



## 2 Samuel 22

### Lesson 15: David Praises God

### Outline of 2 Samuel 22

1. Introduction: David's Reason for Singing (1)
2. God's Majestic Being & Salvation (2-7)
3. God's Mighty Omnipotence (8-16)
4. God's Merciful Condescension (17-20)
5. God's Magnanimous Deliverance (21-28)
6. God's Munificent Provisions (29-46)
7. Conclusion: David's Worship (47-51)

#### Introduction: David's Reason for Singing (1)

- Was this song written immediately after David's deliverance from Saul?
- Was it written later in David's life—after God had delivered him many more times?
- Perhaps he began it early in his kingship and finished it near the end.
- Had to be after Nathan's announcement of the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7; cf. 22:51)

#### Introduction: David's Reason for Singing (1)

- God delivered David from his enemies.
  - § Nations: Philistines, Amalekites, Jebusites, Arameans (Syrians), Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, even his own people (v.44)
  - § Individuals: Goliath, Nabal, Ishbosheth, Abner, Hadadezer, Ahitophel, Absalom, Sheba, even a lion and a bear!
- God delivered David from Saul.
  - § Not included with David's enemies—special case

## Slight Differences between 2 Sam. 22 & Psalm 18

- 2 Samuel 22 is David's *individual* song of thanksgiving and worship.
- Psalm 18 is intended for *public* worship. David probably revised it before giving it to the choirmaster, prepared it to be sung.

## God's Majestic Being & Salvation (2-7)

- "my rock" (*sela'*), "my fortress," "my deliverer" (v.2)
- "my rock" (*şûr*), "my shield," "the horn of my salvation" (v.3a)
- "my stronghold," "my refuge," "my savior" (v.3b)
- "worthy to be praised" (4)
- Key Terms in this Psalm: *rock* and *salvation*

And he said, "Yahweh is my rock"



Judean wilderness near Jericho

22:2

## God's Majestic Being & Salvation (2-7)

- "my rock" (v.2, Heb. *sela'*)
- Same word used in 1 Samuel 23:25–28
- Saul was pursuing David "in the wilderness of Maon" (1 Sam. 23:25). Just as Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men, Saul was providentially called away to fight the Philistines.
- Mountain was called the "Rock of Escape" (28).

## God's Majestic Being & Salvation (2-7)

- “my rock” (v. 3, Heb. *šûr*)
- Same word used in 1 Samuel 24:2
- Saul told, “David is in the wilderness of Engedi” (1)
- Saul pursued David and his men to “the Rocks of the Wild Goats” (2).
- Time when David was in the cave & could have killed Saul, but refused to touch God's anointed

## God's Majestic Being & Salvation (2-7)

- my fortress / stronghold (v.2, Heb. *měšûdâ*)
- cf. Masada, the name of Herod's well-known fortress by the Dead Sea in NT times
- Same word used to refer to David's wilderness stronghold (1 Samuel 22:4; 24:22); and to refer to Jerusalem itself (2 Sam. 5:7)

*My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.*



Masada (aerial view from the north)

22:3

## God's Majestic Being & Salvation (2-7)

- The Lord as “shield” not only protects David from his enemies (vv.1, 3) but also insures the safety of all who are godly (cf. v.31).
- “Stronghold / fortress” (v.3, Heb. *mišgāb*), a secure, lofty retreat that the enemy finds inaccessible, is a frequent metaphor for God in the Psalms.
- He is the “refuge” of his chosen one and able to “save” him from violent men (3, 5).

*For the waves of death encompassed me and the flood of destruction came upon me.*



Waves on the Sea of Galilee

22:5

## God's Mighty Omnipotence (8-16)

- Pictured in terms of earthquake, volcanic eruption, and severe thunderstorm
- Similar to events during the plagues of Egypt and to the appearance of the Lord at Mt. Sinai
- "Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation" (Exodus 9:23).

## God's Mighty Omnipotence (8-16)

- Psalm 18 refers to "hailstones and coals of fire":
- And it happened, as they [the Amorites] fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword (Joshua 10:11).

## God's Mighty Omnipotence (8-16)

- Before the time of Saul or David:
- "Now Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, and the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel" (1 Samuel 7:10).

*Then the earth shook and quaked.*



22:8

*Smoke went up out of His nostrils, Fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it.*



Volcanic lightning during the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland, 2010

22:9

*He made darkness a canopy round about Him, a gathering of waters, thick clouds of the skies.*



Rain in the Judean wilderness

22:12

*Yahweh thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice.*



Cloud to cloud lightning

22:14

*He sent out arrows, and scattered them, Lightning, and routed them.*



22:15

*Then the channels of the sea appeared . . . At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.*



22:16

*The foundations of the world were laid bare . . . At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.*



22:16

### God's Merciful Condescension (17-20)

- To condescend = to graciously & voluntarily come down to a lower level
- God came down and rescued David.
- v.19—He was David's *support* (word for a shepherd's crook)
- v.20—broad place (like a pasture for sheep)
- v.20—God *delighted* in David.

*“But the LORD was my support. He also brought me forth into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me” (2 Sam. 22:19-20).*



### God’s Merciful Condescension (17-20)

- For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite” (Isaiah 57:15).
- Thus in the next section, God considers the contrite David to be righteous and blameless.

### God’s Magnanimous Deliverance (21-28)

- Magnanimous = generous or forgiving, especially toward a less powerful person
- David is not saying he has not earned forgiveness by his works.
- Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one.”
- Paul was quoting David! “There is no one who does good” (Ps.14.1b; Ps. 53.1b).

### God’s Magnanimous Deliverance (21-28)

- We must repent & ask for God’s righteousness.
- After forgiveness of sin, God restores our joy in Him (Ps. 51:12).
- We obey Him because we love Him and want to please Him (John 14:15).
- David did stray from God’s way, but he didn’t *depart* (2 Sam. 22:23). God forgave him (2 Sam.12:13).

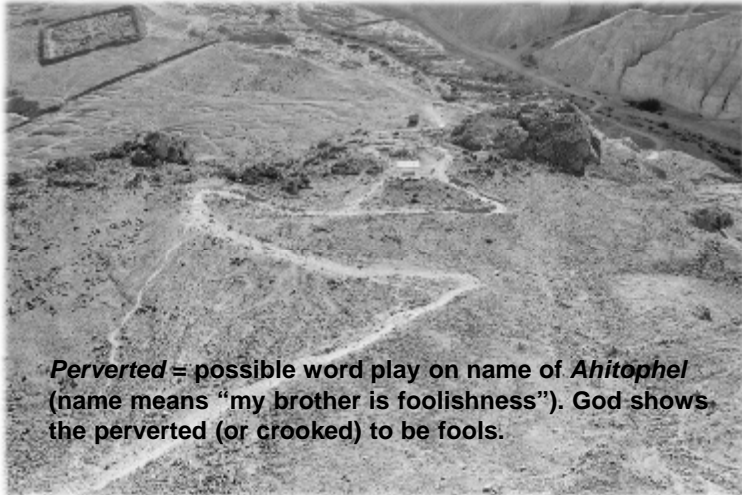
### God's Magnanimous Deliverance (21-28)

- David's life as a whole was characterized by devotion to God.
- "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and *his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been*" (1 Kings 11:4 ).
- "If I regard [cherish] wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear" (Psalm 66:18).

### God's Magnanimous Deliverance (21-28)

- Read 2 Samuel 22:23-24.
- Compare verses 26b, 31, and 33.
- David concluded (based on God's treatment of him) that God considered him blameless (v.26).
- God, whose way is blameless (perfect, v.31), makes the way of His chosen one blameless (33).
- God raises up the lowly / humble & brings low the high / haughty (v.28). Remember Isaiah 57:15.

*With the crooked You show Yourself to be astute. [You can't fool God!]*



*Perverted* = possible word play on name of *Ahitophel* (name means "my brother is foolishness"). God shows the perverted (or crooked) to be fools.

Snake Path at Masada (from above)

22:27

### God's Munificent Provisions (29-46)

Light or understanding (29), power to run through a barricade or scale a wall (30), a perfect path for life (31, 33), his presence as a shield (31), unique protection (32-33), stability & balance amid difficulties (34), skill & strength (35)





*He trains my hands for battle,  
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze  
(22:35).*

### God's Munificent Provisions (29-46)

Light or understanding (29), power to run through a barricade or scale a wall (30), a perfect path for life (31, 33), His presence as a shield (31), unique protection (32-33), stability & balance amid difficulties (34), skill & strength (35), His shield of salvation (36), greatness (36), sure footing for the path of life (37), strength & victory to destroy & disgrace enemies (38-46)

### Conclusion: David's Worship (47-51)

- The LORD lives! (Cf. rejoicing over Christ's resurrection in the future.)
- Cf. David's reaction to Goliath when he was a teen: "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" (1 Sam. 17:26).
- Bless & exalt Him (22:47).
- He is the rock of my salvation (key terms again).

*Yahweh lives, and blessed be my rock; May God, the rock of my salvation, be exalted*



Arbel cliffs (from the north), west of the Sea of Galilee

22:47

### Conclusion: David's Worship (47-51)

- Paul quoted verse 50.
- For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,
- and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, *"Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to your name."* (Romans 15:8-9 ).

### Conclusion: David's Worship (47-51)

- Ends with praise for God's steadfast covenant love that will be fulfilled ultimately in "His anointed" (Messiah) Jesus Christ, David's descendant.
- Jesus will rule from the throne of His father David FOREVER.

### Conclusion: David's Worship (47-51)

- Cf. the conclusion of the Song of Hannah at the beginning of 1 Samuel.
- "Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; Against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; And He will give strength to His king, And will exalt the horn of His anointed" (1Sam. 2:10).

### Lessons:

1. God is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our shield, the power of our salvation, our stronghold, our refuge, our Savior.
2. God is all powerful, and yet he parts heaven and comes down to lift us up.
3. "He rescued me, because He delighted in me" (22.20).
4. He equips us to serve Him.
5. He keeps His promises.