

Study #22

2 Samuel 22:1-51

Text:

- v. 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.
- v. 2 He said: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
- v. 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.
- v. 4 I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.
- v. 5 "The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
- v. 6 The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.
- v. 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.
- v. 8 "The earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook; they trembled because he was angry.
- v. 9 Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it.
- v. 10 He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.
- v. 11 He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.
- v. 12 He made darkness his canopy around him - - the dark rain clouds of the sky.
- v. 13 Out of the brightness of his presence bolts of lightning blazed forth.
- v. 14 The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.
- v. 15 He shot arrows and scattered the enemies, bolts of lightning routed them.
- v. 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.
- v. 17 "He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters.
- v. 18 He rescued me from my powerful enemy. from my foes, who were too strong for me.
- v. 19 They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support.

- v. 20 He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.
- v. 21 “The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.
- v. 22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord; I have not done evil by turning from my God.
- v. 23 All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees.
- v. 24 I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin.
- v. 25 The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness in his sight.
- v. 26 “To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless,
- v. 27 to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
- v. 28 You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.
- v. 29 You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light.
- v. 30 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.
- v. 31 “As for God, his way is perfect; the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.
- v. 32 For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the rock except our God?
- v. 33 It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.
- v. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights.
- v. 35 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
- v. 36 You give me your shield of victory; you stoop down to make me great.
- v. 37 You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn.
- v. 38 “I pursue my enemies and crushed them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.
- v. 39 I crushed them completely, and they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet.
- v. 40 You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at my feet.
- v. 41 You made my enemies turn their back in flight, and I destroyed my foes.
- v. 42 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them - - to the Lord, but he did not answer.
- v. 43 I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I pounded and trampled them like mud in the streets.
- v. 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,

- v. 45 and foreigners come cringing to me; as soon as they hear me, they obey me.
- v. 46 They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds.
- v. 47 “The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!
- v. 48 He is the God who avenges me, who puts the nations under me,
- v. 49 who sets me free from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me.
- v. 50 Therefore I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing praises to your name.
- v. 51 He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.”

Introduction:

Alexander Whyte says, “Let the psalms dwell richly in the feeblest among us, and the feeblest among us will yet be a man of more spiritual strength than David. Sing a heart-strengthening psalm every morning, and a heart-cleansing and a heart-quieting psalm every night. Seven times every remaining day of your earthly pilgrimage sing a psalm. Let no place and no conversation and no occupation delude you out of your heart-refreshing psalm. Fill the house of your pilgrimage with the sound of psalms. Let God hear you. Let Him bow down His ear and hear you. And let Him say to His Son and to His angels and to His saints over you and over your house, ‘I have found a man after my own heart, with my holy oil have I anointed him.’”

(David is coming down the home stretch – 1. Mid-sixties 2. Last battle
3. Hard for old folks to sing!)

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Psalm 42:8

“The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the day time, and his song will be with me in the night a prayer to the God of my life.”

Psalm 77:6

“I will remember my song in the night. I will meditate with my heart, and my spirit ponders.”

Psalm 90:14

“O satisfy us in the morning with Thy lovingkindness that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.”

Psalm 98:1

“O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wonderful things. His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.”

Psalm 104:33,34

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to him. As for me, I shall be glad in the Lord.”

Psalm 113:3

“From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

Psalm 146:1,2

“Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord while I live. I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

We are going to be considering now in this 22nd chap. of 2 Samuel David's last song.

David is coming down the homestretch of a long and difficult race. The long shadows of age and pressure are really beginning to tell on him.

David is beginning to wear and to crack and to become weary.

He has lost SAMUEL, SAUL and JONATHAN.

He has lost his own FAMILY.

He's lost his son ABSALOM.

He's lost his KINGDOM.

He's lost his commander of the army JOAB for a period of time.

He has lost MICHAL, his childhood sweetheart, and has had a dozen other major adversities hit him in his life.

(Old age is setting in as much as he would love to avoid it! He lost Amnon and Tamar | Baby born to Bathsheba!)

Just prior to this song that is being written by David, the whole country has experienced economic collapse with three years of famine, anguish and drought. The fields have been barren and dry. The livestock has died. Many of the citizens of the land could no longer sustain themselves and survive the tragic consequences of this difficult period.

Once again, Israel is at war with the Philistines.

It's in the midst of all of this that David writes his last song.

(Great men just don't let life get to them!)

Swindoll, when he outlines this particular song, says, "David sums up his life in four themes:

1. When TIMES ARE TROUGH, the Lord is our only SECURITY.
2. When DAYS ARE DARK, the Lord is our only LIGHT.
3. When our WALK IS WEAK, the Lord is our only STRENGTH.
4. When our FUTURE IS FOGGY, the Lord is our only HOPE.

The beauty of this chapter is that David dies with a song on his lips.

(Singing in the stretch!)

Andrae Crouch, a contemporary composer, captures the truth of the song that David has written, called "Through It All."

I've had many tears and sorrow,
I've had questions for tomorrow.
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong.
But in every situation, God gave blessed consolation
That my trials come to only make me strong.

I've been lots of places,
And I've seen a lot of faces,
There've been times I felt so all alone.
But in my lonely hours, yes those precious lonely hours,
Jesus let me know that I was His own.

I thank God for the mountains,
And I thank Him for the valleys,

I thank Him for the storms He brought me through,
For if I'd never had a problem, I wouldn't know that He could solve
them.

I'd never know what faith in God could do.

Through it all, through it all,
O I've learned to trust is Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God.

Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word."

We might also call this song "EL SHADDAI," "The Lord the Almighty," "The strong one."

It could be called:

"You just call out my name, and I'll come running to see you again."

Or it could be called "BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS."

For David it is "My Last Song."

Just as SOLOMON wrote "The Song of Songs" plus 1,005 others, this one becomes David's last one.

In our consideration of this particular song, I would like for us to consider five verses to the hymn:

1. WHO IS HE – verses 1-4
2. WHAT HE HAS DONE – verses 5-20
3. HOW HE SEES ME – verses 21-28
4. WHAT HE IS TO ME – verses 29-46
5. WHY I WORSHIP HIM – verses 47-51

2 Samuel 21:15

"Now when the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David went down, and his servants with him. And as they fought against the Philistines David became weary." (Exhausted)

David then writes this last song when he is weary and has been sent home from the battle with the Philistines.

(Marches off the field of battle singing: started – Saul his 1,000's ended – when David comes marching home again.”)

He is weary. It's the end of his days as a warrior. Others were now fighting the battle. It has always been a characteristic of David, however, that when he is weary, he turns and worships God.

In other words, he has had some hard time, and now he is reflecting on these hard times and writes this song of praise to God because out of all of these hard times the Lord has delivered him.

Wilson points out, “The message is basically the same for the modern reader. The theological truths exhibited in the book of Samuel show the benefit and security that comes from obedience to God. If one obeys the Word of God, he will learn to live properly and righteously. This will provide him with the abundant life and place him securely in the path of God's blessing. Today, just like the ancient man needs to adhere to the author's message, if man is to learn to live properly and enjoy life abundantly, he needs to submit obedience to the word of God.

Dr. Paul Jorden says, “This is not the song of a youthful and idealistic poet and musician, but of a gnarled veteran of many wars. He was a mighty man of valor who had been bruised and bent but not broken. In this beautiful song, David's heart cried out the identity of his Lord. ‘My rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my shield, my salvation, my tower, my refuge, and my Savior.’ David expressed his confidence in his God. ‘In my distress I called upon the Lord. Yes, I cried to my God, and from the temple He heard my voice, and my cry for help came into his ears.’”

(Bruised & bent but not broken!)

Carl Laney says, “There are two categories of praise in the psalms:

1. DESCRIPTIVE PRAISE.
2. DECLARATIVE PRAISE.

DESCRIPTIVE PRAISE focuses on what God is like, his ATTRIBUTES.

DECLARATIVE PRAISE emphasizes what God has done, his ACTIONS.

The psalm recorded here is of the latter category. It is a psalm of declarative praise of the individual for what God has accomplished in the life of David.”

J. Vernon McGee says, “2 Samuel 22 is a great psalm, one which David composed as he looked back over his life. Also, when we come to Psalm 23, you will find that I take the position it was not written by a little immature boy. Psalm 23 was not written by a college student who didn’t really know what life was all about. Neither was it written by a middle-aged man who had ambitions to get to the top in business or politics. It was not written by someone who wanted to become famous. Psalm 23 was written by an old king who looked back upon his life and could trace the hand of God moving in it. David was a man who had tasted everything. There was nothing that the world afforded that David had not tasted. David’s conclusion was that the most wonderful thing of all was “The Lord is my shepherd.””

Vos says, “During the latter part of David’s reign, after his reestablishment on the throne and perhaps with the realization that he would go out to war no more, he composed this psalm of thanksgiving for victory over all of his enemies.

It would be well for us to read Psalm 18 in connection with this particular chapter because the text is essentially the same, but there are dozens of minor divergences that occur.

(Psalm 18 put in the hymnbook! Golden hit!)

Vos says, “Many scholars believe that David wrote both and that the Samuel text is the original, and that David altered it slightly for liturgical purposes when it became part of the Psalms. In any case, the message is essentially the same in both works.”

Let us now come to a consideration of the five verses of “My Last Song:”

1. WHO HE IS – verses 1-4

v. 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 had of Saul.

How wonderful for David to have a song in his old age.

How wonderful and meaningful to hear him sing a song in the midst of all of these traumatic circumstances.

It’s just really nice to have David singing again.

Have you ever sung to the Lord? Taken down the old hymnal and sang a song of praise ad worship to our God in the midst of difficult times?

Acts 16:25

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

Job 35:10

“But no one says, ‘Where is God, my maker, who gives songs in the night,’”

Psalms 32:7

“You are my kidding place. You will protect me from trouble, and surround me with songs of deliverance.”

Psalms 119:54

“Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge.”

Ephesians 5:19

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.”

Vos points out, “The scared historian clearly indicates that the psalm is intended to celebrate David’s deliverance from Saul and a variety of other enemies.”

David is singing this song to the Lord. It is expressing his feelings of praise.

His difficulties have given birth to a song, and this song comes in response to the Lord’s deliverance from the hand of all his enemies, and from the had of Saul.

(You can’t sing in a storm until you have surrendered to his son.)

when you stop and think about it, he has been delivered from a lot of enemies. He has been delivered from:

Goliath
Saul
the Philistines
the Ammonites
the Syrians or northern tribes

the Edomites
the Moabites
the Amalekites
Abner and Ishbosheth
Nabal
Absalom
Sheba
Adonijah
Shimei
and a host of others.

As David begins to sing, he describes in the opening stanza of his hymn who God is.

v. 2 He said: “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

Here in verse 2, 3 he uses the little word ‘MY’ ten times:

1. First he says **THE LORD IS MY ROCK.**

He is going to use this term **ROCK** to describe God at least five times just in this passage under consideration.

Psalm 94:22

“But the Lord has become my fortress, and my God the Rock in whom I take refuge.”

Augustus M. Toplady says it well in the hymn “Rock of Ages:”

“Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.”

2. Secondly, our text goes on to say **HE IS MY FORTRESS.**

This is like a walled-in city whereby the soldier can be protected from the onslaughts of the enemy.

Jeremiah 16:19

“O Lord, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come.”

3. **AND MY DELIVERER,** David says.

The Lord is not only my rock and my fortress, but also my deliverer.

Throughout the life and biography of David, we read this little phrase that is occurring in verse 1:

“When the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.”

- v. 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.

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call unto me and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not.”

David continues in verse 3 with his song by saying, The Lord is not only my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,

4. “HE IS MY GOD”
5. “HE IS MY ROCK, in whom I take refuge.”
6. “HE IS MY SHIELD.” It is the shield that catches all the fiery darts of the evil one.
7. “THE HORN OF MY SALVATION.”

Delitzsch points out, “He is the horn of salvation according to Luther because he overcomes enemies, and rescues from foes, and gives salvation. The figure is borrowed from animals which have their strength and defensive weapons in their horns.”

(Easy for the Texas Longhorns to understand!)

Our verse goes on to say:

8. “HE IS MY STRONGHOLD,”
9. “MY REFUGE”
10. “AND MY SAVIOR.”

So in these two verses we see 8 descriptive words to tell us who he is to David:

1. A ROCK
2. A FORTRESS

3. A DELIVERER
4. A SHIELD
5. A HORN OF SALVATION
6. A STRONGHOLD
7. A REFUGE
8. A SAVIOR

The verse concludes: “From violent men you save me.” We need only to look at the list of men who came against David to recognize that there is indeed quite a long list that the Lord has saved him from.

- v. 4 I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

This 4th verse concludes the first stanza of our song being sung to the Lord.

Vos points out, “In the introduction appears to sum and substance of the entire psalm. David heaps up images to convey his confidence of security in God, who is his defender, refuge, and deliverer. The two verbs in verse 4 are in the imperfect, and indicate continued action. “I continually call, and I am continually saved.” What God has done in the past, He would assuredly do in the present and future. David’s experience as a fugitive in the wilds colored his figures of speech both in the introduction and throughout the rest of the psalm. The almost inaccessible rocks and ravines of Palestine offered protection to the harried fugitive, but he placed his real hope in the God whom the geological formations seemed to typify. God was his true fortress, an impregnable place in whom he could hide. And he, like the immovable rock, was characterized by unchanging faithfulness. Like a shield of the warrior he protected and like a horn of a fierce animal, he defended the righteous.”

Psalm 50:15

“And call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Swindoll, in trying to capsulize these first verses in a principle, calls this:

“When times are tough, the Lord is our only security.”

Through all of David’s personal experiences with God, he shares with us who God is to him in the first stanza of his hymn.

II. WHAT HE HAS DONE – verses 5-20

It is a natural transition to move from who He is to what He has done.

- v. 5 “The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

Vos points out, “David had often been in danger of death. Its destructive force, like agitated billows, crashed on rocks along the shore and threatened to overwhelm.”

Psalm 42:7

“Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.”

The hymnwriter says,

“Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar,
Eager eyes are watching, longing,
For the lights along the shore.

Let the lower lights be burning,
Send a gleam across the wave.
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save.”

- v. 6 The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.

In verse 5 he uses the flood of waters to illustrate his distress, and in verse 6 it is the snare of the hunter that is described.

Vos points out, “It’s like the hunter who stalked its prey caught it in a net.”

His distress in these two verses has been graphically described by the phrases:

“waves of death”
“torrents of destruction”
“cords of the grave”
“snares of death”

- v. 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.

He CALLED AND CRIED, and God heard him.

“I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply to rise within,
Sinking to rise no more.

But the Master of the sea,
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me,
Now safe am I.

Love lifted me, love lifted me,
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me.”

- v. 8 “The earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook; they trembled because he was angry.

How graphically the psalmist describes the instantaneous response of a loving and powerful heavenly Father.

How interesting that these same phenomena take place when Jesus Christ is dying on the cross and when He is risen again.

Matt. 27:51

“At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.”

Matt. 28:2

“There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”

God is ready to act, and the earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook. The reason that this happened is seen in the latter part of verse 8. "They trembled because he was angry."

There was a bumper sticker seen the other day that said, GOD IS BACK, AND BOY IS HE MAD.

Rev. 16:17ff

"The seventh angel poured out his bowl in the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne saying, 'It is done.' Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it had ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split in three parts and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men, and they cursed God on account of the plague of hail because the plague was so terrible."

- v. 9 Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it.

Nahum 1:6

"Who can withstand his indignation; who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire. The rocks are shattered before him."

Hebrews 12:29

"For our God is a consuming fire"

It was the God who answers by fire on Mount Carmel and the glorious words after ELIJAH had prayed:

1 Kings 18:38

"Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice: the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench."

- v. 10 He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.

In answer to David's call and cry, he parted the heavens and came down. Dark clouds were under his feet.

O what a glorious anticipation for we who are believers to rest in the blessed hope that one day "the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

(1 Thess. 4:16,17)

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

We have similar pictures of this in Isaiah 6, Rev. 4, and also in the book of Ezekiel when the presence of God is pictured, these cherubim are present.

Vos points out, "The heavens seemed to sink down as Jehovah came riding on the storm clouds. He mounted the cherubim, a winged lion creature, and seemed to swoop like a vulture toward its prey."

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

David is picturing the coming of a rainstorm to end the years of famine and to bring refreshment once again to the earth.

(Thunder showers at trail west! There's a storm across the valley, the clouds are rolling in...)

David, right along with Elijah, could sing,

"I've seen fire and I've seen rain"

- - and it wasn't from a drug trip, either. It came from the very presence and activity of God. He came in fire to consume, and in rain to refresh.

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

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

1 Samuel 7:10

“While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines, and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.”

John 12:28,29

“Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.’ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered. Others said an angel had spoke to him.”

- v. 15 He shot arrows and scattered the enemies, bolts of lightning and routed them.
- v. 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.

How similar is the picture in the book of Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ bringing about that great judgment upon fallen man in the last days.

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

HE REACHED DOWN and HE DREW ME.

Vos points out, “The waters that threatened to engulf the psalmist retreated before the presence of God. ‘He drew me out of deep waters.’ As Moses was pulled out of the waters of the Nile so David was rescued from the waters of tribulation.”

There are actually three things that he does in this verse:

1. He reached down from on high
2. He took hold of me
3. He drew me out of deep waters.

Galatians 1:4

“Who gave himself for our sins, to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”

God the great lifesaver in the sky reached down and made a human rescue. He went himself and took hold of me, and he drew me out of deep waters.

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

David in his picture refers first to his powerful enemy Saul, and then from many others foes who were too strong for him.

(The last one when Abishai rescued him by slaying the Philistine!)

- v. 19 They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support.

2 Timothy 4:16-18

“At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack, and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever, Amen.”

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

“To God be the glory, great things He hath done.” He not only REACHED DOWN, TOOK HOLD, DREW HIM and RESCUED HIM, but he also BROUGHT HIM OUT into a spacious place. The reason for his rescue is because “he delighted in him.”

Yes, David was a man after God’s own heart.

Vos points out, “What an absolutely mind-boggling description of God’s intervention on behalf of his servant. Of course, God did not actually employ natural phenomena in this way to rescue David. But he evidently so intervened on various occasions to protect him or give him the victory, that David practically describe God’s interpositions in this majestic fashion.”

Ephesians 3:20

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power is at work within us.”

(David's last song!)

In the first stanza of David's last song, we have seen the description of WHO HE IS in verses 1-4,

(Rock, refuge, shield, fortress, horn of my salvation!)

And in the second stanza, we have seen WHAT HE HAS DONE in verses 5-20.

(Cried, he heard, he rescued...!)

Now we move to stanza #3:

III. HOW HE SEES ME – verses 21-28

v. 21 “The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me.

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let us reason together,’ says the Lord. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

(Whiter than snow, yes whiter than snow, now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow...)”)

(There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious blood of the lamb.)

(there is a fountain filled with blood...)

Psalms 119:9,11

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Vos points out, “David spoke of being rewarded according to his righteousness, according to the cleanness of his hands. It should not be thought that he was claiming perfect holiness before God. Rather, he was characterized by integrity of character, and his hands were clean because he had not raised them to shed the blood of Saul, God's anointed. He had kept the ways of the Lord.”

v. 22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord; I have not done evil by turning for my God.

Now we have the reason why the Love has dealt with him according to his righteousness.

Psalm 51:1

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin, for I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight; so that you are proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge.”

Psalm 51:6ff

“Surely you desire truth in the inner parts. You teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop and I will be clean. Wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness, let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me.”

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

Vos points out, “David has not allowed his anger and frustration to cloud his judgment concerning the law of God, and thus to trample it underfoot. Moreover, all his ordinances were before me. He has studied and meditated on them. This passage indicates that David had a copy of at least part of the Old Testament with him during his desert wanderings, and read it or had the help of Abiathar the priest in his efforts to know God and His will more fully through his recorded word.”

Psalm 1:1,2

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night.”

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

1 John 1:9 says,

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Jude 24,25

“Now unto him who is able to guard you against stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forevermore. Amen.”

Ephesians 5:25-27

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

Vos points out, “David was blameless before God. He sought to please God in his public and private life.”

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

(Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for right!)
(Dressed in his right alone faultless to stand before the throne.)

This takes us back to verse 20:

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

When I call, God moves to effect a rescue, and that rescue is “the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.”

Psalms 118:23

“The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

v. 26 “To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless.

- v. 27 to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.
- v. 28 You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.

Vos points out, “God reciprocates in like fashion. But the haughty, or godless, of David’s enemies he would bring down in defeat. Presumably, the illusion to David’s righteousness in this passage refers primarily to his early life and wilderness wanderings. His later life with its sins of adultery and murder do not seem to be in view. Victories over foreign enemies and the context of which those sins occurred, figure in the following section.”

1. In the first stanza of David’s last hymn, he deals with the subject WHO HE IS – vv. 1-4
2. In the second stanza we have looked at WHAT HE HAS DONE – vv. 5-20
3. And now in this third stanza: HOW HE SEES ME – vv. 21-28

(Sees me through the blood of Christ!)

IV. WHAT HE IS TO ME – verses 29-46

Swindoll in commenting on this section, says, “When days are dark, God is our only light.”

- v. 29 You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light.

Vos points out, “As David faced his many enemies, God made his darkest light, lifted him out of a condition of weakness and depression, and caused the light of his salvation or victory to shine on him.”

1 John 1:5,6

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son purifies us from every sin.”

David could well say to the Lord,

“You light up my life.”

He is light for my path, and strength for my task.

Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

Psalm 119:130

“The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.”

Psalm 27:1

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

v. 30 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.

Philippians 4:13

“I’m ready for anything through the strength of the One who indwells me.”

Isaiah 40:31

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. And they shall walk and not faint.”

2 Chron. 32:8

“With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.”

v. 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.

As David looks back over his long and stressful life, he can make a summary statement that carries a powerful impact: “As for God, His way is perfect.”

(It’s my ways that have made the messes in my life.)

Eccles. 3:11

“He makes all things beautiful in His time.”

Isaiah 53:6

“All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way, and Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Proverbs 3:5,6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path.”

The difficulties in our lives are the results of missing this perfect way which David has described.

The word of the Lord is flawless; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

His way is perfect, and he is a shield to protect us.

Ephesians 6:16

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

v. 32 For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

Isaiah the prophet cries out, “I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Savior.”

v. 33 It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.

Swindoll, in commenting on this, says, “When our walk is weak, God is our only strength.”

2 Cor. 12:7-10

“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the

more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest upon me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions and difficulties, for when I am weak, than I am strong."

- v. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:19

"The sovereign Lord is my strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He enables me to go on the heights."

Hannah Hurnard in speaking of this in her book Hind's Feet on High Places says, "It means there are no obstacles which our Savior's love cannot overcome. And that to him, mountains or difficulty are as easy as an asphalt road. From the garden at the back of the mission house at the foot of Mt. Gerazim, we could often watch the gazelles bounding up the mountainside, leaping from rock to rock with extraordinary grace and agility. Their motion was one of the most beautiful examples of exultant and apparently effortless ease in surmounting obstacles which I have ever seen. How deeply we who love the Lord of love and desire to follow him long for the power to surmount all the difficulties and tests and conflicts in life in the same exultant and triumphant way. To learn the secret of victorious living has been the heart's desire of those who love the Lord in every generation. We feel we would give anything if only we could in actual experience live on the high places of love and victory here on this earth and during this life able always to react to evil, tribulation, sorrow, pain, and every wrong thing in such a way that they would be overcome and transformed into something to the praise and glory of God forever."

- v. 35 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

- v. 36 You give me your shield of victory; you stoop down to make me great.

Once again David is returning to the field of battle. His hands have been trained. His arms are strong and can bend a bow of bronze, and the Lord again gives him the shield of victory.

What a precious thought it is. "You stoop down to make me great."

(Been doing it for 50 yrs. | This great God of universe is concerned about me... | hairs are #; tears in a bottle. | Knows how to do it!)

- v. 37 You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn.
- v. 38 "I pursued my enemies and crushed them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.
- v. 39 I crushed them completely, and they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet.

Vos points out, "You have broadened my path. You have given more room to walk by removing the obstructions, and have given uninterrupted victory and strength for combat. The completeness of victory is indicated by the act of placing the foot on the neck of prostrate or kneeling prisoners."

- v. 40 You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at my feet.

Once again David returns to the thought of verse 33:

"It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect."

What is the Lord to David? He is a lamp that turns his darkness into light, and he is the one who arms me with strength for the battle.

- v. 41 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.
- v. 42 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them - - to the Lord, but he did not answer.
- v. 43 I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I pounded and trampled them like mud in the streets.

Vos points out, "Pulverizing them to dust in some cases was literal, as bodies unburied on the battlefield quickly decomposed and crumbled to dust. The enemies of Israel got no help from their idols, and not even from praying to Yahweh, because they had no claim to his protection."

- v. 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.

Here David is making reference to ABSALOM'S UPRISING, and the fact that the Lord once again had delivered him from this attack.

What is the Lord to me? He is my LAMP. He is my STRENGTH, and he is my DELIVERER.

v. 45 and foreigners come cringing to me; as soon as they hear me, they obey me.

v. 46 They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds.

RAHAB expresses some of this same feeling in Joshua 2:1beg. at v. 8

“Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, ‘I know that the Lord has given this land to you, and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites, east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts sank, and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven, above and on the earth below.’”

David could truly sing:

“He is everything to me.”

He is my lamp, my strength, and my deliverer.

In David’s last song we have considered together:

1. WHO HE IS – verses 1-4
2. WHAT HE HAS DONE – verses 5-20
3. HOW HE SEES ME – verses 21-28
4. WHAT HE IS TO ME – verses 29-46

This brings us now to our 5th and final verse:

V. WHY I WORSHIP HIM – verses 47-51

v. 47 “The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!

Vos points out, “In conclusion, David returned to praise of the Lord, who had done so much for him. In contrast to the gods of the heathen that do not exist and cannot protect their worshipers, or that may have been viewed as dying

and rising with the rhythm of the seasons, David could say of his God, 'Yahweh lives, for he is the living and saving God.'"

What a beautiful outburst of praise at the conclusion of this song. 1. It is because the Lord lives that he is all of these things to David. 2. It is because the Lord lives that he has done what he's done for David. 3. It is because the Lord lives that he can now see David through the blood of the sacrifice. 4. It is because he lives that he is to David his lamp, his strength, and his deliverer.

(5. it is because the Lord lives that he can worship him.)

Yes, he lives and is worthy of our praise.

"I serve a risen Savior,
He's in the world today.
I know that he is living,
Whatever men may say.

I see his hand of mercy
I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him,
He's always near.

He lives; He lives
Christ Jesus lives today.
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.

He lives; He lives
Salvation to impart.
You ask me how I know He live,
He lives within my heart."

There are 3 things that David says here in this 47th verse:

1. THE LORD LIVES
2. PRASIE BE TO MY ROCK
3. EXALTED BE GOF, THE ROCK, MY SAVIOR

The one thing that puts the evil one to flight is the praise of his people.

v. 48 He is the God who avenges me, who puts the nations under me,

v. 49 who sets me free from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me.

In these 2 verses David lists 5 actions of God that make him worthy of praise and adoration:

1. HE IS THE GOD WHO AVENGES ME.
2. HE IS THE GOD WHO PUTS THE NATIONS UNDER ME.
3. HE IS THE GOD WHO SETS MNE FREE FROM MY ENEMIES.
4. HE IS THE GOD WHO HAS EXALTED ME ABOVE MY FOES.
5. HE IS THE GOD WHO HAS RESCUED ME FROM VIOLENT MEN.

v. 50 Therefore I will praise you, O Lord, among the nation; I will sing praises to your name.

The 'therefore' in this verse points us back to the five activities that we have seen in verses 48,49. And because of that David says, 'I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing praises to your name.'

v. 51 He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendant forever."

He gives great victories and shows unfailing kindness.

He is doing this to David and his descendants forever. He is here in his praise reminding the Lord of his unconditional eternal covenant that was recorded back in 2 Samuel 7.

These last two verses show that as he looks back on God's favor, he also looks forward with pleasure and assures himself of the kindness God has in store for all the saints, for himself and also for his seed.

J. Vernon McGee writes, "We are living in a day when we do not have anything that corresponds to genius in the way of writing. There is no great vision today. In our scientific age, everything is run by computers. Everything is already taped. We know that $2+2=4$ but we don't seem to produce anything really original. How monotonous life is when God is left out of it. In his life, and his poet expression of gratitude is a masterpiece of literature."

This beautiful song of praise is not only great literature, but it shows the marvelous relationship one man had with Almighty God. How we need this today.

Conclusion:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular passage of scripture?

Lesson #1: Through it all, David has been able to recognize God's hand in his life.

Lesson #2: David is still singing, though life is almost over.

Lesson #3: The devil is put to flight when his people praise.

Lesson #4: When his children cry to him, the Lord answers in real power.

Lesson #5: The Lord is our lamp, our strength, and our deliverer.

Lesson #6: He is light for my path, and strength for my task.

Lesson #7: The Lord lives and therefore can be actively involved in our lives.

Psalm 48:1

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praise,
In the city of our God, His holy mountain.
Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion in the far north,
The city of the great King.”

Psalm 103:1-5

“Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my Soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
Who pardons all your iniquities;
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from the pit;
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
Who satisfies your years with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.”

Psalm 106:1

“Praise the Lord!
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

Psalm 111:1,2

“Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,
In the company of the upright and in the assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
They are studied by all who delight in them.”

2 Chronicles 20:22

“As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who were invading Judah; and they were defeated.”

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.”

A lady, while on a visit to the exposition of Paris died. During her last moments speech had left her but she managed to articulate the word “bring.” Her friends, in ignorance of her meaning, offered her food, but she shook her head and again repeated the word “bring.” Then they offered her grapes, which she also declined. And for the third time uttered the word “bring.” Thinking she desired to see some absent friends, they brought them to her. But again she shook her head. And then by a great effort she succeeded in completing the sentence, “Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of All,” and then passed away to be with Jesus.

(David is going out with a song!)