



Turning Lost Students into Christ-Centered Laborers

## SINGING PRAISES • David Glorifies God for His Deliverance, Faithfulness and Mercy

### What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

2 Samuel 22:1-23:7

This study focuses on a beautiful song David sings to the Lord. David reflects on the times God rescued him from peril and offers up praise and thanksgiving. Then, in chapter 23, we read the official final words of David as king, in which he glorifies and exalts God for his reign and the protection God provided. This chapter provides a wonderful summary of David's life. Though he is sinful, like us, his life was continually being rerouted to look to God. God made covenant after covenant with David, and God never once failed him. As you examine your life before preparing to lead this study, are these expressions from David's heart what you experience – or want to experience? Praise the Lord for being the righteous God who faithfully delivers us from evil.

#### David Sings to God (22:1-51)

David loved music. Back in 1 Samuel, he played the lyre for Saul. Now, he uses his music skills to sing praise to God for deliverance from Saul and other enemies. This song breaks down into many verses or stanzas. In each one, there is a different theme from David. In the first stanza, verses 2-6, David praises the Lord for being his rock, fortress, deliverer, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold and refuge. David sings, "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies" (v. 4). Even when death surrounded David, he trusted in the Lord.

The third stanza (vv. 8-17) looks kind of scary. It says that smoke came up from God's nostrils and He devoured fire from His mouth (v. 9). When God descended to help David, He came with "darkness around Him [as] His canopy" (v. 12). God thundered down from heaven and sent lightning over David's enemies (vv. 14-15). The point of this is to show that God acts quickly, decisively and powerfully for His people when they are threatened by enemies. God never lets evil go unpunished.

In the fifth stanza (vv. 21-25), David says, "The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He rewarded me." Wow! Doesn't that sound a bit arrogant from a man who has seemed to steer far from the Lord in the latter half of this book? What David means is that the overall trajectory of his life has been moving toward righteousness. David still sins, of course, but he is also a "man after God's own heart," meaning that he is humble, prayerful and repentant. May we strive to trust the Lord for His grace to be people who get to the end of our lives and praise God for dealing with us according to the righteousness we have in Jesus.

### What's the Big Idea?

David praises God as he reflects on His faithfulness to him over the course of his life. God expresses His love and faithfulness to His people by bringing them glorious salvation and establishing His kingdom in their lives.

### What's the Problem?

We tend to negatively focus on the times when God seems distant or silent, forgetting that He is always faithful and merciful to work toward our ultimate good.



In stanza six (vv. 26-43), David praises God for His mercy and who He is. “For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?” (v. 32). In a time where idolatry was rampant, David declares that Yahweh is the only God. God has proved Himself to David time and time again. God has also proven Himself to us through Christ. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.” We know God because of Jesus Christ. God proved His love and faithfulness to us by sending Jesus to the cross. Because of this, He is worthy of our praise.

Finally, in the eighth stanza (vv. 47-49), David says that God is the one who gave him vengeance. We are called to love our enemies. God is the one who will give justice and wrath. Over the course of David’s life, we saw him continually go to God instead of taking matters into his own hands. This shows David’s dependence on God to bring him victory and God’s righteous hatred for sin. David loved his enemies; God punished the unrepentant.

#### David’s Final Words (23:1-7)

It’s only fitting that one of the greatest kings and military commanders the world has ever seen gets his final words recorded in the Bible. Even so, David does not take time to toot his own horn; he gives glory to God. In seven short verses, David sums up his entire kingship over Israel. David says that it is God who anointed him and God who speaks for him (vv. 1-2), and that he has ruled over Israel just as the LORD wanted. David’s reign was so blessed that he said, “When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth” (v. 4). What a beautiful picture of the effect a king should have on his kingdom. In verse 5, David mentions the most important promise God made to him. David says that his house will always stand because God made an everlasting covenant. Perhaps David was not clear on all the details, but he clings to God’s word. One day, through the person and work of Jesus Christ, God’s promise would be fulfilled. David’s greater son will obtain what no other king – including David – could do for God’s people: forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation.

#### Conclusion

God is worthy to be praised because He is faithful and merciful. David gives God all the credit for his life and we should too, knowing that the Lord is the one who directs our steps and leads us in paths of righteousness. There is no good in us (Rom. 3:10-11) and these two chapters should cause your group to heartily praise the Lord for His grace in our lives to grant us eternal life in Jesus. “The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation” (22:47). Thank the Lord that the rock of our salvation is Christ and that He has conquered every enemy that stood between us and Himself.

#### What’s Our Response?

We should go to God in praise and thanksgiving while putting our trust in him.

## What Are the Questions?

2 Samuel 22:1-23:7

### LAUNCH

How have you seen God come through for you recently?

### EXPLORE

Read 2 Samuel 22:1-7.

1. What is the setting of this chapter?

2. What about God does David praise?

3. How would you describe David's predicament in your own words?

Read 2 Samuel 22:8-20.

4. How does David picture God's response to his predicament?

5. What does God do for David as expressed in these verses?

Read 2 Samuel 22:21-31.

6. How does David describe his faith in God in these verses?

7. How can David describe himself in this way when he has committed murder and adultery?

8. What does David say about God in this section?

9. Think of a challenge you're facing right now. How does this study encourage you to trust God with what you're facing?

Read 2 Samuel 22:32-51.

10. In what way do these verses paint a picture of the invincibility of God's kingdom?

Read 2 Samuel 23:1-7.

11. What kind of picture does David paint in these verses about the future of God's kingdom?

### APPLY

12. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does the picture of salvation in these verses compare with and go beyond the salvation David experiences in 2 Samuel 22-23:7?

13. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does being in Christ allow us to say the kind of things David said about personal righteousness in 2 Samuel 22:21-31?

14. Read Romans 8:28-32. How do these verses depict the inevitability of God establishing His kingdom in the lives of His people in a way that's similar to David's experience in 2 Samuel 23:1-7?

15. In what way do you sense that God wants to work through you to extend His kingdom, and how does this study motivate you to cooperate with what He wants to do in your life?

16. How does this study motivate you to trust in God's power to walk in Christ's righteousness?

17. Of all the expressions of God's character in this song, what means the most to you right now and why?

## What Are the Answers?

1. David praises God as he reflects on how He's delivered him from Saul and all his enemies.
2. He praises God for being his rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold and savior.
3. He's in dire straits.
4. He pictures God responding powerfully and decisively to his need.
5. He delivers and rescues him.
6. He describes himself as righteous and blameless.
7. These statements describe the overall trajectory of his life as he has sought to follow God.
8. He says God responds to people based on their righteousness or lack thereof. He describes Him as a God of salvation, one who lifts up the humble but opposes the proud. He describes Him as one who empowers him and who is blameless in all His ways.
9. Allow the group to discuss.
10. He paints a picture of a God who gives David victory in battle on a global stage. God expresses the invincibility of His kingdom by showing covenant love to His king and His descendants forever.
11. He paints a picture of a kingdom that is destined to be established, while all who oppose it face ruin and destruction.
12. In both cases, God delivers His people from great distress. But God's deliverance through Christ saves us from eternal destruction and showers us with eternal, spiritual blessings while David experienced salvation that was primarily physical and temporal.
13. In Christ God, imparts the very righteousness of Christ to us so that we can describe ourselves as righteous and blameless in His sight.
14. They portray God taking care of our salvation from A to Z in a way that no one or nothing can thwart.
- 15.-17. Allow the group to discuss.

## Memorize

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.

2 Samuel 22:32-33