

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE**2 Samuel 22**

Intro: Here we are – we’ve come to the final message in our **David: An Ordinary Man An Extraordinary God** series which began all the way back on June 2. It has been quite a journey as we really only scratched the surface of this individual known as **A Man After God’s Own Heart**. I’ve appreciated the fact that in addition to my nine talks, we have had the perspectives of six other preachers as we have looked at the various facets of who David was as we looked at his life. Next week we will be having a Fifth Sunday Fellowship with a continental breakfast in the fellowship hall where Jeffrey will lead us in a at time of discussion of our summer study as we button up the series.

For today, I’m looking at 2 Samuel 23 which is a song of David that, incidentally is practically identical to Psalm 18. It’s not certain when David actually produced the song – whether it was earlier in his life, such as when he had been delivered from Saul or later as he looked back on his many and varied experiences – including his protection from Saul. But I find it interesting that the people who compiled the history books that comprise First & Second Samuel, First & Second Kings, and First & Chronicles, placed this song at the end of Second Samuel, which in the chronological order seemed to place it at the end of David’s life. It’s for that reason that I using it as David’s closing prayer for an eventful, often tragic, and almost always faithful life.

It’s a good send off for David. He is reflecting on his life and how God has been with him. I think is a good pattern for us too as we look back and make sure that we, too, give credit where credit is due.

As I pointed out, Psalm 18 is very close to identical to our text for today, but one dissimilarity is right at the very beginning where Psalm adds, *I love you, O Lord, my strength*. Psalm 18:1 (ESV) which is a very good preface to everything that follows. David’s love for God in response to God’s unfailing love is the basis for the glorious song of praise that follows.

Let’s look at it: But first a quick explanation of my background graphic. This is an ibex which is abundant all across the Middle East. I’m not covering this chapter verse by verse and, actually, most of my teaching comes from the first half of it. In that second half is a reference from which I pulled this graphic. I have no doubt it is what David had in mind when he proclaimed,

For who is God, but the Lord?

And who is a rock, except our God?

This God is my strong refuge

and has made my way blameless.

He made my feet like the feet of a deer

and set me secure on the heights. 2 Samuel 22:32-34. Kathy and I ran into one of these guys in Israel as we toured the mountain fortress Masada which is only accessible by cable car. They are indeed surefooted and this particular rascal was begging for treats from us tourists.

Now, let’s proceed . . .

God’s name and attributes cannot be contained in just one or two words

- David sang, *The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, 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.*

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. 2 Samuel 22:2-3

- We sing:

My God is so big,

so strong and so mighty

there’s nothing that he cannot do.

The rivers are his, the mountains are his,

the stars are his handiwork too.

My God is so big,

so strong and so mighty

there's nothing that he cannot do.

Or

*Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untameable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God*

God cannot be contained in just a word or just some words. It's hard to think of all the wonderful descriptors that make God who he is and everything he is.

- This was definitely David's case, and he was not at a loss for words to describe his God—in fact he used every word that came to his mind.
- First thing he did was give credit where credit was due. *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 Samuel 22:1 The song was directed only to God, in fact, it was all about God – to whom would any other praise be due? David knew why he was who he was. Despite his many faults and failures – God was still there.
- And then David simply cannot come up with enough words to describe his God. He is a rock, a fortress, a deliverer, a refuge, a shield and a horn of salvation and it goes on. God was all good and he was his Savior and his protector. David could have just said, Oh God, I don't have words! But instead he gave it all he had and still could have added more.
- This is a good exercise – be like David and recite to yourself, or write down everything God is for you.
- For David it was right in there in the forefront of his memory . . .

God is worthy to be praised

- Just look at all he's done, *I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.*
*“For the waves of death encompassed me,
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.
“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. 2 Samuel 22:4-7*
- David was very grateful and not afraid to say it. We know from the way he danced with reckless abandon that he was definitely unabashed in his celebration in worship. And besides – God HAD delivered him!
 - From Goliath
 - From Saul
 - From the enemies that threatened Israel
 - From Absalom's rebellion.In every case, especially as David looked to God for his strength, he had prevailed.
- But the most important deliverance David had received from God was from himself. We are all too familiar with David's huge failure by falling into adultery with Bathsheba and his murderous cover-up. We also spent the past couple weeks suffering through David's shortcomings as a father. Another story that we didn't have time to cover was David's arrogant census of his people found in 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21. In every case David forgot who his deliverer and his source of wisdom was. In fact in every case he was traveling on his own steam and leaving God out of the equation. But in each case – especially as he took total ownership of his sin, he experienced God's forgiveness and salvation. He knew that giving credit

where credit was due was to realize he could take no credit at all. He was undeserving, but God saved him anyway.

- And he acknowledged . . .

God's deliverance was so terrible that it was good

- Listen as I read the litany describing the incredible wonder and power of God in verses 8 – 20. (Read 2 Samuel 22:8-20)
- I cried to God, he heard my voice, the foundations of heaven quaked, he delivered me because he delighted in me! Despite David's monumental failures – God still delighted in him! God shook heaven and earth to deliver the man after his own heart.
- He did that for you too! David isn't unique – this deliverance is for us too. Jesus shook heaven and earth for you. AND, HE DELIGHTS IN YOU TOO!!!!
- Here's why . . .

God rewarded David for his righteousness

- What righteousness? David was an adulterer. Well, listen,
*“The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.
For I have kept the ways of the Lord
and have not wickedly departed from my God.
For all his rules were before me,
and from his statutes I did not turn aside.
I was blameless before him,
and I kept myself from guilt.
And the Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
according to my cleanness in his sight. 2 Samuel 22:21-25*
- David repented of his sin. One place we find his repentance is in Psalm 51 where he owns up of his gross sin with Bathsheba. He knew God's great forgiveness. Paul knew this same great forgiveness – he wrote this to Timothy, *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.* 1 Timothy 1:15. That salvation is ours too – we are sinners saved by grace too. We are not deserving but eligible to receive.
- We are only halfway through this song of David, but we are out of time. Let me finish with this . . .

Conclusion: God is in the deliverance business

- He is our only chance of it, as a matter of fact. As I said earlier, God is terrible but he is good. He's not an angry fiend who is looking to zap creation – instead he wants to redeem his wayward creation. As you read the remainder of the chapter you see that God rewards the repentant as he lights the darkness for them.
- Over and over David recites and repeats God's goodness, his power, his righteousness and his mercy and how he, David, has been the recipient of it. This is for us too! David has come to the end of his life and his conclusion is this: God is a living reality and he, David, is inexpressibly grateful. He knew who deserved the credit. In the end, he'd done it God's way. He concludes his song with,
*“For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations,
and sing praises to your name.
Great salvation he brings to his king,
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his offspring forever.” 1 Samuel 22:50-51*
- David's offspring through whom salvation came was Jesus himself, and look how that blessing has passed down to us. For that reason David's song is our song too. We just need to know to give credit where credit is due. Amen.