

November 18

Scriptures: Read 2 Samuel 22 & 23

Key Verse: “The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, the Rock of my salvation!” (2 Samuel 22:47)

Overview

David’s beautiful song of praise to the Lord recorded in chapter 22 was written after he had been established on the throne of Israel. Though the exact time of the composition is uncertain, it was probably after the prophet Nathan had spoken to him God’s words promising the eternal kingdom (22:51; 7:16) and before his sin with Bathseba (22:22-25; chapter 11).

Except for a few minor variances, this twenty-second chapter of 2 Samuel constitutes Psalm 18. The theme is “the deliverance of God”. It expresses the experiences of David as he was in the wilderness, hiding in the rocks for refuge from Saul (1 Samuel 23:25,28; 24:2-3). David found there that his refuge was truly in God, the One who delivered him and protected him when he needed help (22:5-7; 17-20). In this song of worship, David strongly expressed his trust in God and gratitude for His continual care.

God is pictured as being like a “fortress” (v. 2), a “rock”, a “shield”, and “the horn of my salvation” (v. 3), a “lamp” (v. 29), and a “tower” (v. 51). David’s expression of trust in God was quoted by Jesus Himself, the great Son of David, saying: “I will put My trust in Him” (Hebrews 2:13). Jesus, like David, was cared for in God’s hands, and completely trusted in His Father to bring about the salvation of His people. Believers in Jesus have trusted in God and by faith have received salvation; and this same trust in God must continue each day, for He alone is our all-sufficiency.

David also expresses that God rewards the righteous. Surely he had in mind the reward of being the Lord’s anointed and being made king (22:21). For those who put their faith in Jesus Christ, there will surely be a heavenly reward.

Chapter 23 records the final song of the aged “sweet psalmist of Israel”. It is beautifully poetic and significant. After introducing himself, David makes the clear assertion that his words, not only the words recorded here but his other psalms as well, were prompted by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (23:2).

In his final song, David describes the pure and undefiled rule of a just king who fears God (23:3-4). He conveyed that those who do not honour and fear Him but are rebellious and violent (such as Saul, Amnon, Absalom, and Shimei) will ultimately come to a violent end as the punishment of God (23:6-7). David admits that his rule had not been pure, but he trusts that God will be faithful to His covenant promise, spoken through Nathan, about raising up a truly righteous king whose kingdom will be secure and endure forever (7:16; cf. Jeremiah 33:15-16). The Messianic hope of Israel was in this King whom we know to be Jesus! He is “all my salvation and all my desire” (23:5; Haggai 2:7).

The inspired word honours the heroic valiant men who helped David in fighting the Lord's battles and establishing the kingdom. Special mention was made of the brave warriors who killed the Philistine giants (21:15-22), and here in chapter 23, there is a list of thirty-seven men. David showed his appreciation for the faithfulness and loyalty of these warriors by having their names officially recorded in their annals of history, yet David recognized that the true victor and deliverer was the Lord (22:2, 18, 40, 44; Isaiah 12:3).

Prayer

Lord, You are our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our strength. We will trust in You. We call on You for protection, support, cleansing, and light on our path. We give thanks to You, O Lord!