

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn with me to the book of 2 Samuel

We are going to do chapter 22 and the beginning of chapter 23.

Lord willing, we will finish the rest of chapter 23 and all of chapter 24 next week – so please read ahead.

I mentioned on Sunday that after we finish 2 Samuel, we will start going through some of the Psalms before we move on to our next book.

And so this evening, we are going to get a taste of the book of Psalms because that is what we have here in chapter 22 and the beginning of chapter 23.

We have two separate Psalms.

Let's pray...

The Psalm we have in chapter 22 is the longest Psalm that David wrote and we also find it in Psalm 18 -

It is thought to have been written either right before David and Bathsheba or it could have been written later on in David's life after God had delivered him from the rebellion of Absalom.

And as David looks back at his life – he sees God’s sovereignty, protection and deliverance throughout his entire life.

- Goliath
- Saul
- His own sinful desires
- His backsliding
- His enemies (Philistines)

[2Sa 22:1-51 NKJV] 1 Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. 2 And he said: "The LORD [is] my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence. 4 I will call upon the LORD, [who is worthy] to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

I want you to notice all the titles that David uses to offer praise to the Lord.

My rock

My fortress

My deliverer

My strength

My refuge

My shield

My Savior

David uses these titles because God fulfilled the meaning of each title in David's life.

There were times in David's life, when God was his refuge – maybe when he was all alone as he ran away from Saul.

Other times, God was his shield – protecting him as he went into battle.

Church, each of us have our song of deliverance to sing to the Lord – like David

And when we have an intimate relationship with Him and seek to know Him for who He truly is – it is easy to trust Him.

5 "When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. 6 The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. 7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry [entered] His ears.

Here David is describing a time in his life when he was surrounded by danger.

Not only physical danger, but spiritually, emotionally and socially.

He was on the brink of ruin – when he cried out to God.

David knew that no matter what the situation, God was going to hear his distress call.

Jonah, as he was in the belly of the great fish – at the bottom of the ocean - cried out a similar prayer to the one here in verses 5-7.

Even though Jonah was in the midst of rebellion – God heard his cry.

8 "Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. 9 Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. 10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet. 11 He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind. 12 He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters [and] thick clouds of the skies. 13 From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled. 14 "The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice. 15 He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them. 16 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.

In every circumstance, whether it was facing Goliath or Saul or Absalom or the Philistines, this is how David saw God as He delivered him from his trouble.

It was 'as if' these things actually happened - that is how powerful God's deliverance was when it came.

Safe behind the shield of salvation, though battered, God came through as He took David through it all.

17 "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. 18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me. 19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. 20 He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

I asked you to make a note of when David writes, He drew me out of many waters –

Notice that it doesn't say, He kept me out of many waters –

Waters means times of trouble / times of trials–

So the picture that David is making here is that as the flood waters kept getting higher and higher – God would pluck him out at the very last minute.

And even though David's enemies were mightier than he was – God delivered him from their hands.

So starting in verse 21 we have what was the basis of David's deliverance.

21 "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all His judgments [were] before me; And [as for] His statutes, I did not depart from

them. 24 I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. 25 Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes.

So the first thing I want to point out is that David is not claiming that he is self-righteous and that God delivered him because he was a good guy.

We have all read about him lying, committing adultery and murder.

In fact, if one reads Psalm 28 or 51 – David clearly states that he is a sinner.

So, when David speaks of righteousness here – he is speaking of his righteousness through God’s forgiveness, mercy and His righteousness.

Remember what Nathan told David after he repented – he said David, **“The Lord also has put away your sin, you shall not die”**

We can come to God in prayer with the same claim, but not on the basis of our own righteousness, but the righteousness we have received in Jesus

[2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV] 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

26 "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 28 You will save the humble people; But Your eyes [are] on the haughty, [that] You may bring [them] down.

God will respond to people based on their hearts.

If people are not willing to come to God humbly, they will not know God's mercy.

Jesus echoed this same principle in Matthew 7

[Mat 7:2 NKJV] 2 "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

And in the life of David, we saw him be merciful to King Saul on more than one occasion – and also to Shimei

29 "For You [are] my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness. 30 For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall. 31 [As for] God, His way [is] perfect; The word of the LORD [is] proven; He [is] a shield to all who trust in Him. 32 "For who [is] God, except the LORD? And who [is] a rock, except our God?

Now that it is getting darker sooner – I have to take out my phone to lighten the path when I go out on a walk late in the evening.

It doesn't mean that I get a good view of all my surroundings – it simply provides enough light to see a few steps ahead.

Likewise, as the Lord lights our path, He may not shine all the answers to the shadowy questions in our minds, but He will give us all the light we need to scale life's obstacles with confidence and agility.

33 God [is] my strength [and] power, And He makes my way perfect. 34 He makes my feet like the [feet] of deer, And sets me on my high places.

David is speaking in military terms here –

God alone provides sure footing –

And God also positions us in a position where we are going to have the upper hand.

35 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great. 37 You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip. 38 "I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

God is the one who trains David's hands for battle, who gives him the strength and skill to bend the difficult bronze bow (verse 35). He gives him the shield of His salvation, and then gives him firm footing with which to stand and fight (verses 36-37).

But it was not only about skill and power, God's gentleness was also a resource of strength for David.

39 And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet. 40 For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me. 41 You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me.

42 They looked, but [there was] none to save; [Even] to the LORD, but He did not answer them. 43 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. 44 "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. 45 The foreigners submit to me; As soon as they hear, they obey me. 46 The foreigners fade away, And come frightened from their hideouts.

So not only did God deliver David from his enemies, he also delivered David from those who opposed him among his own people. Of course we saw this with Absalom and the rebellion of Sheba last week.

And once again, David recognizes that God was the one who kept him on the throne.

David knew that the throne belonged to God. David knew, "The throne is not mine. Not to have, not to take, not to protect, and not to keep. The throne is the LORD's."

Therefore, when David had the throne, he knew it was God who gave it to him.

This is why he didn't kill Saul when he had the opportunity to do it.

This is why he didn't go after Ishbosheth when Israel anointed him as king instead of David

And this is why David didn't do anything to Absalom when he pretended to be king.

47 "The LORD lives! Blessed [be] my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation! 48 [It is] God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me; 49 He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. 50 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. 51 "[He is] the tower of salvation to His king, And **shows mercy to His anointed**, To David and his descendants forevermore."

David ended the psalm understanding his position in mercy.

Though earlier in the psalm he proclaimed his own righteousness, he came back to the foundation of God's mercy.

David's relationship with God was based on God's great mercy, not upon David's own righteousness.

And God extended that mercy to David's descendants through the covenant that God made with David in 2 Sam 7 -

[2Sa 7:12-16 NKJV] 12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I

took [it] from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "

And this will be fulfilled through Jesus Christ who is a descendent of David.

[2Sa 23:1-7 NKJV] 1 Now these [are] **the last words of David**. [Thus] says David the son of Jesse; [Thus] says the man **raised up on high**, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:

This short Psalm is the last Psalm that David spoke.

It doesn't mean that he was on his deathbed when he sang or spoke them – he is simply expressing his heart at the end of his life.

Look at the titles that David gives himself –

The son of Jesse -

The house of Jesse was a lesser house, a humble house, among the Israelites.

You remember, too, that David was considered the least one in that house.

From those ordinary, humble origins he was “raised up on high.”

David didn't raise himself up – he allowed God to raise him.

Church, we can accomplish many things relying on our own determination and sweat – but when we do, we will not be able to use the same words that David did.

David was humble –

And humility is a requirement of someone who wants to be used mightily by God.

David gave credit where credit was due – and that changed his perspective in life.

We also see that David gives himself the title of **anointed of the God of Jacob**.

David saw this both physically in 1 Samuel 16 – when he was anointed with the oil as a teenager by Samuel.

But as we read through the scriptures, we see that he was also anointed spiritually as God enabled him to lead the Israelites.

Church, God desires to pour out His Spirit in all of us.

[Eph 5:18-21 NKJV] 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

The Greek word that is used here for to “be filled” is in reference to doing something over and over again –

So if we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit – all we have to do is ask.

We need a fresh anointing each day.

2 "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word [was] on my tongue.

This indicates that at least at times, David was aware of the work of divine inspiration through him and expressed in his words.

We see examples of this in many of the Psalms that he wrote -

3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men [must be] just, Ruling in the fear of God. 4 And [he shall be] like the light of the morning [when] the sun rises, A morning without clouds, [Like] the tender grass [springing] out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.'

Here in verse 3-4, David seems to be talking both about his reign as king and about a future King who will reign.

Verse three is pretty much a job description that God gave to David.

By the way, notice how concise it is! Must be just – ruling in the fear of God – this is the job description for ministry.

Verse four speaks of a future King –

[Mal 4:2 NKJV] 2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

David saw his service as king as a type, as an illustration, as a prefiguring, of Jesus' coming to serve as King over the earth when He returns to establish the thousand year Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

5 "Although my house [is] not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all [things] and secure. For [this is] all my salvation and all [my] desire; Will He not make [it] increase?"

David knew that the everlasting covenant from God was not based on David's perfection as a ruler. It was based on God's gracious commitment to His everlasting covenant.

6 But [the sons] of rebellion [shall] all [be] as thorns thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands. 7 But the man [who] touches them Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, And they shall be utterly burned with fire in [their] place."

The Psalm ends with a warning – regarding those that rebel against God.

God's fire judgment will come upon the worthless and wicked.

We saw it with the Children of Eli, we saw it with Saul, we saw it with Absalom.

David could have been one of those thorns, were it not for the mercy of God.

But unlike these other thorns, David turned back to the Lord.

You see, the king who understands the fire of God, has the fear of God.

And the king who walks in the fear of God knows God's faithfulness.

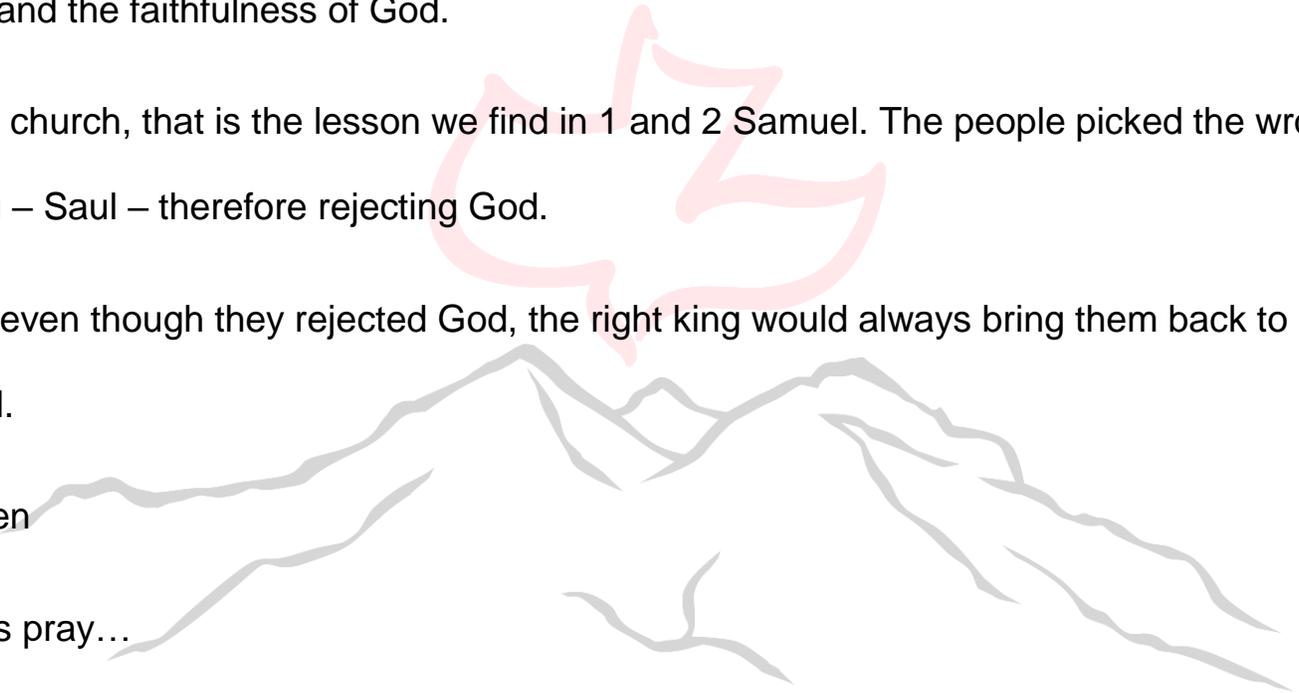
That is the point of this Psalm – David wants Israel and all of its future rulers to understand that the right king for God's people was one who understood the fear, the fire and the faithfulness of God.

And church, that is the lesson we find in 1 and 2 Samuel. The people picked the wrong king – Saul – therefore rejecting God.

But even though they rejected God, the right king would always bring them back to God.

Amen

Let's pray...



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