

2 Samuel 22:26-51
May 12, 2024

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Q: If you were to write your own song of deliverance today, what would one of your verses say?

Q: What aspects of God's character might you sing about today? [Let people engage]

Transition: There are many aspects of God's character, and David describes God as His **Rock and fortress**. David's life was filled with difficulty. He had many enemies. He fought long wars. And he lived for years as a fugitive. But God was his one constant. God was the solid foundation. Turning to God made him feel safe. Standing on God's unchanging promises meant that David could be stable no matter what troubles were raging around him.

It's a beautiful song of praise. Let's read the rest of it starting in v.26. Let's begin.

BOOK:

- 26 "To the faithful you show yourself faithful,
to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
27 to the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
28 You save the humble,
but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.
29 You are my lamp, O LORD;
the LORD turns my darkness into light.
30 With your help I can advance against a troop;
with my God I can scale a wall.
- 31 "As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD is flawless.
He is a shield
for all who take refuge in him.
32 For who is God besides the LORD?
And who is the Rock except our God?
33 It is God who arms me with strength
and makes my way perfect.
34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;
he enables me to stand on the heights.
35 He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
36 You give me your shield of victory;
you stoop down to make me great.
37 You broaden the path beneath me,
so that my ankles do not turn.

38 “I pursued my enemies and crushed them;
I did not turn back till they were destroyed.
39 I crushed them completely, and they could not rise;
they fell beneath my feet.
40 You armed me with strength for battle;
you made my adversaries bow at my feet.
41 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight,
and I destroyed my foes.
42 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them—
to the LORD, but he did not answer.
43 I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth;
I pounded and trampled them like mud in the streets.
44 “You have delivered me from the attacks of my people;
you have preserved me as the head of nations.
People I did not know are subject to me,
45 and foreigners come cringing to me;
as soon as they hear me, they obey me.
46 They all lose heart;
they come trembling from their strongholds.
47 “The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock!
Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!
48 He is the God who avenges me,
who puts the nations under me,
49 who sets me free from my enemies.
You exalted me above my foes;
from violent men you rescued me.
50 Therefore I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations;
I will sing praises to your name.
51 He gives his king great victories;
he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed,
to David and his descendants forever.”

Process Observations/Questions:

Q: What did you most like about this passage? What part of this song was most inspiring or encouraging to you? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you least like about this passage? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you find in this passage that you didn't understand? [Let people engage]

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? [Let people engage]

LOOK:

When times get hard, or days of trouble occur, or times get tough, the Lord is our only security. He is our most reliable security. At times when we flounder along, trying to peer too far into the darkness ahead. Yet He gives us just enough light so that we can see to take the next step. That's all the light He gives and, in reality, that's all we need.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Keil, C. F., & Delitzsch, F. (1996). Commentary on the Old Testament (Vol. 2, pp. 688-693). Hendrickson.

The motive for deliverance, which was expounded in vv. 21–24, is summed up briefly in v. 25; and then in vv. 26 and 27 it is carried back to the general truth, that the conduct of God towards men is regulated according to the conduct of men towards God.

V. 29 commences the description of the help which David had already received from God in his conflict with the enemies of Israel, and which he would still receive. David belonged to the “afflicted people,” whom the Lord always helps. As the Lord delivered him out of the danger of death, because He took pleasure in him, so He also gave him power over all his enemies. For He was his lamp, i.e., He had lifted him out of a condition of depression and contempt into one of glory and honor (see at 2 Sam. 21:17), and would still further enlighten his darkness, i.e., “would cause the light of His salvation to shine upon him and his tribe in all the darkness of their distress”

2 Sam. 22:30. In the strength of his God he could run hostile troops and leap walls, i.e., overcome every hostile power.

2 Sam. 22:32–35. There is no true God who can help, except or by the side of Jehovah (cf. Deut. 32:31; 1 Sam. 2:2).

2 Sam. 22:36, 37. The Lord bestows the true strength for victory in His salvation. The shield of salvation is the shield which consists of salvation, of the helping grace of the Lord. עֲנֵהָ, for which we find in the psalm עֲנֵהָ, thy humility, i.e., God's condescending grace, does not mean

“thy humiliation,” but “*thy hearkening*,” i.e., that practical hearkening on the part of God, when called upon for help, which was manifested in the fact that God made his steps broad, i.e., provided the walker with a broad space for free motion, removing obstructions and stumbling-blocks out of the way. God had done this for David, so that his ankles had not trembled, i.e., he had not been wanting in the power to take firm and safe steps. In this strength of his God he could destroy all his foes.

2 Sam. 22:38–41. David refers not only to the victories he has already won, but in general to the defeat of all his foes in the past, the present, and the future; for he speaks as distinctly as possible not only of their entire destruction (vv. 38, 39, 43), but also of the fact that God makes him the head of the nations, and distant and foreign nations to him homage. Consequently he refers not only to his own personal dominion, but also, on the strength of the promise which he had received from God, to the increase of the dominion of the throne of his house, whilst he proclaims in the Spirit the ultimate defeat of all the enemies of the kingdom of God.

2 Sam. 22:42, 43. The cry of the foe for help is not attended to; they are annihilated without quarter. Through the utter destruction of the foe, God establishes the universal dominion to which the throne of David is to attain.

2 Sam. 22:44–46. The words refer to the domestic conflicts of David, out of which the Lord delivered him, such as the opposition of Ishbosheth and the rebellions of Absalom and Sheba. These deliverances formed the prelude and basis of his dominion over the heathen.

2 Sam. 22:47–49. The formula יהוה חי does not mean “let Jehovah live,” for the word חי would be used for that (vid., 2 Sam. 16:16, 1 Sam. 10:24), but is a declaration: “the Lord is living.” The declaration itself is to be taken as praise of God, for “praising God is simply ascribing to Him the glorious perfections which belong to him; we have only to give Him what is His own.”

2 Sam. 22:50, 51. The grace which the Lord had shown to David was so great, that the praise thereof could not be restricted to the narrow limits of Israel. With the dominion of David over the nations, there spread also the knowledge, and with this the praise, of the Lord who had given him the victory. Paul was therefore perfectly justified in quoting the verse before us (v. 50) in Rom. 15:9, along with Deut. 32:43 and Ps. 117:1, as a proof that the salvation of God was intended for the Gentiles also. The king whose salvation the Lord had magnified, was not David as an individual, but David and his seed forever—that is to say, the royal family of David which culminated in Christ. David could thus sing praises upon the ground of the promise which he had received (2 Sam. 7:12–16), and which is repeated almost verbatim in the last clause of v. 51.

Merrill, E. H. (1985). 2 Samuel. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 1, p. 479) Wheaton, IL: Victor Books

3. EQUITY OF THE LORD (22:21–30)

22:21–30. God’s deliverance of David was followed by His blessings, divine rewards commensurate with David’s own **righteousness**. David did not suggest that works are necessary for salvation, which is not the issue here. He was saying, however, that the benefits of God are often obtained in this life by faithful perseverance in godliness. He **kept** God’s **ways** (v. 22), **law**

(v. 23), and **decrees** (v. 23), and refrained from iniquity (v. 24; cf. vv. 21, 25). God therefore **rewarded** him (v. 25) and showed mercy to him as He does to all who are upright (**faithful ... blameless ... pure ... humble**; vv. 26–28). The wicked, on the other hand, because of their pride cannot expect His favor (v. 28b). With God, who gives **light** as a **lamp** (v. 29), a righteous person is invincible. He can break through barricades (not **a troop**) or **scale** the highest walls (v. 30).

4. EXCELLENCE OF THE LORD (22:31–51)

22:31–51. In the final section of the psalm David turned once more to the attributes of **the LORD**, but he connected them now to specific ways in which **God** had worked and would work on his behalf. God was described first as a Strengthener (vv. 31–35), One who is **a Shield**, a **Rock**, a **Strength** (lit., “strong Refuge” or “Fortress”), One who gives speed and power to His own servants. He is also a **Shield** (v. 36), and He protects against slipping and falling (vv. 36–37). Again, He is a Subduer of **enemies** (vv. 38–41). Through **the LORD**, David was able to pursue and destroy his **enemies** so that they could not rise again.

The Lord also is a Support (vv. 42–46). David’s enemies called out to God, **but** He would not answer them (v. 42). Instead, He let David crush them (v. 43), and rule over them as well as over his own people (vv. 44–46).

Finally, David said that the Lord was his **Savior** (vv. 47–51). Though his enemies surrounded him and were about to destroy him, the Lord brought him through triumphantly. As a result David praised Him (v. 50) and acknowledged that all God’s benefits of the past were tokens of His promised blessings on both **David and his descendants**, blessings which will endure **forever**.

Mathews, K. A. (1998). The Historical Books. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), Holman Concise Bible Commentary (p. 131). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Thanksgiving Hymn (22:1–51). The core of the appendix is David’s tribute to the Lord. This song was also included in the Book of Psalms (Ps. 18). The occasion for David’s thanksgiving was his deliverance from King Saul.

David recalled his cry for deliverance. He described the Lord’s intervention in words reminiscent of His appearance at Mount Sinai (see Exod. 19; Ps. 68:7–18; Hab. 3). The Lord, awesome in might, came to his personal rescue because David was upright and faithful. God was his Lamp, Rock, and Shield of Salvation, giving David complete victory over all his enemies. The song concludes with a doxology.

Tatum, S. L. (1972). 2 Samuel. In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), The Teacher’s Bible Commentary (p. 192). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

David’s Song of Thanksgiving (2 Sam. 22:1–23:7)

The passage—This song reflects God’s blessings on David throughout his life. Notice how much of it is contained in Psalm 18. David gave God the glory for all of his victories. He told of many times when he had called on God in times of distress. God always heard his prayers. He called God his rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, high tower, refuge, and savior.

The first seven verses of the twenty-third chapter are called David's last words. He declared that God had spoken to him. God had given him wisdom and judgment. God had made an everlasting covenant with him. By way of contrast the wicked are cast away from God. We are reminded of Psalm 1.

The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (2 Samuel 22:26-51). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

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