

David: After God's Heart

God is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving for His provisions in this life.



TRANSFORMATION
for Adult LifeGroups

2 SAMUEL 22:26-36,50-51 - THANKFUL

AUGUST 19, 2018

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: 2 SAMUEL 22:26-36,50-51 (NIV), "To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, 27 to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the devious you show yourself shrewd. 28 You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low. 29 You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light. 30 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. 31 "As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. 32 For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God? 33 It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights. 35 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 You make your saving help my shield; your help has made me great.

50 Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name. 51 "He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever."

FIRST THOUGHTS

- ° What would you expect for a child to list if asked to create a chore list for God?
- ° What about you? How would you fill out this list?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Many people who disregard God may still point to gratitude as a virtue. Experience alone teaches us that it is a better way to live life. However, Scripture always grounds this virtue in its source, God and His worthiness. Some make the mistake of trying to separate the fruit (gratitude) from the root (God Himself). The act and virtue of gratitude are far more than simply a good way to live. David understood that God was worthy of praise and thanksgiving.

David foreshadowed the true and eternal King, Jesus Christ, the son of David. Like any shadow, David was a valid but incomplete representation of the Messiah who would come. At times, he sinned grievously but over the course of his reign David reflected the glory of the Lord. He was recognized by God as "a man after his own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). Israel's greatest king is not remembered primarily because of his own exploits, though there were many. The secret of David's greatness was his God-centered focus, his attitude of "see what the Lord has done for me."

The context of our passage is characterized by two great testimonies of David: his thanksgiving hymn (22:1-51) and his last words (23:1-7), which reflected on the Lord's establishment of his house and dynasty. The ultimate fulfillment of the Lord's promise to David is seen in Christ (Luke 1:32-33).

The thanksgiving hymn of David in 2 Samuel 22 is also included among the psalms (Ps. 18) in an almost identical fashion. As the longest recorded discourse of David in Scripture, its theme is gratitude to God who provided for David and delivered him from all his enemies, including King Saul. David exulted in all that the Lord did for him. Had he maintained this perspective at every stage of his life, the king would have never marred his spiritual journey with lapses into sin.

David's reflections on the Lord's intervention in his life evoked remembrances of how He appeared to His people on Mount Sinai when He established the covenant with them (see 1 Sam. 22:8-14 with Ex. 19). All true thanksgiving that is focused on God is grounded in His acts in history, primarily the death and resurrection of Jesus.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

HOLY

> Read 2 Samuel 22:26-29

- ° Have you ever known someone who could match their personality and actions to the person they interacted with? What was that like?
- ° Why and when does God match His actions to ours? How is this loving? How is this respectful?
- ° Why would God hesitate to help arrogant people? What attitudes honor God?

Tell about a time God lit the way for you (see v. 29).

- ° What makes us want to be true to God? To imitate His character—the character in whose image each of us were created?

SHIELD

> Read 2 Samuel 22:30-36

- ° How can people work together with God to accomplish what's named in these verses? What math equation might approximate how God and people work together?
- ° When have you seen a concrete example of God at work in everyday life?

ETERNAL

> Read 2 Samuel 22:50-51

Praise and thankfulness is a 24/7 approach to life.

- ° What does it mean to live a life that praises God? How does knowing the lengths God would go to for you affect your motivation and ability to praise Him?
- ° How do you know God's loyalty to you is forever? How does He serve as your tower?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Look back at our "TO DO list for God" – how would you change it based on today's lesson?

God is worthy of our praise and thanksgiving for His provisions in this life.

Reasons to praise God are endless. Reflect on ways God has been faithful to you. Turn to your neighbor and share a few examples. How can you communicate to a neighbor, co-worker, or family member what He has done for you? How can you give God credit for the victories in your life?

Personal Challenge: This week spend some time around the dinner table each night sharing three things for which you are thankful to God.

Verses of thanksgiving to reflect on: Philippians 4:4-7; Psalm 92:1-2; Psalm 119:62; Colossians 3:17

Throughout his life David continued to express thankfulness to God for what He had done. The same is true for us today. God has provided everything needed for us to have perfect peace in Him.

UPCOMING LESSONS

Disciplined – 2 Samuel 24:10-25

-Read 2 Samuel 24:10-25

- What's the first image that comes to mind when you hear the word discipline?
- Think of a time where God disciplined you to move you to repentance.

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

20th - Jeremiah 48-49; Psalm 67; 1 John 1 | **21st** - Jeremiah 21, 24, 27; Psalm 118; 1 John 2 | **22nd** - Jeremiah 28-30; 1 John 3 | **23rd** - Jeremiah 31-32; 1 John 4 | **24th** - Jeremiah 33-34; Psalm 74; 1 John 5 | **25th** - Jeremiah 37-39; Psalm 79; 2 John | **26th** - Jeremiah 50-51; 3 John