The praise of God for His worth to be worshipped by all. vs. 50
1. Showing gratitude, “Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles.” vs. 50a-b
 - * David is speaking about the Kingdom of God, beyond the Jews.
 2. Singing worship, “And sing praises to Your name.” vs. 50c
 - * Paul quotes this for the Gentile and in the Psalm. Rom. 15:9, Ps. 18:49
- E. The praise of God for His steadfast love. vs. 51

1. Resulting in great assurance, “He is the tower of salvation to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed.” vs. 51a-b
2. Regarding those in covenant, “To David and his descendants forevermore.” vs. 51c

Illustration

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world’s law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view ... it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!

* Patrick Henry, that patriot and Founding Father of our country said: “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ”.

Application

1. There is but One God, the God of the Bible, according to His own words.
 - a. The Father make the declaration in the Old Testament, “For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD, and there is no other. I have not

- spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, ‘Seek Me in vain’; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. “Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.” Is. 45:18-22
- b. Jesus is worshipped as God in the New Testament as God, “Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jn. 20:27-28
 - c. Jesus is called God, “And we know that the Son of **God** has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true **God** and eternal life.” 1Jn. 5:20

2. Jesus is the only One that can bring man to God the Father.

- a. "I am the way, the truth and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by Me." Jn. 14:6
- b. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other **name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12
- c. "For there is one God and one **Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." 1Tim. 2:5

3. Therefore the only One Who is to be worshipped as God and given praise by man, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

- a. "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a

Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." Heb. 1:1-6

- b. "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Rev. 5:9-13

The conclusion of the song summarized the faithfulness of God!

Conclusion

Remember the thanksgiving song of David to God by way of praise for his deliverance:

- I.** The introduction of the song sets the stage for God's faithfulness to David!
- II.** The body of the song describes the faithfulness of God to David!
- III.** The conclusion of the song summarized the faithfulness of God!