

2 Samuel 22 Introduction

This song is placed between the great final victories over the Philistines with their hitherto invincible giants (21:15-22) and David's list of his "mighty men" (23:8-39). It is a song celebrating the deliverance of God from ALL his enemies, including the relentless pursuits of king Saul. Out of them all the LORD wonderfully delivered David and established his throne (v.4). This song is found again in almost identical fashion in Psalm 18 (with only a few and minor differences).

22:1-4. David Extols the LORD. The Psalm begins with David acknowledging the greatness and glory of God in a series of figurative gems. First in the series is a designation for the LORD which will appear repeatedly in the song: "The LORD is my **Rock**." Indeed, this same designation also ends this psalm: "The LORD lives, and blessed be my **Rock**, and exalted be my God, the **rock** of my salvation" (v.47; see Deut. 32:3,4,29-31).

Following this first designation of "God as my Rock," David continues to recount the LORD's divine attributes: "my fortress, my deliverer, my shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, my savior," You save me from violence (vv.2,3). "These descriptions of the LORD are especially appropriate in light of the setting of the song, that of flight, conflict, and victory" (BKC, Allen Ross, p.477).

22:5-19, The Flight and Perils of David. The severity of David's circumstances could only be compared to one close to death at every turn. His plight was like facing towering, merciless waves of the sea (v.5), or entrapped and entangled in an enemy's pit of death (v.6). But God, in response to David's cry, mightily and gloriously delivered him; and, moreover, delivered him time and time again.

In verses 6-18, "It is the LORD [i.e., and no pagan god] who is enthroned in the heavens and who reduces all Creation to His service" who preserved David alive and strengthen him to triumph over all his foes (A. Ross; Ibid, also cf. Psalm 119:91).

22:20-28, David as One in Whom the LORD Delights. The LORD sovereignly cares for those who are His own, who are humble (v.28), **righteous** (vv.21,25), and faithful to Him (v.23). So, David recounts his thoughts, desires, and actions that God rewarded, preserving him alive and blessing him abundantly. He begins the third stanza of his song: "*He rescued me, because he delighted in me. The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands He rewarded me*" (vv.20,21). Verses 20-28 provide an exceptionally clear window into the life and heart of one who lives "holy and blameless" before the LORD. (cf. Eph.1:4)

22:29-46, David Recounts God's Mighty Works in His Life. Section four of David's song is a powerful reminder that "*I am what I am by the grace of God.*" That is, we have nothing and are nothing apart from Him. The emphasis is notably on the LORD (see the repetition of "You" in vv.29,30, etc). As David reflected on the events of his life, his every ability, accomplishment, and blessing depended on the presence and the power of God.

22:47-51, David's Concluding Words of Praise. Vs. 47 begins the great finale!