

King David

Worship

2 Samuel 22

September 15, 2019 am

HDBC

Worship is the duty of ever follower of Christ. We worship God because He is worthy of our worship. His character, his person, his position, his power all call for a worship response by everyone and everything. My purpose in life is the glory of God. Worship is one clear way to glorify God.

Worship happens in all kinds of ways.

Group and private worship. Loud and active or still and quiet.

Planned or spontaneous. Response to something God did, or not.

David experienced them all.

He is beginning to age. The stress of his life along with years that are mounting up were surely taking their toll on David. His arms are not as strong as they once were. His face is no longer young and handsome. It contains the lines and wrinkles formed by years of stressful living. His eyes are not as sharp as they were when he first began to watch his father's sheep.

He has experienced highs and lows. He is the king of Israel and that brings with it power, prestige and a level of comfort. But it has not been easy. He is now living in the **shadow of three life-experiences** that have taken a toll. Three things that continue to weigh on him.

1. Death of his son, Absalom, after Absalom's rebellion
2. Three-year draught and famine over the nation
3. Renewed warfare with his ancient foes, the Philistines (see chapter 21)

These are three things that could have destroyed him, but they do not. But, he is weary. 2 Samuel 21:15 explicitly says it. **David became weary**. However, he does not give up or give in. Rather, he takes a long look at his life. What he sees causes him to break out into a song of worship, for he sees the sovereign hand of God rescuing, sustaining and providing for him again and again.

2 Samuel 22 looks like it should be in Psalms. In fact, it is. Psalm 18 is essentially this same song of praise. It is found here in 2 Samuel so we can see it in the context of David's life. This is a long chapter and we will not be able to cover it all. I think that's ok. When we take a birds-eye view, six themes woven through this song seem to emerge. So let's look at those six.

1. God is my defender, when times are tough (2-20).

Throughout the song, David reminds us of the greatness of God. And, he does so, by showing God's willingness to step in and be David's defender when times were tough. Look at verses 2-3. **Read 2-3**

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge. (2-3)

Each of these lines carries a unique picture of God as a defender and protector. Through a number of personal and national crises, God had proven Himself to David. **Read 4-7**

Feel the passion in David's words . . . ((7)

In my distress I called upon the Lord. Yes, I cried to my God; And from His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for help came into His ears.

David knew God not as a distant deity who was preoccupied with taking care of other galaxies or managing the minutia of His creation, but as a personal, powerful, loving God. David prayed and God HEARD. Those desperate cries for help did not fall on deaf ears.

Note how God responded. Read 22:7-19. WOW. The response was quick, purposeful and mighty. God was willing to **move heaven and earth** to come to his aid. The enemies of David were trying to finish him off (19) but the Lord would not let them succeed.

Why is the Lord so willing to move heaven and earth to come to our aid. Why would He cause such a fuss to protect us? The answer is in **verse 20.**

He rescued me because He delighted in me. That is just too awesome.

God's role of defending us is not a burden to Him. He does not do this grudgingly. It is not a burden to defend one in whom you delight.

2. God is my rewarder when I do what is right (21-28).

David reviews the ways God has blessed him and points out that the rewards of God corresponded to David's choosing to do what was right.

The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness. According to the cleanliness of my hands He has recompensed me. (21)

David listed the ways he honored and obeyed the Lord. (22-24) *Therefore* the Lord responded with rewards and blessing. We know that David did not always do it right. He often blew it big time. Therefore, he was in a great position to see the connection between obedience and blessing. Because he was not always obedient, he could look over his life and see the difference.

This truth does not negate the place of grace and mercy in how God relates to us. We are all recipients of those things. But, there is a direct connection between our faithfulness and God's reward. Sometime those rewards will not be distributed until heaven, but sometimes we enjoy them in this life.

3. God is my light, when the way is dark. (29)

For You are my lamp, O Lord; And the Lord illumines my darkness. (29)

There are times when the darkness **envelopes us so heavily** that it brings a paralyzing fear. We freeze, unable to move for fear of the unknown. We would love to move forward but we just can see where to step. David said the Lord was his lamp. Notice that he did not say the Lord would provide a lamp, but that the Lord **was his lamp**.

This means we need to stay close to the Lord. He is the source of light. He does not simply provide it, he is it. What is the light of God like? In my experience it is **more like a flashlight than a floodlight**. He tends to give us just enough light to keep us moving in the right direction, but seldom shines the light too far out in front. If he did, we would be tempted to focus on that which is far off, further down the road, than on simply taking the next step.

In Elisabeth Elliot's book, ***Suffering is Never for Nothing*** she related one of the things that helped her move forward in the darkness that overshadowed her after her husband was killed, along with four other missionaries in 1956. She remembered a simple saying that she heard as a child. ***Do the next thing.*** She said that simply formula is what provided a sense of peace and purpose to keep moving forward during that difficult time. I would add this . . . God generally gives us enough light to just ***do the next thing.***

4. God is my strength when I am weak. (30-40)

For by You I can run upon a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall. Let me remind you that these are David's poetic words used to illustrate how God had strengthened him during times of battle. I would be hesitant to use this verse as a proof-text that you could be able to run fast or jump high!

David is simply reminded us that God is the source of strength when we are weak. In these verses David offers a number of word pictures that point to God's strength when we are weak. He is the one who makes our feet secure, our hands steady and our arms strong.

There are times when we have neither the physical, mental or emotional strength to move forward. In those times we must remember that God is our strength. He enables us to do what we could not do. David said . . .

God is my defender, when times are tough!

God is my rewarder when I do what is right!

God is my light when the way is dark!

God is my strength when I am weak?

5. God is my security when I am threatened. (41-49)

The previous verses focused more on what God does for us. These verses focus more on what God does **to our enemies** to protect and defend us.

You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me (41)

The looked but there was none to save, Even to the Lord but He did not answer them. (42)

The God who executes vengeance for me, and brings down people under me. (48)

These things that God did to David's enemies enabled him to maintain his position as king of Israel. He was threatened personally and politically. God protected him from both. It was not even close. **Note verse 43.**

David said . . .

God is my security when I am threatened!

6. God is my hope when the future is uncertain. (50-51)

David closes this song of worship with a look to the future. God has not only blessed him, but also promised to bless his descendants. That is hope for the future.

Despite all that David had been through he was not discouraged about the future. He knew that God had promised a future for his family. Even though there were times when the immediate future was foggy, David could remain hopeful because of God.

So, let's wrap up with these six reminders and turn these truths toward us.

God is your defender, when times are tough!

God is your rewarder when you do what is right!

God is your light when the way is dark!

God is your strength when you are weak!

God is your security when you are threatened!

God is your hope when the future is uncertain!