

2 Samuel 22:1-51 | “Blessed be my Rock”
Preached on November 27, 2022 by Pastor Matt Brown

You can turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel 22.

We have only a couple more chapters left in the book of 2 Samuel, and this morning we are going to be looking at David’s song of deliverance. *[pause]*

As we begin, I want to ask you the following questions...

Where do you put your trust?

Where do you look when all seems lost?

What do you place your hope in? *[pause]*

For some people, their hope is in *science*.

They think that science is the solution to what’s wrong with the world.

They look at all the good that science has done in the past, and think that if only we keep researching, experimenting, and studying that we can solve all the problems of the world. [pause]

We have even heard the repeated statement, “Trust the science!” as if science is infallible. *[pause]*

That’s because for many people science is where they put their trust.

For many, science equals truth, and that truth (in their minds) will set them free.

They think that science will bring deliverance.

Deliverance from sickness, error, and even prevent the ending of the world - think climate change. *[pause]*

Now is science good? Of course.

Can science help us solve some things and benefit society? Certainly.

But it is not where we put our hope. [pauseeee]

For other people, they put their trust in *politics*.

They think, “If only we can get the right politicians in office, then all of these problems will go away.”

But by thinking this way, they incorrectly assume that government and policy is the end-all answer to life’s problems. *[pause]*

So for them, the best thing they can do is to be an activist.

They feel like they just *have* to say something bad about the other side, and they feel like they just *must* push their favored person and party at all times.

This is because their hope is in that politician.

If he or she doesn't get in office, then all hope is lost. *[pause]*

It's almost like they think that utopia will ensue once they get their favored politician in there, who can make the exact policy changes that they want.

So for them, political change in their favor is where they look for salvation from life's troubles and hardships. *[pause]*

Unknowingly, politics has become their savior and refuge. *[pauseeee]*

Now once again, can political change and a certain politician in office do good? Certainly.

Can political change help in some ways in our country? Of course.

But it is not where we put our hope. *[pauseeeee]*

Something else that people put their trust in is in *themselves*.

Our world tells us, "You can do and be anything that you set your mind to!"

They tell us, "Dream big, work hard, make it happen."

Or they try to motivate us by declaring, "You are stronger than you think. You can, you will." *[pause]*

This creates in us self-reliance, whereby we think that as long as I just keep learning, I can conquer anything that comes my way.

So for some people, they think that education and knowledge is the savior that will remedy all of life's issues. *[pause]*

Or maybe it's not education, but strength.

They think, "I just need more strength, willpower, and motivation, and then I can do it."

There was even a World War 2 poster of a woman showing off her arm, and at the top it read, "We can do it!"¹ *[pause]*

Many of us as Americans do not even realize how much our culture's focus on self has molded our mindsets into its image.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/We_Can_Do_It!.

And this kind of trust in ourselves even influences our mindset when it comes to church. *[pause]*

Have you ever thought that more people could be saved if only we created a new program or become creative in our worship?

That's self-reliance: thinking that *we* are the true difference maker, and that *we* can deliver ourselves from the issues of life. *[pause]*

Now can we do some great things using our minds and strength? Surely - but where does the ability come from? God. *[pause]*

Does God even use our actions to do great things? Definitely, but again, it's God working through us.

Our hope cannot be ourselves, for without God, we are nothing. *[pauseeee]*

Why do I bring these things up this morning?

Because David shows us where he put his trust and hope.

He shows us Who the true difference maker was in his life. *[pause]*

David accomplished a lot in his life; he was a very successful person.

Yet he tells us where that success comes from, and it wasn't from science, politics, or himself - it came from his Rock. *[pause]*

READ AND EXPLAIN VERSE 1

In verses 2-4, we discover that...

I. The Lord is my Rock and Deliverer. (2-4)

Let's read those verses. *[READ VERSES 2-4]*

In these few beginning verses, he's really telling us the main theme of the whole song.

"The Lord is my rock."

"I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."

That's what he is going to describe in the rest of the song. *[pauseeeee]*

David begins by showing us who the Lord is, and he gives metaphor after metaphor describing who the Lord is.

He's David's rock, fortress, deliverer, God, shield, horn of salvation, stronghold, refuge, and savior.

It's like David is looking for every single metaphor he can to try to describe the Lord, and still even all of these metaphors couldn't fully describe God. *[pause]*

It's like when you are trying to describe something amazing to someone else, and as you keep using more and more words to describe it, you know that it doesn't truly portray what happened.

No amount of words can fully describe who our Lord is! He is beyond comparison! *[pauseeee]*

Each of the metaphors that David uses paints the picture of the Lord's protection, power, stability, safety, security, and defense.

So there's a lot about his defensive ability to preserve and protect, but also his offensive ability to save and deliver. *[pause]*

The Lord is truly the rock.

He is where we find refuge and salvation. *[pause]*

Did you notice what else David said?

He didn't just say that the Lord is *the* rock, *the* fortress, *the* deliverer, but the Lord is *my* rock, *my* fortress, *my* deliverer.

It was personal, for David had a relationship with the Lord. *[pause]*

When you can say, "the Lord is *my* rock," then it means that you not only know the Lord is the rock, but you actually trust him as your rock.

He is the place *you* find refuge, and He is the One who *you* trust and hope in. *[pause]*

Do you trust in the Lord? Is He your rock?

In all the trials and issues of your life, do you go to Him for refuge?

If you lost everything in this life, but still had the Lord, would that be enough? *[pauseeee]*

Not only is the Lord our Rock and Deliverer, but...

II. The Lord hears and saves. (5-20)

In verses 5-20, we see this come out in vivid imagery.

Look at verses 5-7 first. *[READ VERSES 5-7]*

David uses four words to speak of how he was close to death, as death encompassed, assailed, entangled, and confronted him.

That is, David was in great distress and all hope seemed lost.

But that's when he called upon the Lord, who heard his cry.

He knew that his only hope was the Lord, and so he called out to Him in faith. *[pause]*

If you have ever had young children, you may have experienced this type of thing.

Let's say the child is in the other room, and all of a sudden they get stuck in something.

What do they do?

They instantly cry out, "Daddy!" or "Mommy!"

They were in trouble, and knew that their father or mother was their only hope.

They were in need, recognized that, and called out to the one who could save. *[pause]*

That's what we do with the Lord!

Like David, one has to understand that if they don't call out, that death will take them.

They have to see their dire state, and call upon Christ, who died for them, as the way to be saved. *[pause]*

Even Romans 10:13 says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." *[pause]*

Have you done that?

Have you recognized your distress, and called out in trust for Jesus to save you? *[pause]*

If you are a believer here today, then remember how you called out to Christ to save you.

Remember that calling out to Him doesn't stop at the moment of salvation.

Rather, we are to continually trust our Savior all along the way. *[pause]*

When you are facing financial struggles, call upon the Lord.

When you are going through a health issue, call to Him in prayer.

Realize that you are dependent on Him for *everything*. *[pause]*

And you know what? He HEARS!

Your prayers go to His ears, it doesn't matter where you are - He hears.

He hasn't gone on vacation.

He hasn't shut the door.

He doesn't put his hands over his ears, but He hears! *[pause]*

Oh, what a difference it makes that He hears!

What comfort that can calm the most turbulent days of our lives: He hears!

Such a truth remembered can uplift even the most downcast soul. *[pauseeee]*

In verses 8-20, we see how God responds to David's call for help.

Let's read those verses to see what happens... *[READ VERSES 8-20]*

God responds in glorious power!

David uses imagery of the Exodus and Mt. Sinai to picture God saving him from his enemies. *[pause]*

When God moves to act, the earth rocks and the foundations tremble.

He comes down and thick darkness is under his feet.

He rides a cherub, thunders from heaven, and routes the enemy.

When the Lord rebukes, the foundations are laid bare. *[pause]*

Just skim over these verses and notice how many things in nature are stated.

The earth, foundations, heavens, wind, darkness, clouds, lightning, sea.

This shows us that God harnesses all of nature as He comes to save David. *[pause]*

Nature quakes at His movements and does His bidding. *[pause]*

God is in control of nature!

There is no such thing as "Mother Nature" but rather it should be called, "Servant Nature" because nature is subservient to the Lord!

Nature doesn't control God's movements, but God controls nature's. *[pauseeee]*

As humans, nature feels so wild, uncontrollable, and dangerous.

Hurricanes wipe out our houses, snowstorms wreck our plans, and floods wash away our possessions, and there's not much we can do about it.

But God is over nature. *[pause]*

When God comes, it quakes.

When God commands, it carries out His dictates.

This is a clear reminder that the Lord is the greatest power in the Universe. *[pauseeee]*

He did all of this, rescuing David from an enemy stronger than him.

He easily saves David out of the waters of danger and death from the enemy. *[pauseeee]*

Yes, people and situations are often too mighty for us, but not for God Almighty. *[pause]*

I love this quote from commentator Robert Bergen about this section.

He says, “David depicted a striking contrast between his own frailty and the Lord’s strength.

David’s cry was one of terrified weakness and vulnerability; the Lord’s response was one of terrifying, cataclysmic power.”² *[pause]*

I am weak, but He is strong. *[pause]*

So often we focus on and quake about the foes who are too strong for us, rather than the Lord who is strong beyond measure.

So often we act and live like this isn’t our God.

We are filled with fear instead of faith. *[pause]*

Who do you fear?

Small man or this gloriously powerful God, who the foundations of the earth tremble over?

Do you really think that situation you are facing is too great for this God to handle? *[pauseeee]*

I have a friend who has competed in many strongman contests.

In the contests, they have to do crazy things like pick up these huge stones or carry heavy things for long distances, all in order to see who is the strongest.

Well there is no contest when the God Most High is taken into account. *[pauseeee]*

So David shows us that the Lord is our Rock and Deliverer, he hears and saves, but next....

III. The Lord saves the humble and rewards the righteous. (21-29)

In verses 21-29, David explains *why* the Lord saved him.

David says this, starting in verse 21...[\[READ VERSES 21-25\]](#)

David explains that he has strived to follow the Lord, and do what is right, according to God’s law.

He has been obedient to the Lord, and the Lord has rewarded him for it. *[pause]*

² Bergen, R. D. (1996). *1, 2 Samuel* (Vol. 7, p. 454). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

By saying this, David is reminding us that God doesn't just save everyone, but those who humbly look to Him. *[pause]*

He even continues in verse 26, showing us just that...*[READ VERSES 26-29]*

God saves those who humbly look to Him for salvation, for they recognize that they need Him.

He is against those who are crooked and haughty, for they think they don't need Him and rebel. *[pause]*

David's statements about how those who God finds pleasure in are the merciful, the pure, and the humble reflects what Jesus says in Matthew 5.

There, he says how the merciful, pure in heart, and poor in spirit are blessed.³ *[pauseeee]*

Now you may be sitting there thinking, "I can't say like David that I have not turned aside from God's statutes, for I have sinned many times."

Well there's good news.

David reminds us of another person, who *perfectly* did God's Law - Jesus Christ. *[pause]*

You're right, you don't measure up, and haven't kept the ways of the Lord.

If the Lord dealt with us according to our righteousness, we would be dead, but thankfully, there's someone who was completely righteous for us. *[pause]*

Because He was blameless, we can be called blameless.

Because He kept the Law, we are counted as keeping the Law. *[pause]*

I'm thankful that the Lord deals with me according to HIS righteousness, and not mine!

And because I simply and humbly trust in Christ, then God saves and delivers. *[pauseeee]*

Look what else the Lord does as you look further in this chapter....

IV. The Lord empowers and equips. (30-46)

Starting in verse 30 all the way until verse 46, David explains what the Lord enabled him to do.

Just listen to verses 34 and following. *[READ VERSES 34-43]*

David recounts all of these things that he did.

He could bend a bow of bronze, and his feet did not slip.

³ See Matthew 5:1-12.

He pursued his enemies and destroyed them.

Those who rose up against him were sunk under his feet.

He destroyed, crushed, and stamped down his adversaries. *[pause]*

David is saying, “Look at all the victories that I had. All my enemies are gone!” *[pause]*

But yet in recounting all of these successes, he tells us about the true power behind his power and success - the Lord. *[pauseeee]*

You know how sometimes a reporter interviews someone who just did something successfully and they ask, “How did you do it? What made the difference?”

Well if you interviewed David, he would say, “I did it because really the Lord did it for me. He equipped me and empowered me.”

God is the true power behind David’s power - He’s the true cause of his success and victory. *[pauseeee]*

In the movie “The Wizard of Oz”, the Wizard of Oz seemed like such a great, powerful, and scary figure.

But when they pulled back the curtain, it was just some normal, older man controlling everything. *[pause]*

Well this is the opposite.

When we pull back the curtain of David’s life, we see someone even *greater* than we expected, who did everything - God. *[pause]*

This helps us to view all of what happened in David’s life correctly.

His victory over Goliath wasn’t through his amazingness, but through God’s power.

His victory over Absalom was God at work.

His victories over the Philistines time and time again was through the enablement of God. *[pause]*

David could say both, “I destroyed them,” and also, “You equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me.” *[pauseeee]*

The cause of David’s success was the Lord, and David admitted that.

May we always remember the true cause of any victory or success we have in life. *[pauseeee]*

He is the great Empowerer and Equipper.

He empowers and equips us with what we need.

He can take a normal person and cause them to do amazing things!

He can work something amazing through someone that nobody expected. *[pause]*

When David was young, even Samuel overlooked him for his brothers, but God said, “No, I’m going to use THAT one.”⁴

This is because it’s not dependent on our natural abilities, but on God’s supernatural working. *[pauseeee]*

Many of you may not be involved in church or serving in some way because it’s intimidating.

You think, “I don’t think I could do that. There’s no way.”

But are you forgetting the empowering, equipping Lord? *[pause]*

Do you think that I thought I would be up here preaching every week? Certainly not.

If He calls you to something, He will give you what you need! *[pause]*

Don’t squander his gifting and empowering work, but actively use it like David did!

You have been gifted with a spiritual gift, are you squandering it, or using it?

Trust the Lord, who empowers and equips you for what you need by the Spirit! *[pauseeee]*

What does all of this teach us? Well the final verses show us what it should lead to: praise!

The Lord deserves all praise! (47-51)

You know how sometimes a picture will have the person’s name who should get the credit for taking it?

Or maybe it’s a piece of artwork or something like that.

Well who gets all the credit for David’s life and success? The Lord.

Just listen to verses 47-51, as David wraps it all up, and just praises God... *[READ VERSES 47-51]*

What else can we do when we learn of such a Lord as this?

Our correct response to everything He is and has done is *praise*. *[pause]*

He is our rock, the rock of our salvation.

⁴ See 1 Samuel 16:7.

He has brought us out from under our enemies: sin and death.

He has delivered us by sending Christ to die on the Cross, and then to rise from the grave.

Truly, the Lord lives, and because He lives, we know that we shall live. *[pauseeee]*

May He be exalted! May we sing His praises among the nations!

Let's proclaim what Christ has done to the world! *[pauseeee]*

So again, I ask you, as I asked you at the beginning: where do you put your trust?

Where do you look when all seems lost?

What do you place your hope in? *[pause]*

Don't put your trust in science, for it's always changing.

Don't hope in politics, for you will be disappointed time and time again.

And don't look to yourself, for you will fail. *[pause]*

Putting your trust in those things instead of the Lord is like thinking a pebble will provide you refuge when you are standing next to a boulder.

If you trust in those things, you are trusting in things infinitely *untrustworthy*.

Like believing that a spider web will hold your weight, or trusting in a broken rope - so that's what we do, if we put our hope in those things.

Instead, trust the Rock of Ages, who deserves all praise. *[pause]*

Blessed by our Rock.