

## Second Samuel Chapter 22 - John Karmelich

As I explained in the last few lessons, Chapters 19-24 are in effect an epilogue-section of King David's life that covers his life as Israel's king. That's roughly 1,000 to 950 BC. The last two chapters covered a time that took place earlier in his life. In Chapter 22 we get a 51-verse Psalm. My favorite question is always, why? In the last chapter we had several of David's problems resolved! So what does God want us to do when we get good news? I don't mean every time we get a great parking spot. I mean when it's obvious God is guiding us! The answer's to get on our knees and thank Him! Why? Does He have an ego and needs to hear it? No! It's to remind ourselves that He is in charge! He is guiding our lives for His glory! To pause and remind ourselves God's guiding us, is always a good thing to do as it helps to keep our focus on the one who created us in the first place!

I know there are moments when it's not appropriate to break into prayer! David realized God guides his life and he penned a 51-verse psalm in this chapter. It isn't here for us to celebrate his particular reason for praise. It's a reminder God wants us to keep our focus on Him! Of course, we can't think about Him 24/7. Still to take a few minutes, tell Him in our own words what He's done for us and recall ways He's blessed us reminds ourselves and those in earshot that God is guiding our lives for His glory! Does that mean God wants say, 51 verses every time we're feeling grateful? Of course not! Just saying taking the time to praise Him helps to keep our focus on God and truthfully in a better mood! Grateful people are happy people and I'd rather go through life grateful for what I have then to focus on the negative!

Meanwhile we got 51 verses to discuss, so I'll get going! The opening verse states that David penned it when God rescued him from Saul (the previous king who made a serious effort to kill David) and all of Israel's enemies. I suspect he penned it after Saul died (End of 1st Samuel) and he first became king. It is a logical speculation on my part based on some comments from the psalm itself!

In Verse 2 David refers to God as his rock (several times). It's not a rock one can fit in one's hand! The example I think of is the "Rock of Gibraltar"! A rock that's unmovable. It means we're trusting in God who can't be "shaken" from what He desires! David also calls God his fortress! Think of God as where we can be safe based on our trust in Him! David refers to God as His savior and I know I am preaching to the choir, so I'll let that go! Bottom line we started with David expressing what God is to him, which is always a good place to start! The point is before we get into specifics of what He did for us, it's good to express what He is to us!

After that David got into specifics: Obviously some of the references are "hyperbolic" if that's the right word to use. Whatever David was thinking of, he realized he was facing death, and let's be honest, in a war situation that's always possible! The "hyperbolic" are phrases like the "the earth shook and reeled", as a visual picture in David's mind that God went out of His way to help David! Does that mean God's going to react that way for everyone? Of course not! It's God's will for Israel to be in that land and it's God's will for David to rule there! Therefore we get a bunch of verses as if God worked in a physically mighty way. OK so what? God doesn't work that way in our lives! Don't speak so quickly. We don't know what God has rescued us from or how He's guided us! At the least we can praise God so we can be praising Him at this moment that we are alive to give Him the praise to guide our lives!

By Verse 17 David is thanking God for rescuing him! Again, the fact we're alive at this moment should be reason enough alone to praise Him. If you can recall specific events where God has guided you to a point where we can glorify Him it's good to write it down so the next time things seem hopeless we can recall how God's guided us in the past and will again in the future!

By Verse 21, David states how God has blessed him due to his (David's) righteousness. David did not consider himself righteous because he was a good person! David understood it was about his faith and nothing else! Verse 28 says, "You save a humble people" so David wasn't just grateful for his life, but also for others who trust in God! Remember God put the Israelites in that place (a land bridge between three continents) to be a witness for Him! Just saying we should be grateful for God choosing us to be a witness for Him along with others He's picked for the same reason!

With that understand, realize that God equips us to make a difference for Him! No I don't believe we're able to win any battle just because we believe in Him. His will, is His will! At the same time He gives each of us gifts we can use to honor Him! Yes, those gifts have to be developed. For some it can be the ability to fight in wars! God's gifts vary widely. What I love to ask people is what do you love to do if money was irrelevant? God gives each of us gifts that we are to use to help the church. Our gifts have to be developed to be used for His glory! David in effect discusses the gifts God give him so he can be a good witness for Him even in times of war!

By the last few verses, David makes a "full circle"! We must remember that even if we never got gifts from God, well "He is God and we're not!" The point is David's psalm in effect goes back to where he began to remind us that God blesses us in tremendous ways and guides us for His glory we must never forget again, "He's God and we're not!" It's the reminder that He created this world to glorify Him, and we were created to glorify Him. He's given us gifts to glorify Him, and God wants us to work together to glorify Him! Over and above that it's important to dedicated time to remind ourselves of these facts! That's why David glorifies God in his psalms! David wrote 73 of the 150 Psalms! This chapter here in 2nd Samuel has a lot here has similarity to some of them! I don't believe we got to follow this specific Psalm to glorify Him, but if it's our goal to be a witness for Him let alone have a joy filled life, then it's important to take some time every now and then to praise God.

If you're still confused on how you can personally praise God, this psalm can be used as a model as we add our own examples in the middle how He's guided us for His glory! Obviously, this psalm gives the specific ways God has blessed David and he uses visual pictures to describe how God guided him. Yes I realize God hasn't guided us the same way! God doesn't expect each of us to be David. He desires we use our lives for His glory. How? Ask God what He desires of us today, this week etc. A prayer that I will argue God can't resist answering is when we agree to surrender our lives to let Him guide them for how He desires. In effect what God wants of us is surrender of our will to His! He desires we use gifts that He gives us to glorify Him.

I can hear some of you saying, "But you don't know what I'm dealing with!" No but God does! Again, God wants to guide us not to what we desire but what He desires! I'm just saying to pray for guidance leads us to times where we'll praise Him for how He did that! No matter what we're facing, be grateful for life, grateful that God is guiding us and that He wants to use us for His glory!

If you liked this little study, I wrote a more detailed account about twenty years ago! If you'd like you can read the rest or stop now. Either way, I'm grateful for you reading this. To see the other one, click on one of the two links on this web page. Thanks again, John