

## David's Song of Praise

**Lesson Scope:** [2 Samuel 22 and 23](#)

### Lesson Focus

Toward the conclusion of the history of David's life, we find one of his psalms inserted. As given here, it is nearly identical to Psalm 18. This psalm was likely penned at the zenith of David's reign. God had delivered him from the hand of Saul on numerous occasions. All Israel gave their allegiance to King David, thus halting the plans of Abner to continue Saul's dynasty. David achieved decisive victories over the Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, and Syrians, resulting in a peace not known in the history of Israel up to this point. He had established Jerusalem as the center of worship and was likely making plans for the building of the temple. David could have given the credit for all his successes to himself or his powerful army. But instead, he recognized God working in his behalf and gave God the glory for all his achievements and praised Him for helping him through the difficult experiences of life.

The Lord superintends circumstances in the lives of His children. Although He allows special tests to come, the Lord always provides the needed resources to remain faithful.

This psalm of David is included in the history of David much as Moses' song of deliverance is found in Exodus 15. It is a highly poetic and vivid psalm describing how God intervened in history on David's behalf. This psalm is often attributed to Christ, in reference to His sorrow and travail for our salvation. However, the goal of this lesson should focus on what God has done for His people in the past and present, and what our response should be.

We must emphasize that it is not our own goodness that causes God to act providentially for us. It is the fact of His goodness, first of all in redeeming us and further in the special blessings He pours out to His people. Also we must emphasize the imperative of living constantly in an attitude of thanksgiving for God's great and marvelous works among His people.

**Lesson Aim:** To glean principles that relate to God's providential care of His people.

**Theme Verse:** [Romans 8:28](#). And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

### Lesson Text

#### "The LORD ... Is Worthy to Be Praised"

[2 Samuel 22:1-7](#) <sup>1</sup> And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: <sup>2</sup> And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; <sup>3</sup> The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. <sup>4</sup> I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. <sup>5</sup> When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; <sup>6</sup> The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; <sup>7</sup> In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry *did enter* into his ears.

#### "The LORD Hath Recompensed"

[2 Samuel 22:17-28](#) <sup>17</sup> He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters; <sup>18</sup> He delivered me from my strong enemy, *and* from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me. <sup>19</sup> They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. <sup>20</sup> He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me. <sup>21</sup> The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. <sup>22</sup> For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. <sup>23</sup> For all his judgments *were* before me: and *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them. <sup>24</sup> I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. <sup>25</sup> Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight. <sup>26</sup> With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, *and* with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. <sup>27</sup> With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou

wilt shew thyself unsavoury. <sup>28</sup> And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes *are* upon the haughty, *that* thou mayest bring *them* down.

### **"His Way Is Perfect"**

2 Samuel 22:31-37 <sup>31</sup> *As for* God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him. <sup>32</sup> For who *is* God, save the LORD? and who *is* a rock, save our God? <sup>33</sup> God *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect. <sup>34</sup> He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*: and setteth me upon my high places. <sup>35</sup> He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. <sup>36</sup> Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great. <sup>37</sup> Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

### **"I Will Give Thanks"**

2 Samuel 22:47-51 <sup>47</sup> The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and exalted *be* the God of the rock of my salvation. <sup>48</sup> *It is* God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me, <sup>49</sup> And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. <sup>50</sup> Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name. <sup>51</sup> *He is* the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

## **Questions for Study**

### **"The LORD ... Is Worthy to Be Praised"**

1. Enumerate some of the provisions God provided David with in 22:2-4.
2. Why is God worthy to be praised?

### **"The LORD Hath Recompensed"**

3. What reasons does David give for his deliverance?
4. What are some prerequisites to experiencing the providence of God fully?

### **"His Way Is Perfect"**

5. How should we respond toward God when we face hardships?

### **"I Will Give Thanks"**

6. What are some specific things to thank God for, as suggested in these verses?
7. What should our response be to God's providential care for us?

## **Analyzing the Passage**

My rock (22:3) is identified as being the "rock of ... salvation" (22:47). Prevented (22:19) means "to go before, anticipate, or confront." David's enemies confronted him when he was already distressed, but the Lord was his stay or "support."

A large place (22:20) is a place of unrestricted freedom and fulfillment, in contrast to the bondage of fear, discouragement, and sin.

Gentleness (22:36) relates to the idea of condescension. We can be lifted up because God has reached down to us.

## **Principles and Applications**

### **"The LORD ... Is Worthy to be Praised"**

1. The Lord has infinite ability to meet the needs of His people (22:1-4). God has limitless resources available to "supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Many of the promises of God, who is faithful and true, relate to provisions we can claim in times of need.

2. God hears the prayers of those in distress (22:4, 7). Prayer is a gate that is always open even when the city is besieged by the enemy. All the music that rings in the heavenly courts does not drown out the cry of the needy. God has promised, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee" (Jeremiah 33:3). An important requirement for answered prayer is to ask in faith.

### **"The LORD Hath Recompensed"**

3. The Lord lifts His people from seemingly impossible circumstances (22:17-19). "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). The story of David illustrates how God can deliver His people against all odds. Peter could not possibly have escaped from prison except by the hand of the Lord. So often we tend to carry the baggage of earthly woes and hardships with us. But God is faithful, and we can entrust all our difficulties to the One who can free us from "many waters."

4. God richly rewards those who walk in His ways (22:21-25). Obedience to God is a prerequisite to receiving the rewards He has for His followers. Of ourselves, we could not walk in righteousness, but it is God's pleasure to give us the power we need to walk uprightly, and then He rewards us for faithful living.

5. The Lord relates to people according to their deeds (22:26-28). God

will relate to people as they have related to each other. No one will receive unfair recompense for his actions. God will show mercy to those who have shown mercy, perfect those who walk in uprightness, cleanse those who desire to be pure, and reject those who continue in their stubborn, sinful ways.

### **"His Way Is Perfect"**

6. God knows and orders what is best for His people (22:31). Even though God's ways may seem dark or hard to understand, His way is always perfect, because He is perfect. Anything He accomplishes in us is complementary to His divine purposes. Man, in his limitations, has no right to question God or challenge His will.

7. To be in the will of God is to enjoy freedom, power, and victory (22:33-35). "The way of transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:15). People who insist on their own way and declare that they are free only deceive themselves. When we cooperate with God, the source of all strength, He is able to give us power and victory over the evils of today.

8. In God's providential care we can walk securely (22:37). God's mercy is evident in leading us into liberty and providing us a foothold on the Rock of Ages. God has not promised to remove all slippery places from our path, but He will help us to traverse the treacherous areas and lead us onto higher spiritual ground. We also walk securely in the physical world. "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7). That is why we do not utilize the world's insurances. We do not have the promise that no harm will befall us, but we do have the promise of God's sustaining grace and all-wise providence.

### **"I Will Give Thanks"**

9. Recipients of divine care give God all the glory and praise Him freely and publicly (22:47-50). God deserves all the praise and adoration we can give Him for His great goodness toward us. May we never be ashamed to praise our God, even in the presence of those who would despise us for it. God forbid we should tread cautiously around traitors and become guilty of treason to our great Lord and King!

10. The righteous express the confidence that God's care will be ongoing (22:51). David recognized that God's mercies would follow him and his children through life. He also foresaw a time when God's mercies would culminate in the Anointed One, the Messiah. It is He only

who shall reign for ever, and of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end.

### **Important Teachings**

1. The Lord has infinite ability to meet the needs of His people (22:1-4).
2. God hears the prayers of those in distress (22:4, 7).
3. The Lord lifts His people from seemingly impossible circumstances (22:17-19).
4. God richly rewards those who walk in His ways (22:21-25).
5. The Lord relates to people according to their deeds (22:26-28).
6. God knows and orders what is best for His people (22:31).
7. To be in the will of God is to enjoy freedom, power, and victory (22:33-35).
8. In God's providential care we can walk securely (22:37).
9. Recipients of divine care give God all the glory and praise Him freely and publicly (22:47-50).
10. The righteous express the confidence that God's care will be ongoing (22:51).

### **Answers to Questions**

*1. Enumerate some of the provisions God provided David with in 22:2-4.*

God was his Rock, a sure foundation and firm support in which David could have confidence. God was his Deliverer, giving him ways to escape his enemies. God was his Shield, covering him from the violence and evils surrounding him. God was the Horn of his salvation, empowering David to vanquish his foes. God was his Fortress and High Tower, allowing David to climb above doubts and fears.

*2. Why is God worthy to be praised?*

Mankind is not able to deliver himself from evil. Only God is able to save people to the uttermost. He alone can lift people out of the mire of sin and give power over sin. God limits the power of Satan, not allowing temptation to be stronger than we can bear.

*3. What reasons does David give for his deliverance?*

David recognized that God delivered him because of his careful walk of obedience and righteousness and because he kept a close connection to the Word of God.

*4. What are some prerequisites to experiencing the providence of God*

*fully?*

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Obedience is also necessary to receive the blessings of the Lord. Keeping an open communication with God through Bible reading and prayer will help us understand how God can provide for us.

*5. How should we respond toward God when we face hardships?*

We must never blame God for any hard circumstances we face. God is perfect and all He does is perfect. The perceived hardships and trials we face are not because God is not able or is not doing things properly, but because we have a limited and shortsighted view. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

*6. What are some specific things to thank God for, as suggested in these verses?*

He is a living God. As our Rock, He provides refuge and stability. We thank Him for salvation and deliverance from our spiritual enemy. We thank Him for His mercy and for His eternal and unfailing promises.

*7. What should our response be to God's providential care for us?*

We must live with a thankful heart for God's great care for us. The best and only response can be to fully surrender our all to Him and live in obedience to His Word. We must never be ashamed to give a testimony of God's providence toward us, as this can remind the unbeliever of God

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

"Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered" (Psalm 40:5). We are unworthy of all God does for us. Let us praise His Name forevermore!

### **Research Guide**

1. Carefully compare the parallel passage in Psalm 18.
2. *The Treasury of David*, by C. H. Spurgeon may provide further inspiration.