II Samuel 22

Review…

- **II Samuel 19 – King of Israel again…**
  - Everyone came out to the Jordan to welcome David back to Israel…
  - But when the people from Judah were 'too helpful' it upset the other 11 tribes…
  - They argued David was King of all Israel – why should Judah get special treatment!
- **II Samuel 20-21 – It is not easy being King…**
  - A man called Sheba called out – 'we want nothing to do with David – let us go home!'…
    - David returned to Jerusalem – ordered Amasa to gather the troops to chase Sheba…
    - But Joab tricked Amasa – pretended to greet him – and instead killed him!
    - Then Joab led the troops to the city of Abel – and killed Sheba
  - In a battle with the Philistines – David was almost killed by a giant…
    - From then on his men would not let him go out into battle – David was getting old…
    - They did not want to let the 'light of Israel' to be put out before his time!

The song of David… (*4 things*)

- **1st – Introduction to the Song… vs. 1-3** Read: II Samuel 22:1-3
  - 1st – Written after God saved David from his enemies and Saul (*not an enemy*)… vs. 1
    - This Psalm – also recorded in **Psalm 18** – was written to give thanks to God…
      - It turns out David knew how catchy a good tune can be - it gets stuck in your head...
      - In fact David wrote at least 78 – recoded for us in the book of Psalms / songs…
      - So David wrote this song – so he would never forget the goodness of God!
    - Worship songs are not just the first part of a church service…
      - Jen like to sing a song – 'watermelon / watermelon' – I end up singing it for hours!
      - Songs have a way of getting stuck in our heads – making their words easy to recall…
      - So we sing songs about Jesus – so that we always remember His love for us!
  - 2nd – God is my rock – my fortress – my escape… vs. 2
    - David understood that his life was secure – because it was built on the Rock!
      - Everyone faces difficult times in their life - sickness / financial / relationships...
        - Theses 'storms' can come quite unexpectedly - giving us no time to prepare...
        - The only hope we have is that we have built are life on a solid foundation...
      - The rock – the only unshakable foundation we can build upon - Jesus!
        - **Matthew 7:24** – "Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock."

- The challenge for us is that it is not easy - it takes a lot of work to live for Jesus...
- We have to make a daily choice to deny ourselves - live our lives for God...
- But we do not just need to know the Word of God – we need to obey!

- The benefit is when the storms of life come - we are unshakable!
  - If our things are stolen - our house burns down - we know God provides for us...
  - If we get sick - the doctor gives us bad news - we know the Great Physician...
  - Not matter what life throws at us - we have nothing to fear – **Romans 8:28**...

- If we do not listen and obey the Lord – then our lives are built on sand...
  - We can go where we like - we can do what we want...
    - But then we are our foundation - and when trials come - we have no where to go...
    - When life falls apart because of our choices - and it will - **Galatians 6:7**...
    - We cannot go blaming God - not His fault - we chose not to build on the Rock!
  - When the storms come - immediately the house falls - and is completely ruined!
    - Destruction is not necessarily a bad thing - sometimes it is necessary...
    - Often we need to loose - in order to learn to build our house on the Rock...
    - But how much better not to have to go through the devastation...
    - Choose to obey the Word of God - choose to build you life on the solid Rock!

- 3rd – God is my shield – and my strength (*horn*)… vs. 3

  - David also understood he was in a battle – and he needed God's help…
    - We are in a battle for the hearts of minds of those who do not know Jesus!
    - Those who are blinded by satan to the message of the Gospel - **II Corinthians 4:4**
    - Not a battle we fight with sticks and swords - we fight with prayer and God's Word!
    - **II Corinthians 10:4-5** - "We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds. With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ."

  - But the strength to fight the battle does not come from us - it comes from the Lord...
    - **II Corinthians 12:9-10** – "My strength is made perfect in weakness."
    - In truth we are weak – but it is in our weakness we find true strength...
    - When we realize we are weak we learn to depend on God's strength...
    - Only in Jesus are we truly strong - only then can we be strong and fight the war!

- **2nd – God asnwered David when he called… vs. 4-19** Read: II Samuel 22:5-17
  - 1st – David had been in great danger – he had come face to face with death… vs. 4-7

    - Using poetic language David describes the process of being buried…
      - The ropes that let the casket into the grave were tied around him…
      - And the burial clothes already wrapped his body – he was as good as dead!
      - ONLY THEN did David call out to the Lord – and God answered his prayer!

    - The Gospel is not a message of an easy life - it is all about perspective...
      - **II Corinthians 4:17** – "For our present troubles are quite small and will not last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!"
      - What are we looking - are we looking to this life - or eternal life...

- If our eyes are on this life – we are going to quickly become discouraged following Jesus!

▪ We need help learning not to trust in ourselves - **II Corinthians 1:8-10**

- Pressed above measure - beyond strength - the sentence of death...
- When hard times come - our first reaction is to look to depend on us...
- God can 'turn up the heat' - till we can no longer handle our problems...
- So that we would learn not to trust in ourselves - but instead trust in God!

○ 2nd – When God came – the whole earth trembled… vs. 8-16

▪ David uses VERY poetic language again to describe the power and Glory of God…

- The mountain shook – as smoke and fire leapt from the mouth of the Lord…
- Dark storm clouds under His feet – He shot His lightning defeating His enemies!
- At his command there was a mighty earthquake – splitting open the earth!

- These are not physical descriptions of the appearance of God…
- They are also likely not referring to actual events or battles David fought in…
- David uses 3 of the most terrifying disasters – to describe how the Lord came to help…
- God came like the explosion of a volcano / He came down like a typhoon…
- He ripped open the earth like a violent earthquake – because God was angry!

▪ God is VERY protective of his kids...

- Imagine what you would do if someone wanted to harm one of your children...
- God does not play around when it comes to stumbling His children...
- Volcanoes / typhoons / and earthquakes have nothing on the wrath of God…
- He is a VERY protective Father - and will deal with anyone who threatens His kids!

○ 3rd – The Lord reached down from heaven and rescued David… vs. 17-19

▪ God picked David up out of deep water / saved him from powerful enemies…

- David admitted they were too strong for him – he could not win on his own…
- They attacked him when he was the weakest – but God kept him safe!
- Perhaps referring the Philistine Giant – 'Ishbi' – who almost killed David…
- At the very last moment Abishai rushed in and saved the King from death!

▪ We are stubborn – and often wait to the last moment to ask for help…

- We wait till we get into 'deep trouble' – barely able to keep our head above water…
- Our problems much stronger than we are – and we are in danger of sinking…
- No rice left / no money to buy any more / and no one who will give us any…
- We feel like we are sinking – and we have no more strength to get out!
- Then finally – at the very last moment – we cry out to God for help…
- And God rides out of heaven and snatches us out of our troubles!

- **3RD – WHY GOD ASNWERED DAVID… VS. 20-28** READ: II SAMUEL 22:21-28

○ 1st – God answered David because David was innocent… vs. 20-22

▪ David kept the commands of the Lord – and had never went after evil…

- Perhaps referring to his flight from Saul – David had done nothing wrong…
- Even though Saul wanted to kill David – he never took the opportunity to kill Saul…

- David was able stay faithful to the Lord – because he kept His Word!
  - Sin keeps us from hearing from the Lord – leaves prayers unanswered…
  - Our prayers hit the ceiling of our sin - and we end up talking to ourselves!
  - **Psalm 66:18** – "If I had… sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened."
  - The best way to avoid sin - the best way to find victory in life - read your Bible...
  - **Psalm 119:11** - "Your word I have hidden in my heart... that I might not sin against You!"
  - The Bible will keep you from sin – but sin will keep you from the Bible!
  - As we keep ourselves in the Word – and away from following the world…
  - We are going to find that Jesus is right there for us – any time we are in need!

- 2nd - David also claimed to be blameless before the Lord… vs. 23-25
  - Wait a minute – what about Bathsheba – David was certainly NOT blameless!
    - He had an affair with another man's wife / and then murdered the husband…
    - And then went on to lie about it for a full year before he finally confessed…
    - How can David possibly say that God helped him because he was blameless!

  - David was not perfect – but David was forgiven…
    - **II Corinthians 5:21** – "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."
    - When we look at our kids – we do not see their mistakes – we see them as perfect…
    - And even if other people will not help them – we cannot say no to them!
    - In the same way God looks at us – His kids – and He sees us as perfect through Jesus…
    - And He cannot turn His back on us – no matter what He is there to help when we need it!
- 3rd – David describes the reaction of God to different kinds of people… vs. 26-28
  - To those who are merciful – God will also show mercy…
    - To those who are pure / blameless – God will also be pure / blameless…
    - But to those who are wicked – God will show that He can be hostile!
    - He rescues those who are humble – but He humbles those who are proud!
  - It is easy to look at others and see their flaws - but how about ours...
    - **II Corinthians 13:5 –** "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you."
    - It is not nearly as easy to admit to our own flaws - look at our sin...
    - But when we see we are THE sinner - then the Lord can forgive us!
    - **James 4:6 - "**God resists the proud - and only pours out His grace on the humble..."
    - If we are willing to examine our own hearts - correct the sin that is there...
    - Then in humility we can come before the Lord with our prayers - and be heard!

- **4TH – THE REWARDS OF TRUSTING IN GOD… VS. 29-51** READ: II SAMUEL 22:29 / 40-46
  - 1st – God will be a light – to keep us on the right road… vs. 29-34
    - David understood that 'God's way' was best – God would lead David to safety…
    - God made David sure footed – so he could walk that road – without falling off!

- Life has a lot of distractions – things that keep us from following after Jesus…
- And if we are not careful – we can slip and fall into any number of sins…
- **Matthew 7:14** – "Narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life…"
- But as we look to the Lord – He lights the way – and keeps our feet safe on the right road!

- 2nd – God will be our strength – so we can crush any army… vs. 35-43
  - God gave David the ability to destroy his enemies – trample them under his feet…
    - David ground them into dust – and swept them into the gutter…
    - His enemies looked for help – but there was not one to save them from the Lord!
  - Satan is a punk – he likes to make life VERY difficult for us…
    - There are a LOT of days when I would like nothing more than to grind him up into dust!
    - When we look to Jesus that is exactly what we can do –sweep satan into the gutter!
    - **Luke 10:19** – "I have given you authority over… the enemy, and you can… crush them."
- 3rd – We will receive honor from the Lord… vs. 44-51
  - God made David the ruler of Israel – the King over the people of God…
    - Even foreigners – people David had never heard of – served him as King…
    - The mere mention of 'King David' would cause empires to surrender!
    - So David sang this song – so the whole world would hear about God!
  - Do not look for the momentary praises men give…
    - 10,000 years from now in heaven - no one will care what kind of house you had...
    - No one will be impressed by what kind of cell phone you used...
    - The things we do for ourselves – the praises of men – are all forgotten…
    - It is the things we do for the Lord that last forever – **Matthew 6:20**