

David's Song of Deliverance

2 Samuel 22

Lesson Outline

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The LORD'S Protection

2 Samuel 22:1-19

David's Song: 2 Samuel 22:1-4

Song of Praise

This song of celebration was likely written near the end of David's life, when he was able to look back and praise God for being delivered out of the hands of all his enemies. The song is also found in the book of Psalms with some variations (Psalm 18). Evidently it became a congregational hymn of praise.

In this song we are reminded of David's difficulties due to others. It is interesting that he was a man after God's heart but pleased very few men on earth. That is often the case for those that live for the LORD instead of pleasing their flesh with worldly amusements. Many Christians have been the scorn of men because of their faith. David had many enemies that sought to destroy him, with Saul mentioned in particular. Saul's relentless pursuit of David took its toll (Psalm 57:1). Through it all, David continued to seek the LORD whom delivered him from his enemies. David accepted neither glory nor credit in the matter but gave it all to God.

Song Unto the LORD

From the beginning it is evident that David had confidence in the LORD. His faith in God was blessed (Hebrews 11:6).

1. *The LORD was his rock* – place of shelter from troubles (Psalm 27:5).
2. *The LORD was his fortress* – place of safety, David found comfort with God (Proverbs 18:10).
3. *The LORD was his deliverer* – help in time of need.
4. *The LORD his rock was where he placed his faith* – a strong foundation (Psalm 31:3).
5. *The LORD was his shield* – to defend him from attacks.
6. *The LORD was the horn of his salvation* – when oppressed.
7. *The LORD was his high tower* – stronghold where he was out of reach from the enemy (Proverbs 18:10).
8. *The LORD was his place of refuge* – place to go when pursued (Psalm 71:7).
9. *The LORD was his saviour* – removed him from trouble.

There are nine personal claims upon the LORD in this passage leading us to conclude that David recognized the LORD'S influence in his life. He praised God for what was accomplished (Psalm 29:2).

David's Situation: 2 Samuel 22:5-19

David Distressed

His enemies threatened him with death, which is nothing to speak lightly of. Because death is real, it should be considered (Hebrews 9:27). Each will face death so it is best to prepare for it (John 3:16-17). David was surrounded and on the brink of being overwhelmed, because of the situation, David became discouraged. The thought of death robbed him of joy and the reality of death hindered his activity. At one point, he was certain Saul would succeed in ending his life (1 Samuel 27:1). Be careful, fearful situations may cause us to lose faith (Psalm 56:3).

With troubles all around, David looked to the LORD for help (Psalm 34:6). He called upon the great Jehovah, the one and only God (1 John 4:4).

1. *David did not look within for help* – he was unable to help himself out.
2. *David did not look without for help* – his enemies were too powerful for anyone to overcome.

David's cry for help reached the LORD where He resided and was heard (Psalm 130:2). His prayer was not useless because the LORD is a living God, whom hears and answers prayers.

David Delivered

In this passage we find the LORD revealed through imagery. Much of it appears to be taken from the book of Exodus (Exodus 19:16-18). Since no man is able to see the LORD, He is often expressed in a manner we can understand (John 4:24). In this case the use of imagery displayed God's great power and glory. Keep in mind this was a song of praise and not a historical record. David's account, although accurate, was written to glorify God's greatness through music. It is important to remember that this was the LORD'S response to David's prayer of despair. As Charles Spurgeon said, "Things were bad for David before he prayed, but they were much worse for his foes so soon as the petition had gone up to heaven."¹ It is safe to say the LORD was displeased with David's enemies (Hebrews 10:31).

The LORD rescued David from those that despised him (Psalm 34:17). He was overcome with troubles and greatly discouraged, but the LORD did not forsake him (Hebrews 13:5). He drew David out of the waters, his place of trouble due to being burdened, and delivered him from his enemies.

The LORD'S Purpose

2 Samuel 22:20-32

With the Righteous: 2 Samuel 22:20-25**LORD Delighted in David**

As we get into this passage, it is important to remember the context of the chapter. David was talking about deliverance from his enemies and not salvation of his soul. David was not perfect but he was different than those that opposed him, he loved the LORD and lived for Him (Psalm 27:4). Because of this, he was blessed. David made mistakes of passion but never placed himself in opposition to the LORD. "Though he had sometimes weakly departed from his duty he had never wickedly departed from his God."²

The LORD rewarded David's righteousness and recompensed his cleanness. David was favored by the LORD he loved and taken to a large place, perhaps referring to his reign as king where he thrived.

David Delighted in the LORD

When one reads David's Psalms it becomes clear he loved the LORD (Psalm 119:174). His desire was to please God with his life (Psalm 119:175).

1. *David lived by the word of the LORD* – he aligned his life with the LORD'S word (Psalm 119).
2. *David kept the ways of the LORD* – when given opportunity to slay Saul, he refused because Saul was the LORD'S anointed (1 Samuel 24:6, 26:9-11).

¹ Charles Spurgeon, Quoted in "Lange's Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Samuel," (Michigan: Zondervan, 1951) p. 582

² Matthew Henry, "Matthew Henry's Commentary, Volume 2," (United States: Hendrickson, 1996) p. 439

3. *David departed not from the LORD* – when greatly troubled he looked to the LORD (Psalm 37:40).

David was often forced to leave his home but he never forsook the LORD. Though greatly tried, he remained faithful to the LORD'S ways. The implication is that he had done nothing worthy of the persecution he received. David was attacked without merit.

With Rewards: 2 Samuel 22:26-32

General Rewards

The LORD being faithful will give to each what is deserved.

1. *The merciful with mercy* – His mercy will be with those that are merciful.
2. *The upright with uprightness* – the upright will enjoy His justice.
3. *The pure with purity* – the pure will rejoice in His purity.
4. *The forward with unsavory* – the wicked will know His displeasure.
5. *The afflicted with salvation* – the oppressed will find Him gracious.
6. *The haughty with destruction* – the wicked will not escape punishment.

One of the teachings found throughout the Bible is reaping what has been sown (Galatians 6:7-8). There are consequences to our decisions and it is best to live with that in mind.

Specific Blessings For David

David recalled the many times the LORD blessed him. Though his success was great, David never forgot the LORD.

1. *David's direction* – The LORD was David's lamp to light up the darkness.
2. *David's power* – The LORD was David's strength to run through a troop and leap over a wall.
3. *David's encouragement* – The LORD remained faithful to David.

David recognized the LORD as the only God; there is none like Him (Exodus 15:11). Every other god is a false counterfeit of the real God, Jehovah Almighty. God alone is a rock – He alone provides the foundation for eternal life (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The LORD'S Power

2 Samuel 22:33-51

Power When Tested: 2 Samuel 22:33-40

Power Source

Once again David gave credit to the LORD for his great success. Over and over again David praised God for his blessings. Since The LORD was his power, David remained humble following his victories. To David, it was evident the LORD had made his way perfect. He ascended to the throne, secured the nation, and expanded its borders. Under his reign the nation prospered greatly, which David knew was due to God's power. The LORD is great (Psalm 113:5).

Power Seen

This song was more than words; it was backed up with David's great exploits. He was a successful man of war.

1. *His feet were like hinds feet* – swift.
2. *He was set in high places* – exalted.
3. *His hands were taught to war* – strength in fighting.
4. *He had the shield of salvation* – his surety.

David was called to fight. He came upon the scene with a great victory over Goliath (1 Samuel 17). He continued with great victories over the Philistines and others. His steps were enlarged, so he could pursue and overcome his enemies (Psalm 37:23). In no time at all, Israel not only overthrew the oppressive Philistines but conquered many other nations. He was given strength to do what God had for him. Likewise, the LORD has given the believer all that is required to live for Him (Ephesians 6:13).

Power to Triumph: 2 Samuel 22:41-51

David's Success

The LORD allowed David to secure great victories over his enemies. When in trouble his adversaries looked for help but found none, so they were utterly defeated. He was also victorious over those that produced strife from within, which probably refers to those that caused problems in the nation, such as Ishbosheth, Abner, Absalom and Sheba. David even found success over strangers, who were placed under his rule, such as the Syrians. Looking back, David recognized what the LORD allowed him to accomplish.

David's Strength

In conclusion, David was victorious because of God. The LORD led his life, protected him from troubles, and dealt with his enemies (Romans 12:19). David glorified God and gave thanks among the heathen (Psalm 34:2; Romans 15:9). This song of praise reminds us of God's goodness for those that place their trust in Him.