

## **Praising God for His Deliverances, Part II**

Call to Worship: Psalm 20

1st Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1-4

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:5-20

Hymn Insert- *You are My All in All*

Hymn Insert- *Come People of the Risen King*

Hymn Insert- *Every Promise of Your Word*

### **Introduction:**

Last time, we began to look at the first four verses of this lengthy Psalm of praise, written by David. And we saw there, that the purpose of the Psalm was to give praise to God, for His faithfulness, in continually delivering David, out of the hands of his enemies. It were as if, David, later on in life, had stopped, to look back and reflect upon the ways in which God has prospered and defended him. And in his opening statement, revealed in verses 2 & 3, we found David offering up visible, illustrious descriptions, reflecting the ways in which God has been, and continues to be, a Savior to David. And this leads David to trust and praise God, in the present, recognizing that God will continue to maintain His covenant faithfulness to David.

This morning then, we begin to make our way into the meat of the Psalm, which describes, in very graphic and powerful language, the type of zeal that God has, on behalf of David, and on behalf of all of His people, for that matter, when they face ungodly opposition.

### **I. God's Zeal on Behalf of His People**

In verse 5, then, we find David using language that would describe his circumstances, just prior to God stepping in and delivering him. And it is a "catch all," general description, which best explains the many contexts, within which, David found himself, contending with enemies, who were naturally much stronger than he was. Rather than documenting one particular event, he highlights the general sense of all of them. Notice, how he describes his circumstances:

1) The waves of death surrounded him. That is, what he faced was extremely difficult, and life threatening, necessitating a timely deliverance. From David's standpoint, many times, he was but a step from death.

2) The floods of ungodliness made him afraid. The magnitude and size of the opposition had overwhelmed David, making him afraid. Considering David's dealings with Saul, the Philistines and Absalom, we can certainly presume that his words here, are not exaggerated at all. And those, with whom he was dealing, had no fear of God. There was no "God conscience," which would lead them to be civil or self-controlled. He could expect the worst from them.

3) The sorrows of Sheol surrounded him, and the snares of death confronted him. Again, recognizing the frail nature of his humanity, David here came face to face with the grave. He was on the edge of the plank, hanging over shark infested waters, with a group of swords pressing him forward into the ocean.

All in all, the circumstances were dire and very serious. And so, as David seeks to prove, as it were, the unbreakable and certain defense of his God, he begins here, by defining the many circumstances, which have surrounded him. He wants all to know that, from a human standpoint, David had faced the impossible, over and over again. And in David's distress, he called upon His Lord! He cried out to His God! And His God heard! That is, His cry went into God's ears, as it were, and God responded.

And then, in verses 8-20, David gives a lengthy, illustrious description of the fiery zeal that God has had, on his behalf, leading to David's deliverance from every impossible circumstance. Now again, these words are not meant to be taken literally, but they are accurate, in the sense, that they best represent the active way, in which, God steps in, on behalf of His people! And they do well to convey the love and jealousy, which God has for His people, and the specific focus that He directs toward each one of us, brethren! They speak aloud, the words, "God does care! Trust Him! Endure, persevere, stand fast, and wait upon Him! God is with you! He is a very present help in times of trouble! He is very near, even though you don't necessarily feel it!"

Listen again then, to the graphic illustration, used here by David, to get this point well across. [Read verses 7-20]

We might break down this glorious display, into the following general deductions:

1) God is pictured as exhibiting a holy and godly rage, on behalf of David. Again, very clearly, we are meant to see here, that God exercises a holy jealousy on behalf of His covenant

people. We might imagine the example of a husband and a father, caring for his wife and children. Men, what would you do, if someone broke into your home, with the intent of harming your wife or child? Given the opportunity to defend them, what length would you go, to preserve their lives from all harm? Or we might think of a large mama bear, who believes that her cubs are threatened by some intruder. In her anger and rage, she would defend her cubs, tearing the threat apart, limb by limb.

You see, clearly, the act of rage is connected to the care that is fixed upon the victim. God so loves David; He so loves His children; He has so bound Himself to them by covenant, that His rage is fixed upon any, who would dare harm them. You don't get that riled or worked up, about someone, who you hardly care about. Hopefully, we would do all that we could, to rescue a stranger, who is unconscious, in a burning car. But, when it is your own child or spouse, you automatically turn green, and become the Hulk, don't you? Here, God's wrath is so fiery, on behalf of David, that two times, it is said to ignite coals, with it's burning heat and flame! What a powerful picture of God's jealous love for His people! The earth shaking, the foundation of the earth beneath the waters being exposed, bending down of the heavens... etc.

2) God's wrath is appeased, only in the destruction of David's enemies (vs. 15). God not only has a deep love and jealousy for His people, but He exhibits that holy love and jealousy by exercising vengeance upon their enemies, in time and space. Higher powers and principalities, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places, and every kind of earthly power, are all, no match for God. And He will ultimately avenge all of His people, who have been harmed by such ungodly threats. We are not to exercise vengeance, but that is not because God is unconcerned about justice. Rather, vengeance will be exercised, but vengeance is the Lord's! He will repay the evil that has come upon and against His people!

3) God delivers David from his enemies, and from all of his fears. Notice, how verses 17-20, answer the distress, which David had expressed in verses 5-7. [Read verses 5-7, immediately followed by 17-20]

You'll also notice that, like a lion, who waits for its prey to be most vulnerable and weak, before attacking, David's enemies strike, especially when calamity is already upon him. They take advantage of his present trial or tribulation, attacking him when he is off guard or inhibited

in some other way. But, God delivers, nonetheless, doesn't He? In fact, God's power is most shown, when the odds are greatly against His people.

4) David notes that God delivered him, because God delighted in David (vs. 20). God is in covenant with David. His heart is fixed upon David, in a loving, saving, intimate and relational way. And therefore, He most assuredly defends, protects and delivers him!

All in all, David's opening statement is proven true! God is trustworthy! God is faithful! God does protect and deliver His own! And therefore, He praises God, as his Deliverer and Savior!

Lord willing, next time, moving into verses 21 and following, we will consider David's own integrity and righteousness in the matter, clearly indicating that David's trust took on a substantial form, in his obedience. His faith had a heartbeat. It was an active, living faith, which exercised itself outwardly, in the form of obedience. And God met David in his obedience; his obedience, which confirmed his trust and faith in God.

## **II. Closing Thoughts and Applications**

Having worked through our designated portion of this Psalm (for this morning), brethren, let us then conclude our time, by considering a few closing thoughts and applications:

1) Brethren; those of you, who are in covenant with God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, recognize two very important realities, concerning God's thoughts toward you:

a- God is jealous for your sake, and He is adamantly set, on bringing you safely home to glory. You will face great opposition in this life. The world will reject you, mock you, and possibly even persecute you. The flesh; your remaining sinful desires, will plague you, causing you much grief and hardship, as you strive unto holiness and Christ-likeness. And the devil, with his demonic minions, will trouble you, and use every means of attack possible, to keep you from pressing forward, from growing in grace, and from shining the light of Christ's glory, toward those, who are outside of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But know this for certain. As you wrestle against higher powers and principalities; as you wrestle against remaining sin and fleshly desires; and as you struggle against the influences and offenses of a world that is in rebellion against God, you are not alone. In fact, God is jealous for

your prosperity. And in the end, every one of your enemies; every last one of them, will be defeated and destroyed, by the Savior, who has loved you, who has died for you, and who is ever determined to finish, in you, what He has already begun. And so, you may not feel it in the present. You may feel nothing but the dragon's breath, and his fiery arrows, soaring by your head. But, God is very present. You are not alone! And the fiery description given here in our text, describing God's holy rage on behalf of David, is representative of the way, in which, He cares for all of His children.

Can you imagine a mother forgetting her own child? [Ill. When one of our sons got outside and we could not find him... "I can't find my son!"] And yet, a mother may even forget her own offspring. But God will never, ever, not even for a moment, forget you. The price He paid to redeem you, is way too high!

b- He is jealous for you, because He delights in you! Brethren, God delights in you! He rejoices in you! You are the apple of His eye! Now, recognizing our remaining corruption and struggle with sin, could easily tempt us to deny this reality. The question, "How could God possibly, ever delight in me? Look at me," is a legitimate question. But, nevertheless, God has covenanted with you, in His Son! The whole purpose and nature of God's covenant of grace with you, is to give you the most certain and absolute assurance, that, in spite of you, He delights in you! Without a covenant; without an oath from God, we would never believe it! It's hard enough to believe it, even with a covenant! But God covenants with us; He swears by His own Name, as a God, who cannot lie, so that, we might have full assurance, that He is for us, and that, He delights in us! We are never, ever, delight worthy, but Jesus was and is! And when you are tempted to find every excuse for denying this reality, you must turn your eyes upon Christ, brethren! For, that is where God receives and accepts us... "in the Beloved," ordained before time (in the divine counsel of God), accomplished in time (at the cross), and applied in time (by the regenerative work of the Holy Spirit)!

And so, in Christ; by way of God's certain covenant, made with you in Christ, you can be certain, that in spite of you, God is jealous over you, and He delights in you! His desire for you is not some casual, aloof, too busy playing golf in Florida, type of desire. No, it is a nuclear

explosion type of desire, that rages against your enemies, when they would dare seek to harm His adopted children, who are in covenant with Him.

2) God delights in you, IF you are in covenant with Him. But some of you, this morning, are not in covenant with God. Some of you have never repented of your sins, and laid hold of Jesus Christ by faith. Some of you are still living your lives, your way, wanting to be independent of God, the One, who created you for His glory.

See here, friends, the very fierce rage of God, expressed toward the enemies of His children, and recognize that this is the way, in which God's wrath will be expressed toward you... forever, if you die in your sins, outside of Jesus Christ! Oh, enter into covenant with God, by calling upon the Name of Jesus, with all of your heart, desirous to serve and follow Him. Seek His grace and His forgiveness, before it is too late, and the wrath of God, which now hangs over your head, falls down upon you, like a relentless ocean wave, sweeping you away, into an eternity of eternal torment, sorrow and suffering!

AMEN!!!

The Lord's Supper!