

DAVID'S SONG OF PRAISE

BIBLE TEXT : II Samuel 22:1-51

LESSON 244 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place" (Psalm 66:12).

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*

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Lord a Citadel of Strength

1 This passage was written after David was given victory over his enemies, II Samuel 22:1

2 The Lord is a Rock, a Fortress, and David's deliverer, II Samuel 22:2;

Psalm 18:1-2 (KJV)

¹ I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

² The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

3 The Lord is a Shield, a Horn, a Tower: David's trust, salvation, refuge, and Savior, II Samuel 22:3

II A Very Present Help in Time of Trouble

1 David is in great distress, probably at the hands of Saul, II Samuel 22:5, 6;

1 Samuel 23:26-28 (KJV)

²⁶ And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.

²⁷ But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

²⁸ Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.

1 Samuel 27:1 (KJV)

¹ And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

Psalm 18:4-5 (KJV)

⁴ The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

⁵ The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

2 In his distress, David calls upon the Lord, II Samuel 22:4, 7;

Luke 22:41-44 (KJV)

⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

⁴² Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

⁴³ And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Psalm 18:3 (KJV)

³ I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Psalm 18:6 (KJV)

⁶ In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

III Mighty to Save and Strong to Deliver

thick clouds of the skies.

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

- 1 Both Heaven and earth quake when God rises up, in vengeance, to scatter His enemies, II Samuel 22:8-16;

Psalm 93:1 (KJV)

¹ The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, *wherewith* he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

Psalm 18:7-15 (KJV)

⁷ Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

⁸ There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

⁹ He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness *was* under his feet.

¹⁰ And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

¹¹ He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him *were* dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.

¹² At the brightness *that was* before him his thick clouds passed, hail *stones* and coals of fire.

¹³ The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail *stones* and coals of fire.

¹⁴ Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

¹⁵ Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

Acts 4:23-31 (KJV)

²³ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

²⁴ And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou *art* God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

²⁵ Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

²⁷ For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

²⁸ For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 16:25-26 (KJV)

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Matthew 28:2-4 (KJV)

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

³ His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

⁴ And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

- 2 A mighty deliverance is wrought in answer to prayer, II

thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

²⁸ And the afflicted people thou 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

Samuel 22:17-20;

Psalm 31:7-8 (KJV)

⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;

⁸ And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room.

Psalm 18:16-19 (KJV)

¹⁶ He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.

¹⁷ He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.

¹⁸ They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

¹⁹ He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

IV The Rewards of Righteousness

1 David finds deliverance because of his upright life, II Samuel 22:21-25;

Psalm 4:3 (KJV)

³ But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Psalm 18:20-24 (KJV)

²⁰ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

²¹ For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

²² For all his judgments *were* before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

²³ I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

²⁴ Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

Psalm 34:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Hebrews 1:9 (KJV)

⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

2 God's mercy is extended to the merciful, II Samuel 22:26-28;

Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Psalm 18:25-27 (KJV)

²⁵ With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

²⁶ With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

²⁷ For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

V The Invincibility of the Man of God

1 God gives strength for the battle, II Samuel 22:29-40;

Psalm 18:28-39 (KJV)

²⁸ For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

²⁹ For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

³⁰ *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him.

³¹ For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God?

the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, *and* did spread them abroad.

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.

³² *It is* God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

³³ He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*, and setteth me upon my high places.

³⁴ He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

³⁵ Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

³⁶ Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

³⁷ I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

³⁸ I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet.

³⁹ For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

Philippians 4:1-23 (KJV)

¹ Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

² I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

¹⁰ But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

¹⁴ Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

¹⁸ But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

²⁰ Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

²² All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

2 He subdues our enemies under us, II Samuel 22:41-46;

Psalm 18:40-45 (KJV)

⁴⁰ Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

⁴¹ They cried, but *there was* none to save *them: even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

⁴² Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

⁴³ Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; *and* thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people *whom* I have not known shall serve me.

⁴⁴ As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

⁴⁵ The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.

Deuteronomy 11:25 (KJV)

²⁵ There shall no man be able to stand before you: *for* the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

Luke 10:19 (KJV)

¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

3 The Psalmist gives a final tribute to the God of battles, II Samuel 22:47-51;

Psalm 18:46-50 (KJV)

⁴⁶ The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

⁴⁷ *It is* God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.

⁴⁸ He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

⁴⁹ Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

⁵⁰ Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

NOTES:

This is generally thought of as a Messianic Psalm, or a Psalm that speaks of Christ and tells us something about Him, His official duties, or His coming to earth. David was extolling the Lord for delivering him out of his troubles and giving him victory over his enemies; and at the same time, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he gave us a beautiful prophecy concerning the Messiah. There are many parallels between David's experiences and the life of Christ.

Under the hand of Saul, David went through a period of humiliation and suffering. Jesus also went through a period of humiliation and suffering here on this earth. Jesus gave His back to the smiters and His cheek to them that plucked off the hair. He was led "as a lamb to the slaughter," but He arose, triumphant over death, hell, and the grave.

David did not walk uprightly through his entire career as Jesus did; but in this chapter, which seems to be chiefly concerned with his dealings with Saul, we see that David was without blame and showed much mercy to Saul.

A Rock and Refuge

In the beginning of this song, David gave his personal testimony. He wrote of what the Lord was to him. He expressed the thought, **"The LORD is my rock, and my fortress."** As David crawled over those craggy cliffs while fleeing from Saul, he realized what a fortress they were, many times, to him. The Lord was just such a Fortress to his soul. He was often practically surrounded and almost taken, spiritually speaking, but when the enemy of his soul came on one side David would be led by God to escape by the other side. Therefore the Lord was continually his refuge.

Horn of Salvation

"He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation." A horn is used in Scripture to denote power. It is the natural, God-given weapon of an ox and is that animal's protection and power. That is true of many other animals. For that reason the heads of governments are often spoken of in Scripture as horns. "The horn of my salvation" means a salvation that is possessed of qualities that are both powerful and efficient.

There is not a weak point in this great salvation which the Lord has provided for us. Through it we are set free from the power and dominion of sin. It takes a strong deliverer to rescue any soul from the snares of Satan and from the base and evil habits that sin has fastened on that life. But the salvation purchased for us by Jesus Christ is adequate. It is complete. It includes everything we need for our eventual glorification.

Waves of Death

"The waves of death compassed me." Possibly many times when he was fleeing from Saul, David spent sleepless nights on the mountainside or in the dens or caves. No doubt he wondered whether he would ever see the light of day again.

The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews mentions David among the prophets of old who "wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; ... in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."

"The floods of ungodly men made me afraid." The troops from Saul's army, or the Philistines, rushing forward like the waves of the sea, momentarily made David afraid. But God heard his cry and delivered him from all his fears, and from all his dangers.

The Raging of the Elements

The description David gives here of the ways God answered his cries for help greatly adds to the account given to us in the historical writings. But these descriptions not only show his own victories but are a Messianic prophecy as well, applicable to the Savior at His crucifixion and resurrection.

The Lord is described here as a warrior, coming down from Heaven, riding on a cherub which was carried along by the wings of the wind, driven by the tempest. His pavilion was the dark clouds that surrounded Him. His weapons were thunderbolts, lightnings, fiery hail, deluging rains, and stormy winds. The smoke that went up out of His nostrils, and the fire out of His mouth, were descriptive of the Lord's wrath. The earth shook and trembled. An earthquake moved the foundations of the hills; and the rocks rent; channels of water opened up. We can see that when God speaks in this manner men flee from His presence.

How similar is this to what took place at the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus! Of these earth-shaking incidents it is recorded by the Gospel writer that "there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men" (Matthew 28:2-4); and "from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. . . . And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection" (Matthew 27:45, 51-53). How similar also is this language with that used to describe the coming of Christ in His revelation! **(Revelation 19:11-16 (KJV)** ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS)

We remember that an earthquake, at midnight, opened the prison doors for Paul and Silas. This same God who delivered David, Paul and Silas, and countless other saints and warriors of God, will deliver each one of us. His power is the same today. His mercy reaches us all. But His full glory is still to be revealed to this world.

The Reward of Righteousness

"The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness." David always dealt uprightly with Saul. Never once did David lift up his hand against Saul, to hurt him. Neither would David permit any of his men, at any time, to harm Saul. It was that uprightness of heart that gave David confidence when in trouble.

When a person keeps his vows to God and walks before Him with clean hands and a pure heart, then in time of trouble he can come to God with confidence and claim the divine promises. He will have no clogged faith channels to clear out. He will have free communion between his soul and Heaven.

We are told that when Isaiah brought word to King Hezekiah to set his house in order because he was going to die, he could call upon the Lord with confidence, to increase his days. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed, telling the Lord that he had walked before Him in truth and with a perfect heart, and had done that which was good in His sight. How quickly he received an answer from Heaven! Isaiah had not yet gone from the house when the Lord told him to go and tell Hezekiah that He had heard his prayer. "The righteous LORD loveth righteousness" (Psalm 11:7).

On the other hand, if a man walks carelessly, fails to pay his vows, ceases to renew his consecrations, regards iniquity in his heart, or does evil of any kind, when trouble comes he has to renew those vows and consecrations and clear the faith channels

of the obstructions that are there, before he can have confidence toward God. An upright life is a mighty and effective bulwark against the soul's enemies. (1 John 3:18-22 (KJV) ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. ²⁰ For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God. ²² And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.)

Gentleness and Mercy

David wrote here about mercy and the duty of being merciful. David showed mercy to Saul on several occasions. In the Beatitudes Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." The Lord recognizes and rewards the one who is merciful in his dealings with his fellow men. The Lord forgives us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

"Thy gentleness hath made me great." The Lord taught David, through all his trouble-filled days, to bear and to forbear, to behave with courage in adversity, and to be humble even when he was in prosperity.

David's human characteristics were courage and strength. But, from the hand of God, he also received outstanding prosperity; and while he walked with God no enemy was able to prevail against him. David attributed his deliverances and all his spiritual and temporal success to God. The main theme of this beautiful song is the giving of praise to God for success and victories.

"Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore" (Psalm 18:50). Here Christ, the true King, and David, the anointed one, and we, the spiritual seed, are spoken of. How broad, how high, how all-inclusive and far-reaching is the mercy and delivering love of our God!

David was a king of God's own appointment. He was a warrior. But he knew that it was by the hand of his God that he was enabled to "rim through a troop," and to leap over a wall. Nevertheless, he realized — and so must we, also — that there are no victories without a battle and no crown without a cross. He "fought a good fight," and so must we, also, if we are to inherit eternal life.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What kind of Psalm is this generally considered to be?
- 2 For what was David giving God the praise?
- 3 Describe how God answered his cries.
- 4 Was David's life always upright?
- 5 What gives a person confidence toward God?
- 6 What is the Lord's attitude toward the merciful?
- 7 By whom was David appointed king?
- 8 To whom does the "seed" refer in the last verse?