

2 Samuel 22 (read also Psalm 18)

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:

² And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; ³ 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.

David made plenty of mistakes but must have recognized that he is righteous in the Lord.

Verse 1 – David sings this to God. After his deliverance, he gives thanks in song to the God who delivered him.

Verse 2 – He opens with acknowledging the Lord is his rock and fortress and his deliverer. A rock, he can stand on, fortress – secure position of defense; deliverer – take you from one place of trouble to a better place. Rock = a shadow or shelter. David is using natural examples to describe his relationship with God.

Verse 3 – He continues, rock, someone or the one he will trust...in a future state; his shield of defense now; overflowing with salvation. Rock = immovable defense. High tower...a place difficult for the enemy to reach. Refuge – a hiding place; savior – deliverer. Saves him from violence and folks trying to take him out.

I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. ⁵ When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; ⁶ The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; ⁷ 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.

Even though David is surrounded by troubles, the troubles formed against him do not take him out.

Verse 4 – David declares he will call on God, who is already worthy of praise. Praise and calling on Him must have something to do with his salvation.

Verse 5 – when death was surrounding him...and it was on several occasions; and when a huge number or overwhelming odds of the ungodly against him caused him to fear...

Verse 6 – surrounded by sorrows from hell; exposed to the traps of death holding him back.

Verse 7 – Testimony – in his distress he calls on God...cries to Him. Make sure you are heard.....He hears from His temple.

⁸Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth. ⁹There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. ¹⁰He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. ¹¹And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. ¹²And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

¹³Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled. ¹⁴The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. ¹⁵And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. ¹⁶And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

Verse 8 – God responds to his troubles and situations through His anger. God gets angry when the enemy attacks His people. Wait for Him in times of trouble, God will show up.

Verse 9 – 16 – God becomes involved and responds to the plight of His servants.

¹⁷He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters; ¹⁸He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me. ¹⁹They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

²⁰He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

²¹The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. ²²For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. ²³For all his judgments were before me: and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them. ²⁴I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. ²⁵Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.

Verse 17 – God drew him out of troubled waters.

Verse 18 – delivered him from an enemy that was stronger than him and who hated him.

Verse 19 – the haters prevented him during tough times; but God sustained him and kept him.

Verse 20 - 21 – brought him into a larger and greater place...delivered him there because God was happy with him.

Application Point: How do you get God to delight in you? You do what David describes at the start of this Psalm; identify your need for God, call upon Him, put your trust and hope in Him. Your faith will always please God. There is a reward and increase at the end of your trouble.

God enlarged his area and gave him room when before he was confined.

God rewards him based upon his right standing with Him. According to his clean hands and purity is his reward based. Now notice....David didn't have clean hands all his life. But he's talking like that now. There must have been something that happened that got those dirty hands clean.

Verse 22 – David is rewarded because he kept the ways of God and didn't leave from trusting in God. David considers leaving God as being wicked. Interesting, our unbelief is wicked.

Verse 23 - he was given judgments or instructions to follow. He didn't depart from following His ways.

Verse 24 – David says he was upright before Him and kept himself from his sins. Upright = blameless.

Verse 25 – David will be paid in accordance with his level of righteousness. He was clean according to how God defines it. When we humbly trust in God, we are in right standing with Him.

²⁶ With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. ²⁷ With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury. ²⁸ And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down.

²⁹ For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. ³⁰ For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall. ³¹ 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.

Verse 26 – If you sow mercy, you reap mercy. Upright = perfect, complete.

Verse 27 – pure, clean. Your character has an impact on how God reveals Himself to us. Unsavory = a wrestler; reveal himself as ready to contend. Again, David shows how we reap what we sow. If we plant purity, then we will receive purity. If we plant a twisted behavior, we will receive twisted results.

Forward = twisted.

Verse 28 – God fights for and saves those who are in trouble who humbly call upon Him; God fights against the proud. You cannot win when you are driven by your own pride.

Verse 29 – God is his lamp that gives him light and lights the way. God is also our guiding light today. When you trust Him, He will show you the way.

Verse 30 – through Him and by Him he was able to do great things.

Verse 31 – God's way is perfect; His word is tried, proven and true. Buckler = shield. He will be that shield for you if you trust Him.

³² For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God? ³³ God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect. ³⁴ He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places. ³⁵ He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. ³⁶ Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great. ³⁷ Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

David goes back to the similar imagery and examples he used before describing God as his rock. This is interesting and in the proper sequence. God will be our rock early at the beginning of our troubles and need for salvation. But as we go through the process as a believer, there will be greater battles as we draw closer to God's best and closer in relationship to God.

This is also consistent with God's perfect plan where Christ is our rock in His first coming; He will also be our rock and salvation during His second coming.



Verse 34 – David describes God provision as making him sure footed as he states he is as graceful and steady as a deer. God places him at a level higher than the enemy against him.

Verse 35 – God has shown him how to battle. Our salvation is a shield and protection for us. When facing tough times, remember the salvation you already experienced.

³⁸ I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them. ³⁹ And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.

⁴⁰ For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me. ⁴¹ Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me. ⁴² They looked, but there was none to save; even unto the LORD, but he answered them not. ⁴³ Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad.

⁴⁴ Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen: a people which I knew not shall serve me. ⁴⁵ Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me. ⁴⁶ Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

⁴⁷ The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. ⁴⁸ It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me. ⁴⁹ 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. ⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

⁵¹ He is the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

Here the process has shifted from David being chased, to now he is pursuing after his enemies. There is a point in the process in walking with God where what we were running from before, is now running away. It will be this way in end time prophesy. The enemies and problems that once pursued God's people, will eventually be running from us toward certain defeat. This happened at the Red Sea, it will happen again.

Verses 38 – 43 – God removes his enemies and his problems away. God fights his battles. He will fight ours as well. He is worthy of the credit for our victories.

His enemies cried to heaven for help but God didn't help because they were not on His side.

Verse 44 - David was kept to be the head of the heathen.

Verse 49 – was lifted up higher than his enemies.

Verse 50 – David gives thanks for his deliverance to the God who still delivers.



Once again, David comes back to celebrating God as his rock of salvation. Application point: We must always come back to the point and remembrance that God has been and will be the foundation of our salvation. It is an everlasting salvation.