

# SECOND SAMUEL

## *David's Song of Deliverance*

And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. 2 He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, 3 my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. 4 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. 5 "For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me; 6 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. 7 "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears. 8 "Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry. 9 Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. 10 He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. 11 He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind. 12 He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water. 13 Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth.

4 The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice. 15 And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them. 16 Then the channels of the sea were seen; the foundations of the world were laid bare, at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. 17 "He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. 18 He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. 19 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. 20 He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me. 21 "The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all his rules were before me, and from his statutes I did not turn aside. 24 I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from guilt. 25 And the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight. 26 "With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless; 27 with the purified you deal purely, and with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous. 28 You save a humble people, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. 29 For you are my lamp, O LORD, and my God lightens my darkness. 30 For by you I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. 31 This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. 32 "For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? 33 This God is my strong refuge and has made my way blameless. 34 He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. 35 He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your gentleness made me great. 37 You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip; 38 I pursued my enemies and destroyed them, and did not turn back until they were consumed. 39 I consumed them; I thrust them through, so that they did not rise; they fell under my feet. 40 For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me. 41 You made my enemies turn their backs to me, those who hated me, and I destroyed them. 42 They looked, but there was none to save; they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them. 43 I beat them fine as the dust of the earth; I crushed them and stamped them down like the mire of the streets. 44 "You delivered me from strife with my people; you kept me as the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me. 45 Foreigners came cringing to me; as soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me. 46 Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses. 47 "The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation, 48 the God who gave me

**vengeance and brought down peoples under me, 49 who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from men of violence. 50 “For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name. 51 Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.”**

**Ch 22** Songs of Hannah and of David frame 1 and 2Sm. David’s song shows that where there was no hope that a kingdom could be established, a miracle occurred. The one oppressed by enemies became the king over many nations. At first, it looks like this kingdom is fulfilled in David. But actually, the kingdom described here goes beyond David to his descendant Jesus. (TLSB)

**22:1** *this song*. Preserved also as Ps 18. Besides an introduction (vv. 2–4) and conclusion (vv. 47–51), the song consists of three major sections: The first describes David’s deliverance from mortal danger at the hands of his enemies (vv. 5–20); the second sets forth the moral grounds for God’s saving help (vv. 21–30); the third recounts the help that the Lord gave him (vv. 31–46). The song was probably composed shortly after David’s victories over foreign enemies (8:1–14) and before his sin with Bathsheba (compare vv. 21–25 with 1Ki 15:5). (CSB)

**22:2–4** *my*. Shows unbreakable link between the speaker in the psalm (the anointed one) and God. God Himself was David’s shield. (TLSB)

**22:2** *my rock*. A figure particularly appropriate to David’s experience (see vv. 32, 47; 23:3; Dt 32:4, 15, 18, 31; Ps 28:1; 31:2; 61:2; 78:35; 89:36; 94:22; 95:1). He had often taken refuge among the rocks of the desert (1Sa 23:25; 24:2), but he realized that true security was found only in the Lord. (CSB)

*fortress*. The Hebrew for this word occurs in 5:17; 23:14; 1Sa 22:4–5; 24:22, referring to places where David sought refuge. (CSB)

**22:5–20** Troubles listed here characterize both David and Jesus Christ. These troubles were not simply the death that is the common end of all people. David’s office as anointed king put him always at the edge of death. In this, he foreshadowed Jesus, whose office as God’s Anointed One not only brought Him to the edge of death but also put Him to death to suffer for the sins of all. Only thereafter did He regain His life. David depicted his own struggles and God’s help in words taken from the exodus and God’s revelation on Mount Sinai. (TLSB)

**22:5** *waves of death*. In vv. 5–6 David depicts his experiences in poetic figures of mortal danger. (CSB)

As if drowning, the king was on the edge of death. (TLSB)

**22:6** *cords of Sheol*. David describes the terrified state of his conscience. (TLSB)

**22:7** *his temple*. Heaven, where the Lord is enthroned as King (see Ps 11:4; Isa 6:1; Jnh 2:7). (CSB)

In heaven, the place of God’s gracious presence. Cf 2Ch 6:21; Heb 8:1–5. (TLSB)

**22:8** *earth reeled*. God, who created the world, used the creation to help His anointed through miraculous earthquakes, storms, and the like. Cf Dt 4:11. (TLSB)

**22:9** *Smoke went up from his nostrils*. God’s power is portrayed in terms similar to those applied to the awesome beast, the leviathan (Job 41:19–21). (CSB)

Cf Ex 19:18. (TLSB)

**22:10** *bowed the heavens*. God majestically revealed Himself in miraculous storms on Mount Sinai. Or, heaven came to earth when God helped His anointed king. Ultimately, divinity and humanity met in the one person of Jesus Christ. (TLSB)

**22:11** *cherub*. See Eze 1 and 10, where cherubim are said to be the bearers of the throne of God. (CSB)

**22:14** *The LORD thundered*. The reference to thunder as the voice of God is common in the OT (see Ps 29; Job 37:2–5). Thunder is particularly suited to expressing God’s power and majesty. (CSB)

**22:16** *rebuke*. The cry of God’s anointed raised up God’s wrath against the enemies. Cf Ex 14:21–22. (TLSB)

**22:17** *He sent from on high*. In vv. 17–20 David describes his deliverance, initially in figurative terms (v. 17; cf. v. 5) and subsequently in more literal language (vv. 18–20). (CSB)

*many waters*. Just as God rescued Israel from Egypt through the Red Sea waters, so also He rescued the king from the “waves of death” (v 5). Likewise, Christians are rescued from sin, death, and all spiritual enemies in the waters of Holy Baptism. (TLSB)

**22:20** *broad place*. Place where one is free to move, as opposed to the “cords of Sheol” (v 6). (TLSB)

*delighted in*. The Hebrew underlying this expression is used in 15:26 (“pleased”); Ps 22:8 (cf. Mt 3:17, “well pleased”) and expresses the idea of the sovereign good pleasure and favor of God toward his anointed one (v. 51). (CSB)

**22:21–31** Although these verses seem to change from the praise of God to the praise of human works, they actually point to God’s covenant. God gave His Word to His people. One difference between God’s people and others is that His people are humble toward His revelation, not haughty (v 28). All of “my righteousness” (v 25) is itself a gift of God (vv 29–31). Cf Jb 4:17–19. (TLSB)

**22:21** *according to my righteousness*. In vv. 21–25 David refers to the Lord’s deliverances as a reward for his own righteousness. While these statements may give the impression of self-righteous boasting and a meritorious basis for divine favor, they should be understood in their context as: (1) David’s desire to please the Lord in his service as the Lord’s anoint. (CSB)

**22:26–30** Because God responds to man in kind (see Job 34:11; Pr 3:34), David has experienced the Lord’s favor. (CSB)

**22:28** *the haughty to bring them low*. The words of this verse fit well with David’s experience in his conflict with Saul (see Hannah’s song, 1Sa 2:3–8). (CSB)

**22:29** *You are my lamp*. The Lord causes David’s life and undertakings to flourish (see Job 18:5–6; 21:17; see also note on Ps 27:1). (CSB)

Light is a symbol of God’s gifts of consolation, joy, strength, and salvation. Cf Is 58:8. (TLSB)

**22:31** *his way is perfect*. The remainder of the song (vv. 31–51) accentuates David’s praise to God for his deliverances. (CSB)

**22:32–46** By God’s power, David was a mighty warrior. By God’s power also, Jesus, the Anointed One, is strong to save, not by using the sword but by suffering from it. (TLSB)

**22:33** *blameless*. God would not blame or condemn David for his sins but would forgive. (TLSB)

**22:37** *wide place*. See note, v 20. The Lord gives to His anointed ones freedom from sin and death and also steadfastness of faith. (TLSB)

**22:42** *cried to the LORD*. But not in faith. Cf Jas 1:6; 4:3. (TLSB)

**22:47** *The LORD lives!* God's interventions and blessings in David's behalf have shown him to be the living God (see Dt 5:26). (CSB)

**22:50** *I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations*. For Paul's reference to this vow see Ro 15:9. (CSB)

**22:51** *his king ... his offspring*. David refers to himself in the third person in a way that acknowledges the covenantal character of his kingship. It is in the context of David's official capacity as the Lord's anointed that the entire song is to be read and understood. (CSB)

*his offspring forever*. David speaks of God's promise through Nathan (see 7:12–16). (CSB)

Entire psalm has not only focused on David but also on his offspring, esp Jesus, the Anointed One, whose kingdom is eternal. (TLSB)

**Ch 22** In this song, David acknowledges that God Almighty trained him for war, provided him with weapons of war, fought for him, and gained for him the victory. Whatever good is in us is God's gift alone. Likewise, forgiveness of our sins and victory over our spiritual enemies are purely His gifts. • Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with David I praise You for delivering me from the power of evil. Amen. (TLSB)