

2 Samuel 22

This chapter is recorded in Psalm 18 with some slight variations.

Verses 1 -3

Now David spoke the words of this song to the Lord on the day that the Lord had saved 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.

Now David spoke the words of this song to the Lord on the day that the Lord had saved him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. ² He said,

In Psalm 18 this sentence is written in the superscription. In addition the first verse says, “I love You, O Lord, my strength.”

“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.

David uses 10 terms to show his personal relationship with God.

Verses 4 - 6

**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 floods of destruction terrified me;

⁶ The ropes of Sheol surrounded me;

The snares of death confronted me.

**I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.**

Crying out to God is advised when you're facing death and it's wise to do so for those lesser dangers that we face.

Verses 7 - 14

**In my distress I called upon the Lord,
Yes, I called out to my God;
And from His temple He heard my voice,
And my cry for help *came* into His ears.
⁸ Then the earth shook and quaked,
The foundations of heaven were trembling
And were shaken, because He was angry.
⁹ Smoke went up out of His nostrils,
And fire from His mouth was devouring;
Coals were kindled by it.
¹⁰ He also bowed the heavens down low, and came down
With thick darkness under His feet.
¹¹ He rode on a cherub and flew;
He appeared on the wings of the wind.
¹² He made darkness canopies around Him,
A mass of waters, thick clouds of the sky.
¹³ From the brightness before Him
Coals of fire were kindled.
¹⁴ The Lord thundered from heaven,
And the Most High uttered His voice.**

**In my distress I called upon the Lord,
Yes, I called out to my God;
And from His temple He heard my voice,
And my cry for help *came* into His ears.**

God heard the prayers of David as he cried out to the Lord for help.

In verses 8 thru 14 David uses Poetic language but the context makes the meaning abundantly clear. God was coming to the rescue.

Verses 15 -17

**And He shot arrows and scattered them,
Lightning, and routed them.
¹⁶ Then the channels of the sea appeared,
The foundations of the world were exposed
By the rebuke of the Lord,
From the blast of the breath of His nostrils.
¹⁷ He sent from on high, He took me;
He drew me out of many waters.**

David continues with the poetic language to describe how God routed the enemies of David that had surrounded him.

In verse 17 the “many waters” is a reference to the many dangers that David faced.

Verses 18 - 24

**He rescued me from my strong enemy,
From those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.
¹⁹ They confronted me on the day of my disaster,
But the Lord was my support.
²⁰ He also brought me out into an open place;
He rescued me, because He delighted in me.
²¹ The Lord has treated me in accordance with my righteousness;
In accordance with the cleanliness of my hands He has repaid me.
²² For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
And have not acted wickedly against my God.
²³ For all His ordinances *were* before me,
And *as for* His statutes, I did not deviate from them.
²⁴ I was also blameless toward Him,
And I have kept myself from my wrongdoing.**

**²² For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
And have not acted wickedly against my God.**

**²³ For all His ordinances *were* before me,
And *as for* His statutes, I did not deviate from them.**

The interpretation of verses 22 and 23 may depend on the time frame of this Psalm.

1. If this happened before David's sin with Bathsheba then one can argue that this statement can be taken literally because David was not claiming to be sinless in the sight of God but rather that he had not acted wickedly against God.
2. If this took place after his indiscretion with Bathsheba then the interpretation of these verses becomes much more difficult to explain because we are told that David acted wickedly against God.

See 2 Samuel 12:14

¹⁴ However, since by this deed you have shown utter disrespect for the Lord, the child himself who is born to you shall certainly die."

Verses 25 - 29

**So the Lord has repaid me in accordance with my righteousness,
In accordance with my cleanliness before His eyes.**

²⁶ **With *the one who is faithful* You show Yourself faithful,**

With the blameless one You prove Yourself blameless;

²⁷ **With the *one who is pure* You show Yourself pure,**

But with the perverted You show Yourself astute.

²⁸ **And You save an afflicted people;**

But Your eyes are on the haughty *whom* You humiliate.

²⁹ **For You are my lamp, Lord;**

And²⁷ With the *one who is pure* You show Yourself pure,

²⁶ **With *the one who is faithful* You show Yourself faithful,**

With the *blameless* one You prove Yourself blameless;

²⁷ **With the *one who is pure* You show Yourself pure,**

Those who live for God will be rewarded with an understanding of God's character. David was known for being a man after God's own heart. Even when David was being punished for his sin to he looked to God for help.

But with *the perverted* You show Yourself *astute*.

But Your eyes are on the *haughty whom* You *humiliate*.

Those who do not live for God will see Him as a shrewd antagonist, or adversary.

Verses 30 - 33

**For by You I can run at a troop of warriors;
By my God I can leap over a wall.**

**³¹ As for God, His way is blameless;
The word of the Lord is refined;
He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.**

**³² For who is God, except the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?**

**³³ God is my strong fortress;
And He sets the blameless on His way.**

**For by You I can run at a troop of warriors;
By my God I can leap over a wall.**

God gave his prophets and the military leaders of Israel super human powers at various times throughout the Old Testament. The spirit would overtake them giving them the ability to do things that were extraordinary.

**³² For who is God, except the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?**

There is no God besides the Lord

Verses 34 - 39

**³⁴ He makes my feet like deer's feet,
And sets me on my high places.**

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

**³⁶ You have also given me the shield of Your salvation,
And Your help makes me great.**

**³⁷ You enlarge my steps under me,
And my feet have not slipped.**

**³⁸ I pursued my enemies and eliminated them,
And I did not turn back until they were finished off.**

**³⁹ And I have devoured them and smashed them, so that they would not rise;
And they fell under my feet.**

**³⁴ He makes my feet like deer's feet,
And sets me on my high places.
³⁵ He trains my hands for battle,
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.**

David was sure-footed and swift as a deer. God gave David the skills and ability to wage war and the strength to use the most powerful weapons of war.

**³⁸ I pursued my enemies and eliminated them,
And I did not turn back until they were finished off.
³⁹ And I have devoured them and smashed them, so that they would not rise;
And they fell under my feet.**

All of this was possible because of the God-given strength and ability with which the Lord has endowed him.

Verses 40 - 47

**For You have encircled me with strength for battle;
You have forced those who rose up against me to bow down under me.
⁴¹ You have also made my enemies turn *their* backs to me,
And I destroyed those who hated me.
⁴² They looked, but there was no one to save *them*;
Even to the Lord, but He did not answer them.
Then I pulverized them as the dust of the earth;
I crushed *and* trampled them like the mud of the streets.
⁴⁴ You have also saved me from the contentions of my people;
You have kept me as head of the nations;
A people I have not known serve me.
⁴⁵ Foreigners pretend to obey me;
As soon as they hear, they obey me.
⁴⁶ Foreigners lose heart,
And come trembling out of their fortresses.
⁴⁷ The Lord lives, and blessed be my Rock;
And exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation,**

David again acknowledges that his victories were from God. It should be noted that God blessed David so that Israel might become a great nation and all the world would here about the God of Heaven and come to know Him.

Verses 48 - 50

**The God who executes vengeance for me,
And brings down peoples under me,**

⁴⁹ Who also brings me out from my enemies;

You also raise me above those who rise up against me;

You rescue me from the violent person.

⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks to You, Lord, among the nations,

And I will sing praises to Your name.

⁵¹ *He is* a tower of salvation to His king,

And shows favor to His anointed,

To David and his descendants forever.”

⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks to You, Lord, among the nations,

And I will sing praises to Your name.

The apostle Paul quotes this verse in Romans 15:9

⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision in behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers, ⁹ 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 praises to Your name.”**