

DAVID'S SONG OF PRAISE

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : II Samuel 22:1-51

LESSON 244 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall" (II Samuel 22:30).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

2 Samuel 22:1-51 (KJV)

¹ And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

² And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

³ 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.

⁴ I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

⁵ When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

⁶ The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

⁷ 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.

⁸ Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

⁹ There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

¹⁰ He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness *was* under his feet.

¹¹ And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

¹² And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, *and* thick clouds of the skies.

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

[NOTES:](#)

Hymns of Gratitude

David was grateful to God for all His rich blessings. David realized that without the help of the Lord, he was helpless. He had fought many hard battles when the enemy was much stronger than his own army; and if the Lord had not been on his side he would never have won. David felt so elated over the strength God had given him that he cried out, "By thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall."

David remembered to give thanks to God for that help. Many of the Psalms are David's hymns of gratitude to the Most High God who looked down upon humble man and sent divine aid.

David did not feel that God was too far away to hear his prayers. Away up there in Heaven, God heard and answered. King Solomon had that same faith when he prayed: "Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive" (I Kings 8:30). The Apostle John said that if we believe that Jesus hears us, our prayers will be answered (**1 John 5:15** ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.).

The Battles God Fought

How did God fight Israel's battles? In Egypt He sent plagues upon the inhabitants to force them to let the Israelites leave the country. God did things that man could not do. He changed the water of the Nile river into blood, so that no one could get a drink. And then He changed it back to water. He sent lice and frogs to pester the Egyptians; and on the fatal night He slew the eldest son in every Egyptian home.

After the Israelites had gone out of Egypt and had found themselves trapped between the mountains and the sea, with the enemy behind, God pushed back the water and let the Israelites go through on dry land. When the Egyptians tried to follow, God let the water come back and drown them all. Man could not have delivered those Israelites from their enemy, but God did.

In conquering Canaan, God had caused the walls of Jericho to fall down, so the Israelites could enter the city. One time he sent hornets to sting the people and to make them run from the Israelites. Other times when great armies came against them which were far too large for them to conquer by themselves, God sent great hailstones; and "the stars in their courses fought against Sisera," who was Israel's enemy.

When Jonathan and his armor-bearer went up to the camp of the Philistines all alone — two men against an army — God sent an earthquake to give them victory.

The Blood of Jesus Our Deliverance

In all David's trouble, God had delivered him. He lived to please God. He had had his sins forgiven, and he did not need to worry about judgment. Neither do we if we have asked Jesus to

¹³ Through the brightness before him were coals of fire kindled.

¹⁴ The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice.

¹⁵ And he sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and discomfited them.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ He sent from above, he took me; he drew me out of many waters;

¹⁸ He delivered me from my strong enemy, *and* from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.

¹⁹ They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

²⁰ He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

²¹ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

²² For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

²³ For all his judgments *were* before me: and *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them.

²⁴ I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.

²⁵ Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.

²⁶ With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, *and* with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

²⁷ With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

²⁸ And the afflicted people thou

forgive our sins and wash them away with His Blood. By repenting of our sins, we send them on to be judged now; and when Jesus comes to judge the world we will be able to say, "Saved by the Blood of the Crucified One."

David said, "He delivered me, because he delighted in me." God had not delighted in David when David was a sinner; but after his sins were forgiven and he loved God with all his heart, then God was pleased with what he did.

Does the Lord delight in what we do? Are our lives pleasing in His sight? Do we remember that God is watching everything we do? and do we do it so as to honor Him? When we do, we can expect the Lord to hear us when we pray, and to give us many good things. John wrote, "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22). If our prayers are not answered, let us look into our own lives and see if we are doing anything that is not pleasing in His sight.

The Word Hidden in the Heart

David could say that he had kept the ways of the Lord and had obeyed His statutes. Another time he said, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

We must know the will of God, His Word, before we can hide it in our heart. We must read the Bible carefully so we will remember what the Lord wants us to do. The scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day thought they knew the Law very well, and yet Jesus told them to search the Scriptures to make sure that they would be ready to enter Heaven. They had their own ideas about what it meant to be good, and they did not want to learn about mercy and love for the poor and the oppressed, as Jesus taught.

They thought it was all right to love their friends and hate their enemies; but Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Those are things that are hard to do; but if we really love Jesus, He will help us to do them.

Mercy to the Merciful

If we are merciful to others, God will show mercy to us. David knew that and wrote, "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright." Jesus has promised to forgive us if we forgive others.

We will find that we have many more friends if we are kind to people and show them that we love them, as Jesus wants us to. People will often treat us as we treat them; and if we are selfish and hateful, they will act the same way.

The story is told of a little boy who lived near the edge of a forest, and one day he stood outdoors and called, "Hello." He heard an echo, "Hello." He thought another boy had answered him, so he called out, "You are a bad boy!" Back came the echo, "You are a bad boy!" He called again, "Come here, and I'll whip you!" And the answer was, "Come here, and I'll whip you!" "I'm coming." "I'm coming."

The little boy ran into the house and told his mother, "There is a bad boy in the woods, and he is going to whip me." The mother answered: "No, I don't think he is a bad boy. You didn't talk to him very well. If you had spoken kindly, he would have been kind to you. Go and try again." So the boy went out and called again, "Hello." He heard the echoing "Hello." This time

wilt save: but thine eyes *are* upon the haughty, *that* thou mayest bring *them* down.

²⁹ For thou *art* my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

³⁰ For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.

³¹ *As for* God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him.

³² For who *is* God, save the LORD? and who *is* a rock, save our God?

³³ God *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect.

³⁴ He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*: and setteth me upon my high places.

³⁵ He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

³⁶ Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

³⁷ Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

³⁸ I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.

³⁹ And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.

⁴⁰ For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.

⁴¹ Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me.

⁴² They looked, but *there was* none to save; *even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

⁴³ 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.

he said, "You are a good boy!" and the answer came, "You are a good boy!" "I love you" — and the echo, "I love you." He ran back into the house, and said, "Mother, he is a good boy after all.

We will find many friends if we will be a friend. We may often through kindness win the hearts of those who have been mean to us. One is much happier when he does good to others rather than selfishly insisting on having his own way.

Strong in Battle

It was David's responsibility to destroy the enemies of Israel. Such people were the enemies of God, and deserved to be defeated. God made David strong in battle so he could carry out all God's commandments.

Other Nations Called

The Israelites were God's chosen people, and He dealt with them particularly, giving them every opportunity to learn about Him. He gave them everything they could wish for when they served Him with all their heart. But they, as a nation, had turned from God and served other gods.

In our lesson we are told that David prophesied of a time when people other than the Israelites would come and serve God: "A people which I knew not shall serve me. Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me."

Isaiah also was inspired by God to write: "Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee" (Isaiah 55:5). Those are the Gentile people, other nations than the Jews, who are giving their hearts to God and serving Him. How happy we are that the love of God has included us.

Created to Praise Him

God created man to praise Him. "I have created him for my glory" (Isaiah 43:7). And He wants us to enjoy all the pleasures of an eternal life with Him. But what a disappointment man has been! Most people do not love God; instead, they turn from Him and do wicked things.

Jesus is holding out His arms, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). But man answers, "No, I won't." Jesus said that whosoever will might come. He is bidding everyone to come and be a joint-heir with Him of "all things" — everything a person can imagine — but many people are saying, "No, I want to live my own life."

Let us who know Him love Him fervently with all our heart. And let us tell Him so. Let us try to make up a little for the others who will not listen to Him. Let us sing continually, in our hearts if not aloud, as David did: "Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name." Never be ashamed of Jesus, but be a witness for Him everywhere He gives you the opportunity to live for Him and tell about Him. May our gratefulness and love to God well up in our hearts continually!

QUESTIONS

- 1 What made David strong in battle?
- 2 How had God worked for the Israelites?
- 3 What reason did David give for God's help?
- 4 How can we love our enemies?
- 5 Tell one way in which we can make friends.

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

⁴⁶ Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

⁴⁷ The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

⁴⁸ It *is* God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me,

⁴⁹ And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

⁵¹ *He is* the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

- 6 How do we know that the Gentiles are included in God's love?
- 7 For what reason did God create man?
- 8 What kind of inheritance has Jesus for those who love Him?