

SECOND SAMUEL

Chapter 22

David's Song of Praise

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. ² He said: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; 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. ⁴ I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. ⁵"The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. ⁶The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. ⁷In 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. ⁸"The earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook; they trembled because he was angry. ⁹Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. ¹⁰He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. ¹¹He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind. ¹²He made darkness his canopy around him— the dark rain clouds of the sky. ¹³Out of the brightness of his presence bolts of lightning blazed forth. ¹⁴The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded. ¹⁵He shot arrows and scattered the enemies, bolts of lightning and routed them. ¹⁶The 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. ¹⁷"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. ¹⁸He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. ¹⁹They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support. ²⁰He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. ²¹"The LORD has dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he has rewarded me. ²²For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I have not done evil by turning from my God. ²³All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees. ²⁴I have been blameless before him and have kept myself from sin. ²⁵The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight. ²⁶"To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, ²⁷to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd. ²⁸You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low. ²⁹You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light. ³⁰With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. 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. ³²For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? ³³It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. ³⁴He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. ³⁵He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. ³⁶You give me your shield of victory; you stoop down to make me great. ³⁷You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn. ³⁸ "I

pursued my enemies and crushed them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed. ³⁹I crushed them completely, and they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet. ⁴⁰You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at my feet. ⁴¹You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes. ⁴² They cried for help, but there was no one to save them— to the LORD, but he did not answer. ⁴³I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I pounded and trampled them like mud in the streets. 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, ⁴⁵and foreigners come cringing to me; as soon as they hear me, they obey me. ⁴⁶They all lose heart; they come trembling from their strongholds. ⁴⁷“The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior! ⁴⁸He is the God who avenges me, who puts the nations under me, ⁴⁹who sets me free from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me. ⁵⁰ Therefore I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing praises to your name. ⁵¹ He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants 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 (see notes on that psalm). 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)

from ... all his enemies. See 8:1–14. (CSB)

from ... Saul. See 1Sa 18–31. (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)

22:3 *my shield.* See vv. 31, 36; Ge 15:1; Dt 33:29. (CSB)

horn. See NIV text note; Dt 33:17; Jer 48:25. (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 *grave*. See note on Jnh 2:2. (CSB)

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)

22:8–16 See note on Ps 18:7–15. (CSB)

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 rose 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 *cherubim*. See Eze 1 and 10, where cherubim are said to be the bearers of the throne of God; see also notes on Ge 3:24; 1Sa 4:4; Eze 1:5. (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 reached down 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 anointed (see note on v. 51); (2) his recognition that the Lord rewards those who faithfully seek to serve him. (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)

22:32 *Rock.* See note on v. 2. (CSB)

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 anointed*. See notes on 1Sa 10:25; 12:14–15. 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 (see note on v. 21). (CSB)

his descendants 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)