

David's Testimony of God

The Life of David—part 10

2 Samuel 22; April 7, 2019

The book of 2 Samuel is written similarly to the book of Judges. Both are historical in nature.. The last few chapters are written as we might think of an “appendix” to a book. They are stories and teachings that the writer wanted to separate out and highlight from the historical saga.

DAY 1: The character God learned in the hardships of life

2 Samuel 22:1 David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. ² He said: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; ³ my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior-- from violent men you save me. ⁴ I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

1. David doesn't give the historical context of this psalm's writing or the exact events referenced. He clearly has in mind the years when he was a fugitive from King Saul and Saul's army.

2. When we go through excoriating events, we wonder where God is and what He is doing. Why isn't He helping me? What we may not see is that He is helping but He is also revealing His character to us amidst our difficulties.

3. David uses eight metaphors to illustrate different attributes He had learned about God. Next to each one listed, fill in what you think David meant by each metaphor. The Lord is my:

a. Rock—

b. Fortress—

c. Deliverer—

d. Refuge--

e. Shield—

f. Horn of my salvation--

g. Stronghold—

h. Savior—

DAY 2: The power and love of God shown to David.

2 Samuel 22:5 "The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. ⁶ The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁷ In my distress I called to the LORD; I called out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears.

⁸ "The earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook; they trembled because he was angry. ⁹ Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. ¹⁰ He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.

¹¹ He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.

¹² He made darkness his canopy around him-- the dark rain clouds of the sky.

¹³ Out of the brightness of his presence bolts of lightning blazed forth.

¹⁴ The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.

¹⁵ He shot arrows and scattered [the enemies], bolts of lightning and routed them.

¹⁶ The valleys of the sea were exposed and the foundations of the earth laid bare at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of breath from his nostrils.

¹⁷ "He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.

¹⁸ He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support.

²⁰ He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

1. David's suffering involved some near-death experiences. What images does he use to describe the horror of what he was facing?

2. David called out to God. God heard Him, and acted.

3. David again uses vivid imagery to describe the tremendous power of God displayed against his enemies. Which imagery strikes you the most? Why?

4. How does David describe the strength of his enemies in v. 19?

5. How does David describe God's rescue operation in vv. 17-18?

6. God is not just the All-Powerful sovereign God. He is also the epitome of love. How does David describe the heart of God in vv. 19-20?

7. Verse 20 is very poignant: "...He rescued me because He delighted in me."

8. What strikes you from this section of 2 Samuel 22?

DAY 3: Obedience and grace

2 Sm 22:20 He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

21 "The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not done evil by turning from my God.

23 All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees.

24 I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin.

25 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.

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.

1. This section can be very confusing. It is extremely likely that David penned this chapter after King Saul's death and the rise of David as king.

2. David alludes to his righteous acts, likely in reference to the years of being a fugitive. Let's recall some of these:

- a. When King Saul hurled a spear at David to kill him, David did not retaliate.
- b. David knew that he had been anointed king (1 Samuel 16), but at no time did David do anything to press for the kingship or to usurp the throne.
- c. David would not take the place of God and God's authority given to King Saul. He would not "lift his hand against the Lord's anointed."
- d. David could have killed Saul while in the cave.
- e. David could have killed Saul while he was sleeping in the camp.

3. This entire period could have lasted as long as twenty years!

4. But we also know that after David became king, he married five more wives, committed adultery with Bathsheba, and had her husband, Uriah, killed in battle.

5. How are we to think of these verses in the context of the latter years of David's life?

a. It is a wake-up call to all of God's children. We are susceptible to turn away from God and pursue our own agendas, no matter how long we have walked with God and enjoyed His blessings!

b. It is also a reminder of the wonder of God's grace. When we sin, mercy is extended to us.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

c. The bottom line of the Christian is not our obedience, but the grace of God, both at our salvation and all through the years of ongoing sanctification. God delights in His children.!

6. What strikes you from today's verses?

DAY 4: Finding faith and strength to do the difficult

1. During David's troubles, he was not idle, sitting on the sidelines waiting for God to do something. There were battles with the nations around him, especially with the Philistines.
2. In the passage below, underline the different ways that God gave faith and power to David in order to act!

2 Samuel 22:29 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.

3. How would you describe the "partnership" of God and David?

4. David was certainly a victorious and feared warrior. But if you asked David to describe why he was so successful over so many enemies to what would he attribute these successes? (Of course, the simplest answer is "God." I won't let you get away without putting some more thought into an answer!)

5. How does your attitude toward your difficulties align with David's attitudes toward his difficulties?

6. How are you challenged by David's example?

DAY 5: Praise.

1. We come to the end of this amazing chapter.

2 *Samuel 22:47 "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."*

2. David ends with a cacophony of praise to God.

3. We are creatures, created by our Creator to praise Him. Our soul is praise-“shaped” or designed to find our deepest connections and satisfactions in delighting in God.

4. Unfortunately, our human nature seeks to fill its soul with almost anything else. It is an impossible endeavor, and will eventually lead a person to a growing sense of emptiness.

5. As you read today’s verses, how would you describe David’s soul?

6. Think back over the entire chapter. What strikes you most about David’s relationship with God?

7. What would help you move in that direction?