

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[Adapted from Bethel Bible-  
Presbyterian Church, 10 Downing St.  
Oakleigh, Vic., 3166]

**DHW BIBLE STUDY CLASS**

**2 SAMUEL 22**

**LESSON 13A**

**INTRODUCTION**

We think of David as a great warrior or an admirable administrator. But David was equally skilful as a musician. When king Saul was depressed, David would play the harp to soothe him (1 Samuel 16:23). His talent as a poet was clearly seen in his lamentation on the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:19-27). His psalms were a source of great encouragement and enrichment to all who read them. The psalms display his honesty and the depth of his relationship with God. The psalms are a source of inspiration for us especially when we are troubled. Chapter 22 is one such psalm. It is a Psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God.

In this psalm, David acknowledged that his entire life's work was due to His God alone. All that he was and all that he had achieved as king of Israel (the king who united Israel into a consolidated whole) was due to God's enabling. All praise and glory must be to God's Name.

This is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving where the focus is not on man. This is a good guideline in the choice of hymn or song to be sung for worship or fellowship. As long as the hymn or song is God-centered, it will be God honouring and therefore will be acceptable to

Him. But if it is man-centered, it will rob God of His glory.

The theme of this psalm is found in verse 1. It is a psalm describing the deliverance of David from all his enemies including king Saul. It is written in poetic language.

This psalm can be divided into THE NAMES OF GOD (v. 2-3); THE DELIVERANCE OF THE LORD (v. 4-20); THE BASIS FOR THE LORD'S DELIVERANCE (v. 21-28); THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD (v. 29-40); and THE VICTORY FROM THE LORD (v. 41-51).

**COMMENTARY**

**The Names of God – 22:2-3**

Chapter 22 is David's psalm of praise and thanksgiving to the LORD. It parallels Psalm 18 and is similar except for a few variations. The opening statement gives an overall summary of the contents of the song. It noted that the LORD had saved David from all his enemies, and in particular Saul. David proclaimed his confidence in the LORD in an outburst of words that flow one after another in quick succession (22:2-3): *"the LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; the God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence."*

NOTE the change in the use of the word LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh-covenantal name) and God (Elohiym -- the power and greatness of God). The appeal to the covenantal Name is to appeal to the covenantal relationship. This means that David was praising the LORD not because of what He had done or who He was but based entirely on

the relationship God had with him, one of tenderness and suzerainty fellowship. The use of the Name "God" emphasizes the LORD's sovereignty. He is in control of all situations, both adversities and good times. Based upon this trust and fellowship, David acknowledged that the LORD was his rock ("sela"--a craggy rock--which depicts strength and stability), fortress (which depicts protection and safety) and deliverer (which depicts salvation and overcoming).

David declared he would trust in the "God of my rock". This means that David's rock is not in man or in the arm of the flesh but in God Himself. The use of "my" means that He is not just the God of the world or the God of the nation of Israel but his own personal God. The thrust here is that God was always there for David. The first description is "rock". This word is different from the previous word for rock as used in verse 2. Here the word is "tsoor," which means "a cliff or sharp rock." It is a place of refuge rather than firmness or steadfastness as the previous word implies. With this emphasis on refuge, safety and protection, David said that his only refuge was God Himself. He would always trust Him. Trust is a rare commodity today. But to David whatever his circumstance in life, he said he would always trust God for He was his refuge. How so?

David said, God *is my shield* (which refers to protection from the fiery darts and attack of evil men), and the *horn of my salvation* (which refers to the power and greatness of God to save), *my high tower* (which refers to height and safety and untouchability), and *my refuge* (which refers to a way of escape i.e. in God there are no dead ends in life), *my saviour* (which refers to deliverance and rescue i.e. God will

deliver in His time, never late or early but always on time); thou **savest me** from violence. The conclusion is that God was always been there to save him from violent men and violent situations.

### The Deliverance of the LORD – 22:4-20

David expressed confidence in and praise for the LORD. In his distress, he called upon the LORD and He saved him from all his enemies for the LORD heard his cries (22:4-7). It is amazing that the LORD in heaven hears the cry of His children and do something about the situation that His child is in. David did not elaborate on the details of his life of distress but from 1 and 2 Samuel, we saw many of them. The vivid nature of his sufferings are summed up by these words in 2 Samuel 22:4-7, *"I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me; In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears."*

God delivered him time and time again. There were too many for David to detail. What a wonderful way to review your life and see the sovereign hand of God leading and guiding you through adversities as well as good times although more often than not we remember God during our times of adversities.

Crying to the LORD is a precious experience many Christians today ignore and fail to claim. They go through life without the presence

of God. Before they know it, their life is almost over. When they look back the way that David did, there would not be much to remember of the LORD's closeness and fellowship. The hand of God is not real in their lives due to the lack of prayer and communion with God.

David testified to the efficacy of praying to the LORD. He described God's response to his cry (22:8-16). When God's child comes under unjust attacks, the Bible says that the LORD was wroth. 2 Samuel 22:8, *"Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth."* God is no helpless person to be trifled with. God's enemies had better beware. When they hurt and harm God's work and God's children who are doing God's work, they will have to deal with a fearsome and powerful God.

The nature of the LORD's swift and powerful deliverance is captured by David in 2 Samuel 22:9-16, *"There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind. And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies. Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled. The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them. And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils."*

The picture of the Almighty on a warpath against His enemies and

the enemies of His children is a frightful one. Every sin will be found out and judged. No man shall ever escape. The only way out is through sincere repentance and restitution made to those they have sinned against. Cry to God through the LORD Jesus Christ for salvation or else face the wrath of the living God. Hebrews 10:31, *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

David praised the LORD for His almighty power and control over the world of nature. They do His bidding.

David looked back to the times when God delivered him (22:17-20). He mentioned the dangers and the near misses of his enemies. The LORD delivered him out of them all. 2 Samuel 22:17-20, *"He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters; He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay. He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me."*

### **The Basis For the LORD's Deliverance – 22:21-28**

Some might think that David was boasting of his own righteousness (22:21-25) but David was in fact referring to the covenant that God had made with him (2 Samuel 7). David did not claim that he was without sin. His claim to righteousness was based on God's grace to him and the nation Israel. Likewise when we approach God for help in times of need, we do so not because of our own righteousness but because of the righteousness

which we have received by faith in Christ Jesus.

This is not self-righteousness but the imputed righteousness every Christian must have in order to be saved. David made that very clear that it is also a subjective kind of righteousness that fluctuates from man to man. It is a righteousness that is based upon God's inerrant and infallible Word. This was not a claim of God's protection when David was being punished for sin and wrong doing. David knew that all those persecutions that he had to endure stemmed from his enemies' hatred and jealousies. 2 Samuel 22:21-25, "*The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his judgments were before me: and as for his statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity. Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.*"

David recalled the way God dealt with people—with the merciful He shows mercy; with the upright He shows Himself upright; with the pure He shows Himself pure, and with the perverted He shows Himself unsavoury (22:26-28). This has always been God's method. It is a fair and just reciprocation of right and wrong for He is no respecter of persons. Just because you have given money to build His church does not mean that God will turn His face away from your sin and let you get away with it. 2 Samuel 22:26-28, "*With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.*

*With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury. And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down."*

Colossians 3:25 in the New Testament emphasized the same truth, "*But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.*"

### **The Steps of a Good Man are Ordered by the LORD – 22:29-44**

David expressed his personal confidence in God that the LORD was his "lamp" that lighted his days of darkness for the LORD had helped him to "run through a troop" and "leaped over a wall" (22:29, 30). To be cornered and boxed in is like walking into a dark tunnel with no light at the end of it. But in the case of David it was never like that. His life was extremely difficult but it was never a dark tunnel without God's shining lights. David confessed in 2 Samuel 22:29-30, "*For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness. For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.*" A troop is an army. David said that he was able to run right through an army as well as jumped over a high wall.

David praised God's dealings with His people (22:31): ". . . *his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.*" We should learn from this special revelation of how we should relate with God. When we acknowledge the hand of God in our lives, our conclusion can only be one . . . that His way is perfect. He makes no mistakes in His dealing with His

children. That means we cannot indulge in self pity and live a life of jealousy and envy, constantly crying over spilt milk. David could have done that when he was treated badly and unjustly by his enemies. But he was able to see the hand of God in all his adversities. That enabled David to say that His way is perfect. He believed in a perfect God who had given him the perfect word and a perfect life (a life according to God's perfect Word not a life without sin).

Then David praised God for His dealings with him (22:32-40). When David was going through difficult times, it was no laughing matter. It was the process of molding a character that was harder to shape than marble or concrete. But at the end of his life, David learned well. He experienced the nearness of the LORD as seen in the numerous psalms he penned.

Sometimes, the deliverance came from the hand of David himself. It was not always some supernatural deliverance where human responsibilities were not needed. 2 Samuel 22:41-44, *"Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me. They looked, but there was none to save; even unto the LORD, but he answered them not. Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, and did spread them abroad. Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me to be head of the heathen: a people which I knew not shall serve me."* But in all of David's deliverance, David knew that it was the LORD who had given him the victories. David could see that because he was a man of prayer. When he prayed and victory was given, he knew without a shadow of

doubt that it was the LORD who had done it.

### **The Victory from the LORD – 22:45-51**

David expressed his trust in God who had delivered him from all his enemies. Consequently he exclaimed (22:45, 46): *"Strangers (people of a foreign nation) shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me. Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places."*

David closed his song with a strong note of confidence. He praised the LORD his God who had dealt so graciously and wonderfully with him. He made a vow to give thanks to the LORD continually among the nations, and sing praises to His Name (22:47-50). The poem climaxed with the herald that the LORD is "the tower of salvation for His king, and sheweth mercy to His anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore." (22:51). This is a witness to God's steadfast love and His faithfulness to His Word. It reminds us to thank God for His goodness in our lives and experiences.

### **PRACTICAL VALUE**

David's song of praise and thanksgiving to God for what God had done in him, for him and through him serves as a model for every Christian. We tend to forget the many blessings we have received from God. It is seldom that Christians spend time alone away from the bustle of life to reflect on their relationship with God and His dealings with them. It is a good thing

to take a quiet holiday away from the maddening crowd each year and spend time in quiet meditation of the Word of God and His dealings with us.

Prayer is the key to the psalm of victory. Without prayer there is no sign of dependence upon God. Without dependence upon God, there is no acknowledgment of God's deliverance and presence in our lives. Without God's deliverance and presence, there is no glory given to Him. This psalm by David would be meaningless and alien to the reader.

But all who walk with God according to His holy and perfect Word can identify with David's psalm of praise. It is a most reassuring testimony of God's closeness, awesome power, care, comfort and deliverance in the lives of all His children who walk in His truth. At the end of our lives, we may all say . . . my LORD's way is perfect! AMEN

**DAILY READINGS AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**2 SAMUEL 22**

**LESSON 13A**

**DAILY READINGS:**

**MONDAY:** 2 Samuel 22:1-20; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-6.

**TUESDAY:** 2 Samuel 22:21-28;

**WEDNESDAY:** 2 Samuel 22:29-44;

**THURSDAY:** 2 Samuel 22:29-51;

**FRIDAY:** 2 Samuel 22:1-51;

**ANALYSIS**

TEXT	TOPIC SENTENCE
<p><b>2 Samuel 22:1-51</b></p> <p>a. 22:1-20</p> <p>b. 22:21-28</p> <p>c. 22:29-44</p> <p>d. 22:45-51</p>	

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Which attribute of God, mentioned in David's psalm, is most meaningful to you?

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2. Have you experienced deliverance from the LORD

**in your life? Share an experience with your group.**

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**3. Was David boasting about his own righteousness? What kind of a person was David (22:21-28)?**

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**4. How is the reciprocity of God's dealing with us a comforting truth in our day to day lives?**

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**5. Can you echo the same as David in what he said in 22:29? If so, what has God done for you?**

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**6. Can you say that your life in Christ so far is "perfect"?**

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