

David's Songs of Thanksgiving – 2 Samuel 22:1-51, 23:1-7

Introduction:

We are drawing to the end of David's life. The books of 1 & 2 Samuel have outlined the journey of how Israel came to have a king, and in particular, King David. Despite David's failures, God still chooses to give to David an amazing promise: a descendent of his will sit on the throne forever! That sounds impossible, unless one looks to its fulfilment in Jesus!

What set David apart from King Saul before him, and most of the kings that would follow him, was that "David was a man after God's own heart." This did not mean that he always did things right, or had the mind of God in everything. He made some super blunders! But David always knew where to turn for help, wisdom and protection: he turned to the Lord.

King David is not only known as Israel's greatest king, but also Israel's greatest writer of songs. 75 of the 150 Psalms in our Bibles are attributed to David, many recounting events in his life. 2 Samuel 22 parallels Psalm 18, and acts almost as a summary of David's journey. His trust in God is evident throughout.

A Cry for Help – 2 Samuel 22:1-7

1. What was the occasion of this Psalm according to verse 1? Do you think David would be able to sing it more than once?
2. How is God described in verse 2? What does this mean?
3. Verse 3 continues with images of God. There are at least six images here: what are they and what is the message?
4. According to verse 4, what saves David from his enemies?
5. How desperate did David feel according to verses 5-6? Can you think of times in David's life when this would be an appropriate description?

6. When it felt like death was imminent, where does David turn (v. 7)? What is God's response?

Nature Moves at God's Bidding – 2 Samuel 22:8-16

7. In verse 8 we read that God was angry. Why was he angry? What does he do in his anger according to David?

8. In verse 9 we read of "smoke, fire and glowing coals." These all point to the same message. What do they symbolize? Were there times when God used these things during David's time?

9. Read again verses 10-11. Are these to be taken literally (did David see God riding the clouds?) What does it mean?

10. Looking at verse 12-15, what might this describe that we are familiar with?

11. Verse 16 almost sounds like an event that pre-dates David. What was it? Why might David use that image?

David's Personal Testimony – 2 Samuel 22:17-25

12. What image of rescue does David use in verse 17? Why was it so important that God intervened (v. 18)?

13. Verse 19 reveals a truth that we see to this day. When do our foes attack according to this verse?

14. Where did God take David, according to verse 20? What does this mean?

15. In verse 21 David mentions that God has rewarded him because of his "righteousness." Thinking over the life of David, what might he have specifically in mind?

16. It is clear that David believes that right belief leads to right living. What, according to verse 22, had others done who went through trying times?

17. In verses 23-24 David mentions the “ways” and “rules” of God. What might he be referring to?
18. David concludes that the good in his life is a reward for doing the right things in his life (v. 25). Would you agree with David’s conclusions?

How Do You Experience God? - 2 Samuel 22:26-31

19. How do those who show mercy experience God (v. 26)?
20. Those who live a blameless life (doing right), how does God appear (v. 26)?
21. To the pure (high standards), how does God appear (v. 27)?
22. How does God appear to the crooked (v. 27)? Why?
23. According to verse 28, who does God side with, the humble or the proud?
24. In verse 29 God is seen as a light. What does David mean by this?
25. What does verse 30 mean to you?
26. What confidence does David have according to verse 31?

When God is on Your Side- 2 Samuel 22:32-46

27. Verses 32-33 once again describe God. What impression do we have from these verses of the one who trusts in God?
28. Verses 34-35 tell how God made David a great warrior. What meaning does his have for us today?
29. What New Testament passage does verse 36 remind us of?
30. In verses 38-43 we read of how David was able to overcome his enemies with the help of God. In verse 42 his enemies cry t God for help. What happens? Why?

31. Verses 44-46 seem to point to a time when David is enthroned as king. This did not mean his troubles were done. What help does David need from God in verse 44?
32. Who else acknowledges the leadership of David because of God's blessings (vss. 44-46)?

David's Summary – 2 Samuel 22:47-51

33. Verse 47 starts with a wonderful truth, "The Lord lives." Why is this such an important truth?
34. David is rejoicing in what the Lord has done (cf. vss. 47, 50). Why is this such an important part of the believer's life?
35. How is verse 50 an important reminder of Israel's' purpose (Genesis 18:18)?
36. How might verse 51 tie in with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

David's Last Words – 2 Samuel 23:1-7

37. How does David describe himself in verse 1?
38. David makes an important claim about his "inspiration" in verse 2. What is it? (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)
39. In verses 3-4 David describes what it is like if a ruler honours God. What does he have to say about this?
40. What is the theme of verse 5? What does it mean?
41. What is the message of verses 6-7?

Conclusion:

As David looks back over his life he sees the constant care and protection of God. He sees God fulfilling his purposes through him, and rewarding him for his obedience. David would say his life has been good because of God. As Christians reflect on their lives they too would have to say, "God is good to me!"

It has not always been easy, and because of that God has had to strengthen and equip David, even giving him victory in battle. There were foes to conquer and battles to win, but God was in that as well. Life is not always "peaches and cream" for Christians – there will be real battles and conflicts, but God will bring us through them as we trust in him.

Finally, David sees a bigger purpose to his life. His blessings were not just for himself, now even just for the nation he ruled. The blessings of God through him were to make a difference to all the nations. And if we could send a message back to David we could say, "David, every promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ." Jesus was from the line of David, as promised, and he brought blessing to the whole world – salvation, forgiveness and eternal life for all who put their faith in him.

Yes, David, "The Lord lives, and blessed be OUR rock."