

Title: David's Overflowing Praise

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22

Series: The Promise of the Messianic Kingdom

1. Introduction:

- a. Our chapter is a massive 51 verses, paralleling Psalm 18. The chapter itself is a Psalm of David contained within the book of Samuel.
- b. By the time of this writing, David was an older man, and he could look back throughout His life and see how the sovereign God had protected and delivered him. David marvels and is overcome by a sense of overwhelming grateful adoration. God had kept him through many dangers, toils, and snares.
- c. So, David's psalm is reflective. It records the long story of David's salvation. It begins with God's deliverance:
 - i. **Verse 1** 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.
 - ii. Verse 1 is the lens through which readers are to view the whole psalm. God has delivered and will consistently deliver His chosen. This truth must guide the reading of this psalm and the faith of each Christian here today.
 1. There will be a day when we will look back at the entirety of our lives and say the exact words as David: **The Lord has delivered me from the hand of all my enemies.**

- d. Therefore, David's history is presented not as a story of a powerful earthly king who overcomes but as the actions of a great and powerful God who saves his appointed king from life's great dangers.
 - i. In other words, our psalm is meant to give all glory and majesty to the God who saved David and has saved us and is saving us right now.

2. Verses 2-22: The Intensity of David's Praise:

- a. We notice that David doesn't just start praising; he erupts like a volcano with praise.
 - i. **Verses 2-3** 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.
 - ii. David's exuberance arises from his inability to express, with human words, the praise that correctly captures God's splendor. He can't say enough, so he says much.
 - iii. Often, when speaking of God's greatness, words are not enough! They fail us because God is greater than all of human thought and vocabulary.
 - 1. David's many words are an admission that his praise is too small. Yet David's words are passionate, intense, and filled with joy.
 - iv. There are three main reasons why David worships God with such overflowing joy.
- b. First, David would tell us that to understand his outburst of praise, we would first have to understand the desperateness of his previous distress:

- i. **Verses 5-7** “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.
- ii. His trials had not killed him, but death’s bony hands had often held him.
 1. David once said to Jonathan in **1 Samuel 20:3B** But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.”
 2. This type of trials had been a constant. From the human perspective, it appeared that David was always barely one step ahead of death, yet death never caught him.
 3. Yes, David’s distress was often extreme. It went far beyond our ordinary battles. Death stubbornly pursued him. He was the most wanted man on Saul's hit list.
- iii. We have to consider the chances of David escaping such a constant threat. One might escape once or twice, but what are the chances of escaping death when King Saul stays on a concerted, relentless, and multi-year campaign to make Sheol (death) your home?
 1. Humanly speaking, David had no chance of survival, but God had delivered him!
 - a. So David sings praise upon praise to God. Just like the one who's been

forgiven much loves much (Luke 7:47), the one who has been greatly delivered praises with overflowing joy.

i. Gratitude is the author of praise.

c. Secondly, the fact that God intervened on his behalf also explains the overflowing of David's praise. In his **distress, he cried to God, and God heard** (v. 7). And when God heard, then what happened? Well, simply put, the world became unglued:

i. **Verses 8-10, 12, 14-15** “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...(12) He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water....(14) 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.

1. Beloved, this is our God! The God that loves His people! The God that both hears (v. 7) and comes to our rescue (vv. 8-16).

ii. When He comes to save His saints, the whole of creation shudders. Why? Because God takes the abuse of His saints personally. It angers Him to see how this world often treats His sent ambassadors of peace and reconciliation.

1. **Focus on the Bible Commentary**: God is irate that his servant stands in such

affliction, and so comes in blazing anger, shuddering majesty, and world-convulsing power to rescue him.

a. This is both a terrifying and comforting picture.

iii. At this point, let us consider that David could have simply written that God intervened on his behalf. But why didn't he? Although such a statement would be true, it would not be impressively true. It would not match what God had done for David or for His people.

1. **Focus on the Bible Commentary**: David doesn't merely want to tell you a fact about God; he wants you to see God in all his saving greatness. He doesn't intend merely to inform you about what God has done; he wants you to see the God who did it, in all his phosphorescent splendor.

d. Finally, the welcome relief of his deliverance also causes overflowing praise. David pictures this relief in terms of rescue:

i. **Verses 17-20** “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.

1. When his enemies stood ready to cut him down on that dark day, David stated that the **LORD was his support**.
 - a. What a wonderful truth. It is assuring, majestic, and straightforward.
 - i. David had never been alone! Never! And neither are you, beloved!
 - b. So, David depicts his deliverance as freedom: '**He brought me out into a broad place** (v. 20a), which was the very opposite of the cramped, constricting confinement of danger and distress.
 - c. David's relief is expressed in verses 17-20. And it is all God's doing, '**for they were too strong for me**' (v. 18b). David is honest about his helplessness.
 - i. He could never have survived these attacks had the Lord not fought for Him. Oh, Beloved, where would you be today if God had not graciously carried you this far? Is not this world too strong for any of us?
 - ii. This is the message of **John 16:33B** In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

- e. Beloved, the explanation for David’s overflowing praise is simple: David repeatedly was in great distress, but God always came and rescued him.
 - i. Beloved, look back throughout your life. If you are a believer, isn’t this your testimony as well?
 1. **Psalms 103:2-6** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (3) who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, (4) who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, (5) who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (6) The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
 2. **Psalms 126:3** The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
 3. **Psalms 145:3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

3. Verses 21-31: The Importance of Righteousness:

- a. David makes some readers nervous as he continues:
 - i. **Verse 21-22** “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.
 - ii. Let us understand what David is saying here. He is not claiming sinless perfection or salvation by works. David claims that throughout his life, he

had been generally faithful to God. He had not committed apostasy. He had not turned his back on God.

1. David states in **verse 23** **For all his rules were before me, and from his statutes I did not turn aside.**

- iii. Then, in verse 24, David interprets all this. **I was blameless before him.** The Hebrew words here do not speak of sinlessness but wholeness, completeness, and integrity.
- iv. Beloved, notice **verse 24b**: **and I kept myself from guilt.** He knows his nature and tendencies. David had generally guarded himself from giving in to his sinful desires.
- v. All of this is important, for it is such faithful, whole-hearted (though afflicted) servants that God delights to rescue and who can then rejoice in the power and safety that God has provided.

4. Verses 32-51: The Invincibility of God's Kingdom:

- a. Verses 32-51 trace how God gives his king victory and how the surrounding nations submit to his kingship.
- b. In his praise, David celebrates the power that establishes the kingdom. David highlights God's activity, either in the third-person ('He') or the second-person ('You'), as in verses 34-37:
 - i. **Verses 34-37** 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;

c. In verses 38-43, David speaks in the first person of what 'I' have been able to accomplish:

i. **Verses 38-43** 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.

1. Clearly, David's I-statements are only true because of the He/you statements about God. In other words, David was able to defeat his enemies because of God's grace in life. No credit belongs to David.

2. David is crystal clear. All that he has been able to do has been done by God's power: **Verse 40A** For you equipped me with strength for the battle. David's kingdom rests on God's strength.

d. At this point, David looks around and sees the distinct people serving the kingdom. His kingdom is international:

- i. **Verses 44-50** “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.
- ii. This is another reason to praise: **verse 48** **God who gave me vengeance and brought down peoples under me,**
1. Therefore, David's praise must be wide in scope: **verse 50** **For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.**
 2. Beloved, Here we get a glimpse of the scope of the kingdom. Unlike Saul, David was not a mere Philistine vassal state, reigning over a small section of the Judean landscape. David was God's covenant king over Israel, and the surrounding nations now acknowledged his authority.
 3. Beloved, here we have a foretaste and promise of the day when all kings bow down

and all nations (will) serve David's royal Descendant.

- a. **Psalms 72:11** May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
- e. As David finishes his praise, he points to the promise that guarantees the kingdom:
- i. **Verse 51** Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.”
 - ii. The mention of **steadfast love** (*hesed*) to **David's offspring** and the phrase **forever** remind us of God's covenant promise to David.
 1. **2 Samuel 7:12-16** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. (13) He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (14) I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, (15) but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. (16) And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”
 - iii. This last verse reminds us that David's kingdom and its grand finale depend not on coincidences

or the luck of history but on God's decree, which determines and shapes history. Because God's kingdom rests on God's promise, it is sure.

iv. Such certainty is urgent for God's battered people. We can keep trudging through many dangers, toils, and snares as long as we know the promised kingdom is invincible and sure.

1. **Psalms 115:1** Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

5. Benediction

a. **Psalms 115:3** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Public Reading of Scripture Psalms 115