

The Song of the Saved

(2 Samuel 22)

8/10/16; Wed PM Pine Grove

Introduction

Six years ago this month, 33 miners in Chile became trapped 2300 feet underground when their mine shaft caved in.

They survived in the mine, but were forced to live on very little food for 17 days before a drill reached them and discovered they were alive.

It then took 52 more days to make preparations to get them out...

But they were rescued as each were lifted 1/2 out of the mine in a narrow tube that required them to ride 15 minutes to the surface.

Some of the 33 men were claustrophobic, but here is what of them said..

I dont like tight spaces, but if that was the only way to be rescued, I was getting in it...

Their rescue was captured live on TV and nearly 1 billion people tuned in....

Once out of the mine, the men were so thankful to the people who had pitched in over 20 million dollars mostly from private donations to rescue them.

They cheered and applauded and expressed their thanks time and time again to all the workers who worked around the clock for 3 months to free them.

After it was all said and done, one of the miners said this...

You don't truly appreciate a rescue operation and the time, money and men who make it happen until you actually need a rescue...

Then you appreciate it very much...

Tonight, in 2 Samuel 22, we are going to hear from someone who had been rescued, not once or twice but literally 100s of times in his life...

And that is King David...

A man that God rescued time and time again...

So, what does a rescue do to a man?

It should fill him with joy...

But it should also fill him with thankfulness and gratitude while increasing his trust in the Rescuer...

And that is exactly what happened in David's life...

And it affected him so much that he wrote a song about it and sang it to the Lord...

WE get to look at that song tonight in 2 Samuel 22....

I have entitled this, the song of the saved...

And though David was speaking of a physical rescue, this song can be sung by anyone who has been spiritually saved by God as well...

And I would invite to put yourself in the text tonight..

You may not have had Saul breathing down your neck or your own son Abaslom trying to kill you...

But for those of us who are saved tonight, sin stalked us and the enemy hunted us until God rescued us...

Now this is a rather long song...

In fact, there are 51 verse before us tonight...

So, we have to get moving and there will little time left for explanation....

But simply identify with David and as he sings praises to his deliverer, let us sing as well...

The first 20 verses are simply a recap of what David's rescues looked like....

Let me read those 20 verses and you bear with me, and I will go back and make a few notes for us before we move to the next section....

So, 2 Samuel 22, verse 1 as we first look at....

I. The Recap Of Rescue (1-20)

22 And David spoke the words of this song to the Lord in the day that the Lord delivered him from the [a]hand of all his enemies and from the [b]hand of Saul. 2 He said,

“The Lord is my [c]rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

3

*[d]My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge;
My savior, You save me from violence.*

4

*“I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.*

5

*“For the waves of death encompassed me;
The torrents of [e]destruction [f]overwhelmed me;*

6

*The cords of [g]Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.*

7

*“In my distress I called upon the Lord,
Yes, I [h]cried to my God;
And from His temple He heard my voice,
And my cry for help came into His ears.*

8

*“Then the earth shook and quaked,
The foundations of heaven were trembling
And were shaken, because He was angry.*

9

*“Smoke went up [i]out of His nostrils,
Fire from His mouth devoured;
Coals were kindled by it.*

10

*“He bowed the heavens also, and came down
With thick darkness under His feet.*

11

*“And He rode on a cherub and flew;
And He [j]appeared on the wings of the wind.*

12

*“And He made darkness [k]canopies around Him,
A mass of waters, thick clouds of the sky.*

13

*“From the brightness before Him
Coals of fire were 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 [l]routed them.*

16

*“Then the channels of the sea appeared,
The foundations of the world were [m]laid bare
By the rebuke of the Lord,
At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.*

17

*“He sent from on high, He took me;
He drew me out of many waters.*

18

***“He delivered me from my strong enemy,
From those who hated me, for they were too
strong for me.***

19

***“They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
But the Lord was my support.***

20

***“He also brought me forth into a broad place;
He rescued me, because He delighted in me.***

Let me just offer a few thoughts for your heart
tonight in these opening verses...

The first would be this...

***We should be thankful for a rescuer who hears
our cries for help.***

Look back at verse 7....

7

***“In my distress I called upon the Lord,
Yes, I [h]cried to my God;
And from His temple He heard my voice,
And my cry for help came into His ears.***

I don't want to run the Chilean miners story into the
ground tonight, but their biggest problem was letting
the people on top of the mine know that they were
still alive...

Think about this...

It took 17 days before anyone on earth even knew that the miners had survived the cave in...

The cave in cut off all communication with the outside world..

No cell phones, no walkie talkies would work....

They were alive for 17 days but they could not word to anyone...

Eventually a drill broke through their caves and they were able to attach a note to it to alert the rescuers that they needed a rescue...

How helpless of a feeling is it to know that you need to communicate to someone but you can't...

The miners said that played on their minds and emotions worse than anything.

Once they finally made contact, they said it was huge morale boost....

They could see people and get food and even though they knew they would be there for many more days just talking to their rescuers gave them hope...

How thankful are you that the God of the Universe
is not beyond your reach....

How thankful that the God of the Creation hears
your cry the moment you say them...

How convicted are we that we don't talk to our
Rescuer all the more...

David cried to God and it went to the ears of
God....

How comforting is that...

God hears the cries of His people....

Though we don't get an immediate and audible answer,
we have confidence that God hears our voice...

If you are in trouble tonight, God doesn't need you
to tell Him, but He wants you to tell Him and we
know that HE will hear...

The second great truth that we see in these opening
20 verse is this...

Not only do we have Rescuer that hears,....

***We should also be thankful for a rescuer who
acts..***

If you look at verses 8-20, you will see David's vivid description of how God responds to the cries of his people..

Verse 8...

The earth shook..

Heaven trembled...

Smoke rose out of God's nostrils...

Fire came from God's mouth...

Coals of fire burned before God..

God sent out arrows on David's enemies...

Now, let's take a timeout for a minute...

Is this what literally happened?

No, not necessarily...

God didn't arrive on a flaming chariot to pluck David out of Saul's grasp....

God didn't send an earthquake to sneak David away from Absalom's men...

What David is simply writing here is for our minds....

God is a God who acts, and though we may never see that action with our eyes, we know that He works in the lives of his people....

And how do we know that?

Because we see the results in our lives...

We get the extra money we needed to pay that bill...

We get that report from the doctor that shows us that God has protected our health...

God doesn't have to show us smoke coming out of his nose to prove He is at work....

We know He is even when we can't see it physically...

David simply gives us the picture behind the curtain of what is happening....

Maybe God was breathing fire at times defending David....

And so David writes all these colorful descriptions to help us sing the song with him....

God hears us and God acts on our behalf...

Now, why does God do this for His people....

That leads us to verses 21-31, where we find the....

II. The Reason for Rescue (21-31)

Now, I want to read this section and many of you are going to be thinking as I read it?

Is this true?

Is what David sings here true about God?

Is it true that God saved His people because He delights in them and they are worth being saved?

Well, clear your minds...

Let's read these verses and let's then talk about them....

Verse 21..

21

***“The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness;
According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.***

22

***“For I have kept the ways of the Lord,
And have not acted wickedly against my God.***

23

***“For all His ordinances were before me,
And as for His statutes, I did not depart from [n]them.***

24

*"I was also [o]blameless toward Him,
And I kept myself from my iniquity.*

25

*"Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness,
According to my cleanness before His eyes.*

26

*"With the [p]kind You show Yourself [q]kind,
With the [r]blameless You show Yourself [s]blameless;*

27

*With the pure You show Yourself pure,
And with the perverted You show Yourself [t]astute.*

28

*"And You save an afflicted people;
But Your eyes are on the haughty whom You abase.*

29

*"For You are my lamp, O Lord;
And the Lord illumines my darkness.*

30

*"For by You I can [u]run upon a troop;
By my God I can leap over a wall.*

31

*"As for God, His way is [v]blameless;
The word of the Lord is tested;
He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.*

To anyone who reads this section, the first reaction is this....

David are you crazy?

Do you really think for one minute that you deserved God's rescue?

Do you think that you are a nice enough guy that God has to save you time and time again?

Well, you have lost it David...

Don't you know that the Bible says that no one is righteous...no, not one...

So, what in the world are you talking about here David when you say that God rescued you because you are a righteous person...

You aren't righteous David...

WE know you as a murderer and an adulterer...

So, get off your high horse and stop talking like that...

So, how do we deal with this?

First, does God save anyone based on their good works...

No, we know that...

That is true in the NT and it was also true in the OT....

So, how can David call himself righteous....

How can David think that God owed him a rescue?

Two things....

First, David was righteous not based on anything that he had done...

David was righteous based on the fact that he had faith in God...

None of us in here tonight are righteous either, but if have believed upon Jesus Christ....

Guess what we can say when approach God in prayer....

God, I am a righteous man, not because of what I have done, but because the righteousness of Christ has been credited to my life....

Now, we all know that a quick scan of our life and David's life reveals this...

We are righteous based on what we do, but we all are righteous based upon who we believe in...

David believed God's Word, and he was a righteous man even though he sinned daily...

We believed God's Word, and we are therefore righteous people even though we sin daily...

David's song in verses 21-31 is not meant to be a praise to David where he says he was worthy to be rescued...

It is a praise to God knowing that God even rescues the ungodly who simply have placed their faith in Him...

Let me drive this into your heart a little deeper....

When you are praying and you need a rescue, what does Satan often tempt you to believe...

"There is no way that God is going to rescue you."

Look at all you have done...

He has forgotten about you...

You just sinned 5 minutes ago...

Just keep your mouth shut and stop praying...

It is useless....

Yet, guess what your prayers should be...

“God, I need help here, and I know that I have done nothing to deserve your rescue.”

But I also know that I have faith in Christ, and that he has forgiven my sin and has made me righteous in your eyes...

Therefore, I pray for a rescue based upon who I am in Your Son...

God, if you would reduce your Son, then rescue me because I am in Him...

I have his good works...

I have his obedience...

I have his sacrifice for sin...

All credited to my account...

So, God if you would do for Christ, please do for me...

But not my will, but yours...

Look, that is the prayer of a righteous man or woman...

Even though we know that the righteousness we claim is not our own, we can still plead that righteousness to our Father...

David was a sinner, an adulterer, and a murderer, and he could plead his righteousness based upon his belief in God....

Now, you may say....

Well, Jesus had not died yet.....

How did he do that when he didn't know Christ...

I am glad you asked....

David was awarded the same righteousness that me and you share if we are saved even though he lived 3000 years ago....

And here is how I know....

Look at Genesis 15....

There are a lot of things to see in this chapter, but everyone agrees that these verses are the story of how Abraham got saved...

Yes, there was salvation in the OT, and we get the best picture of OT salvation in chapter 15...

I am going to read all 6 verses, but we are simply going to concentrate on verse 6....

Now, God had come to Abraham and told him to leave the land of his birth and follow Him....

And Abraham had obeyed...

But in chapter 15, we see his obedience turn into belief and salvation...

15 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying,

“Do not fear, Abram,

I am a shield to you;

[a]Your reward shall be very great.”

2 Abram said, “O Lord [b]God, what will You give me, since I [c]am childless, and the [d]heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram

said, “[e]Since You have given no [f]offspring to me, [g]one born in my house is my heir.” 4 Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying,

“This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own [h]body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said,

“Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your [i]descendants be.” 6 Then

he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Notice salvation in the OT required people to believe God and God would grant them what?

Righteousness!

And that should make sense, because no unrighteous man will ever see God....

And the basis of salvation in the OT was belief in God...

And even that belief was in a Savior from sin...

Abraham simply believed the promise of God that first came to Adam and Eve where God said that he would bring forth a man to crush the head of the serpent....

He didn't have the NT...

He didn't know everything about that Savior that we do today....

IT didn't matter.

He believed what he knew and God granted him the righteousness necessary to be saved...

David had the same righteousness, even though he probably knew just a little more than Abraham about the person of Jesus Christ....

And guess what is needed today to be saved....

Belief in the promises of God about the Savior Jesus Christ...

And guess what you get when you believe today?

You get the righteousness of God applied to your life...

Because you believe in the Savior that has already come...

David was as saved as me and you, and the righteousness he possessed was the same as me and you...

And he asked God to rescue based upon that perfect righteousness that is only found in Jesus Christ....

In one sense, no one is worthy of a rescue based on who they are...

However, everyone in Christ is worthy of a rescue because of who he is....

So, when you read verses 21-31, you need to think of God's righteousness that came to him by belief in God more than you need to think of David's own life...

However, I want to add something here as well...

This doesn't mean that David was a bad man his entire life...

In general,

He did love the Lord...

He did obey the Lord...

He did keep God's laws...

We shouldn't make light of that...

Often David's sin becomes the spotlight of his life, but he was a good king and he was a God fearing man...

And though we are sinners, we should seek to be God fearing, God honoring people in this world....

Just because you possess the righteousness of Christ doesn't mean you can live like the devil...

David was not perfect, but God is not interested in perfection just direction in the lives of his people...

David's life was pointed in the right direction even though he went south a couple of times...

This last section is what I have called the Rock who Rescues...

Because David moves from telling us about his rescue and the reason for his rescue and begins praising the Rescuer...

Let me read these verses and then make a few comments....

III. The Rock who Rescues (32-51)

32

*“For who is God, besides the Lord?
And who is a rock, besides our God?”*

33

*“God is my strong fortress;
And He [w]sets the [x]blameless in [y]His way.*

34

*“He makes [z]my feet like hinds’ feet,
And sets me on my high places.*

35

*“He trains my hands for battle,
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.*

36

*“You have also given me the shield of Your salva-
tion,
And Your [aa]help makes me great.*

37

*“You enlarge my steps under me,
And my [ab]feet have not slipped.*

38

*“I pursued my enemies and destroyed them,
And I did not turn back until they were consumed.*

39

*“And I have devoured them and shattered them, so
that they did not rise;
And they fell under my feet.*

40

“For You have girded me with strength for battle;

*You have [ac]subdued under me those who rose up
against me.*

41

*“You have also made my enemies turn their backs
to me,*

And I [ad]destroyed those who hated me.

42

*“They looked, but there was none to save;
Even to the Lord, but He did not answer them.*

43

*“Then I pulverized them as the dust of the earth;
I crushed and stamped them as the mire of the
streets.*

44

*“You have also delivered me from the contentions
of my people;*

You have kept me as head of the nations;

A people whom I have not known serve me.

45

“Foreigners pretend obedience to me;

As soon as they hear, they obey me.

46

“Foreigners [ae]lose heart,

And [af]come trembling out of their [ag]fortresses.

47

“The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock;

And exalted be [ah]God, the rock of my salvation,

48

The God who executes vengeance for me,

And brings down peoples under me,

49

*Who also brings me out from my enemies;
You even lift me above those who rise up against
me;*

You rescue me from the violent man.

50

*“Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord,
among the nations,*

And I will sing praises to Your name.

51

*“He is a tower of [ai]deliverance to His king,
And shows lovingkindness to His anointed,
To David and his [aj]descendants forever.”*

David’s final verse to his song of rescue is a summary of God’s deliverances...

And it serves as a way to praise the Lord...

First, this final section is a good reminder to keep the Lord’s name first in whatever good we are able to accomplish in the world...

David uses the word “you” a lot in this section...

God, I was able to do escape from danger because you enabled me to do it...

What a great reminder as we live in a culture that is a me generation....

To know that we are a people who says, not us O
Lord, but only you...

David understood that and his song says that...

And then one more note to make....

Look at the final conclusion of David after he talks
about his rescues....

After he talks about his reasons for rescue...

And after he talks about His rescuer....

What is the natural conclusion of it all...

Verse 50....

***“Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord,
among the nations,
And I will sing praises to Your name.***

It goes without saying....

When you are rescued, you can't help but thank the
rescuer and talk about him in the world...

Being saved is not something that causes you to
close your mouth....

Instead you can't help but open it to speak about his deliverance to your neighbor...

Conclusion

As we draw this chapter to a close, I don't know if Robert Robinson was reading 2 Samuel 22 or not when he sat down to write a hymn in 1758...

You see Robert Robinson was a barber in England in the 1700s when God called into ministry..

And he quickly became the pastor of Stone Yard Baptist Church in Cambridge England...

During his times of sermon preparation, he often thought about God had spared him as a young man who was part of bad gang of boys and blessed him to be a preacher....

And due to his gratefulness to God, he sat down and wrote to song to God about it...

We know that song as "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing..."

And listen to the end of the second verse....

***Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,***

Interposed His precious blood.

Like Robert and David, we have also been rescued tonight....

Amen?

Well, let us stand and sing of God's goodness tonight....

#15...

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.