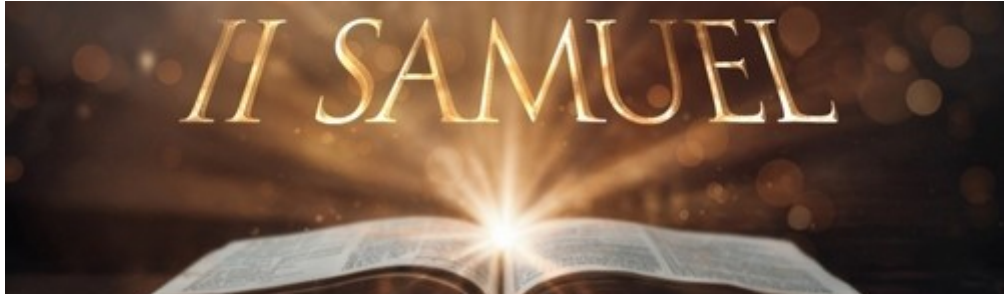


Let's Worship God

31st Aug. - 5th Sept. 2026

2 Samuel





Monday - 2 Samuel 22:1-14 - Looking Backwards and Forwards

The passage that we're going to be looking at this week is identical to Psalm 18. It makes it into the book of Psalms. Other songs don't. And I think that helps us answer the question as to whether we should sing songs that are in the Bible, but aren't in the book of Psalms. Because there are other songs in the Bible. There's Hannah's song at the beginning of 1st Samuel. There's Mary's song after Gabriel meets her and she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth. So should we sing them? First and foremost, we don't have a command to sing these other songs, even though they're inspired. And apart from that, the fact that some songs outside of the book of Psalms make it into the psalter and some songs don't, tells us that if God wanted us to sing a particular song, we would find it in the book of Psalms as well. Because here we have a song which is recorded in a historical book, but also makes it into the book of Psalms.

Imagine that the Queen, in her final months, had written down an account of her life. And in particular if she had highlighted different ways God had been with her during her life, and given all the glory and all the honour to him. That would have been quite something. In a way, that's like what David does here. We can't be sure whether David is approaching the end of his life as he writes these words. But it does provide a fitting conclusion to the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. Even if we have another two chapters to go. Way back in 1st Samuel chapter 2, Hannah, in her song, had looked forward to the kingdom that God was going to bring about. She had finished with the words: 'The LORD will... give strength to his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed'. That was before Israel had ever had such a thing as a king. But she spoke prophetically by the Spirit. Now, in 2nd Samuel 22, Israel's second - and greatest - king looks back on his reign. In some ways the two songs are like a mirror image. Hannah says: 'the LORD will thunder in heaven'. And here in chapter 22:14 we read: 'The LORD thundered from heaven'. Hannah looks forward. David looks back. And so what we have here is a fitting summary of David's reign, looking back at what God has done for him, but also looking forward.

Question

1. What is David doing in this Psalm?

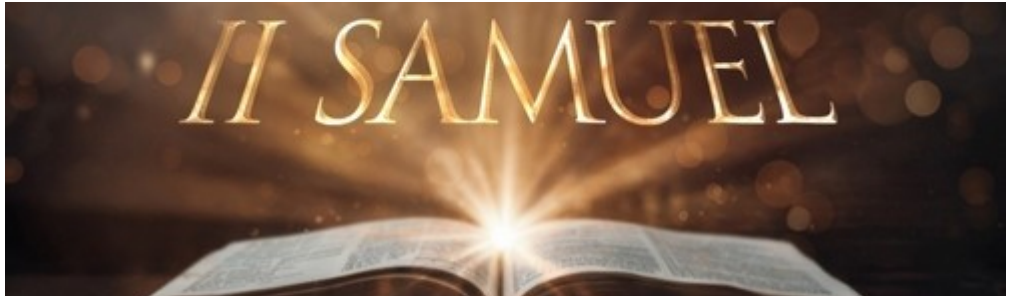
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that God has done in your life so far.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation," 2 Samuel 22:47

Praise: Psalm 18:1-7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 22:1-7 - Out Of The Depths

We have here language that we can take and make our own, both in prayer and praise. Can you say of God, as David does here: 'The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; you save me from violence.' Can you say? 'I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.' If you're feeling cold and distant from God, these are words you can take and meditate on. Take some time and think about how God is your rock, fortress, deliverer, horn of your salvation, and so on. Let David's praise stir your own. When we think of what we've been saved from, and of how little strength we would have if left to try and make it to the end of the Christian life, then surely we will be overwhelmed with praise. It's so easy just to rush into God's presence without reminding ourselves of who he is and what he's done. So perhaps as you pray, these might be words that you take and pray back to God, reminding yourself whose presence you're coming into. These opening words then, in verses 2-4, are words written by the king. But these are also words which any Christian could - and should - take on their own lips.

Perhaps what follows seems a little further from our experience. But it doesn't take too much imagination to apply it to ourselves. Verses 5 and 6 talk about a near death experience. It's the language of Jonah in the fish. Perhaps there's been a time when we did go through a near-death experience. Or we were in a situation where we felt we were drowning, where we felt there was no way out - and then God intervened. And apart from him we wouldn't be here today. Ultimately this describes each one of us before God saved us. Outside of Christ the waves of death encompassed us, and the torrents of destruction assailed us. The cords of Sheol entangled us and the snares of death confronted us. Think of the drowning feeling you might have if you were mired in debt. You had exhausted all other avenues and knew that unless someone came in and bailed you out, you would lose everything. And then someone did just that! What a relief that would be. That's nothing compared to the debt of our sins being paid. From the absolute depths - in distress, verse 7 - we have called to God, and our voice has reached his heavenly temple and our cry has come to his ears. Praise God!

Question

1. How can we use this psalm to help us pray?

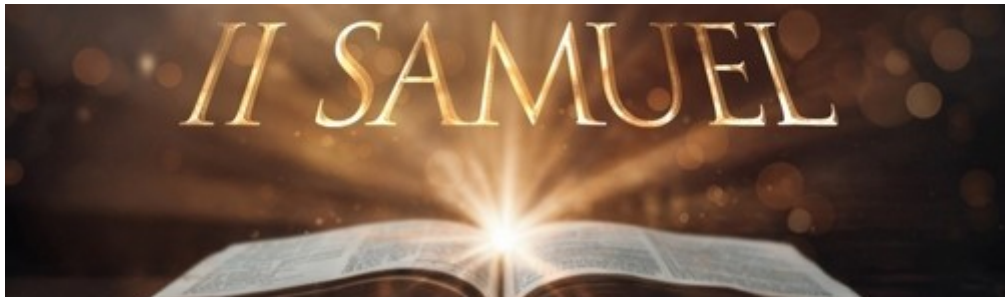
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that God has done for you/
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation," 2 Samuel 22:47

Praise: Psalm 18:8-14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - 2 Samuel 22:8-20 - An Exodus Rescue

We have this hugely dramatic description in verses 8-16 of what God has done. And yes we know there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents. But is this description not a bit over the top as a description of God intervening to save us - or even to save David? There are two ways to answer that. The first way is to say that, as someone has put it, 'David doesn't merely want to tell you a fact about Yahweh, he wants you to see Yahweh in all his saving fury'. The words: 'The Lord delivered me' would express truth. But the dramatic language of verses 8-16 does more than express truth. It impresses truth on us. May God save us from the danger of cold and clinical descriptions of him. More and more may we have a sense of his utter majesty as we have it on display here, his power, his grandeur, his magnificence. This is our God! And this is how he acts. Let these descriptions stir you!

But still, I think we're right if we have a sense that there's something going on here that's about more than God rescuing us as individuals - or even about him rescuing a great king like David. The language used here is Exodus language. In verse 16, at the blast of the breath of the LORD's nostrils, the channels of the sea were seen and the foundations of the world were laid bare. Just like when God brings his people out of Egypt and divides the Sea for them to walk in between. Other verses, like the smoke in verse 9, the darkness and clouds in verse 12 and the thunder and lightning in verses 14 and 15, use language very similar to language used at Mount Sinai in Exodus 19 and 20. So why's all this pointing back to Exodus? In the Old Testament, the Exodus was the supreme example of God's deliverance. If someone in the Old Testament wanted to explain what God rescuing his people looked like, they would go back to the time when God brought his people out of slavery through the Red Sea. And here this language is being used for the rescue of one man. We'll look at this more tomorrow.

Question

1. How does this language remind us of the exodus?

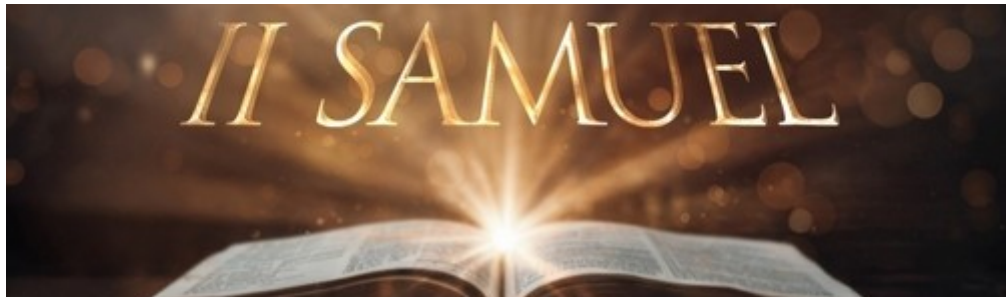
Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would not grow cold to descriptions of God's glory.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation," 2 Samuel 22:47

Praise: Psalm 18:15-21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - 2 Samuel 22:17-31- The Words of Christ

Some read verses 21-25 and say: Well this must be David writing before he had Uriah killed and stolen his wife. Others would say - rightly - that it's not necessarily a claim to sinless perfection, but it's just a claim not to be guilty of what he's being accused of. And yet is this language that any of us would be comfortable using of ourselves? 'The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.' Surely the gospel tells us that the LORD rewards us according to Jesus' righteousness, not our own?

This psalm doesn't contradict that. Because Jesus is the one who the New Testament authors believed was speaking in this song. Yes, David writes the words. On one level they're a description of him. But on a deeper level they're a description of his great descendant, Jesus Christ. Part of verse 3 is quoted in Hebrews 2:13 as the words of the Lord Jesus. Then verse 50 is quoted in Romans 15:9 as Jesus praising God among the Gentiles. And if the New Testament authors, guided by the Holy Spirit, saw the beginning and the end of this song as about Jesus, then it's natural to understand that he is ultimately the one speaking throughout the psalm. People sometimes say to us: If we just sing the psalms, then we never get to sing about Jesus. But that's not the way the New Testament writers saw them. In the psalms we not only get to sing about Jesus, we get to sing the very words of Jesus. We get to sing his emotions. In fact, the second last line of the chapter says that the LORD shows steadfast love to his anointed, and that word anointed is where we get the word Messiah from. This psalm is the LORD speaking about his Messiah, and ultimately that's Jesus. That explains the dramatic language used to describe his rescue. That explains the claim that he will be rewarded for his righteousness.

With Jesus in view, the language of verses 5 and 6 can be understood as speaking not simply of a near-death experience, but of his actual death. It becomes the language of God raising Jesus from the dead. Try reading verses 17 through 19 thinking of Jesus' resurrection.

Question

1. Who is ultimately speaking in this psalm?

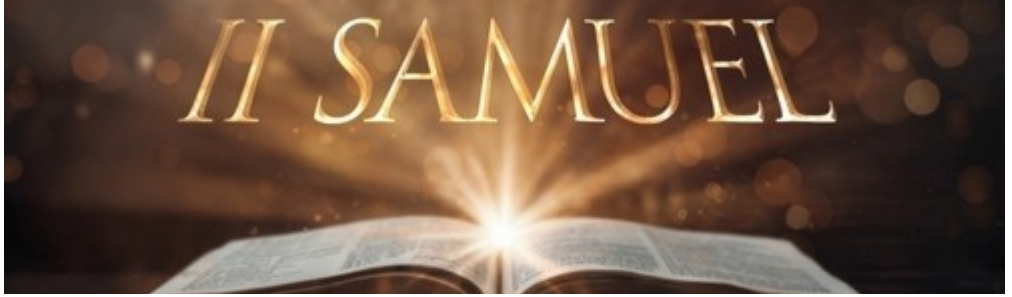
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's resurrection.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation," 2 Samuel 22:47

Praise: Psalm 18:22-28 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - 2 Samuel 22:32-43 - Singing These Words in Christ

Perhaps someone will say: 'Well if this song is really about Jesus then, does it have any relevance to me?' Yes! More so, in fact, than if these were just the words of David. Because by faith we're joined on to Jesus. So what's true of him in this song becomes true of us. One example is verses 17-19. In 1762, during the persecution of Protestants in France, a 27-year old minister called Francis Rochette was arrested. Three brothers, from a noble family, tried to rescue him, but the rescue attempt failed. All four of them were condemned to death. As they awaited execution, they sung those verses. If those words had just been a historical record of David's rescue from the hands of Saul, what hope would that have given those four martyrs? Perhaps it would have given them some. God had done this for David in the past - perhaps he would do it for them as well. But if these words ultimately describe not just a rescue but a resurrection, and if the resurrection being described is that of Jesus, and if Jesus is the head and Christians are the body, then no wonder those four young men could sing confidently in the face of death! Because they were joined on to Christ by faith, then their resurrection was just as certain as his.

Seeing this song as ultimately about Jesus also helps us when we feel overwhelmed and burdened by sin. When our hands aren't clean. When we have turned aside from his statutes. When we know that we're not blameless and that we haven't kept ourselves from guilt. When these verses are not true of us, they are ALWAYS true of him. We can take them and make them our own. Because we sing them in Christ.

Or what about verse 20? How quick would you be to say that God delights in you? As he looks at you, do you think his overwhelming feeling is one of disappointment? Or at best, grudging acceptance? We can often think that way. But if the Psalm is ultimately about Jesus, then we can say with confidence that God delights in us. Why? Because as the New Testament goes on to spell out, when God looks at us, he does so 'in Christ'. That phrase 'in Christ' is all over the New Testament. Our sins - which are many - are covered by the righteous robes of Jesus Christ. And so when God looks at us, he sees the sinless perfection of his own dear son. Rather than seeing our half-hearted obedience, he sees his perfect obedience. Not because God is turning a blind eye to our sin. But because that's what Jesus bought for us on the cross. In Christ, our sin is taken away and our guilt atoned for. God raised Jesus in order to make him the firstborn of many brothers. And as our heavenly Father looks out on his blood-bought family, he does so with delight. Because we're covered with the righteousness of Christ.

Question

1. How can this Psalm help when we are feeling overwhelmed by sin?

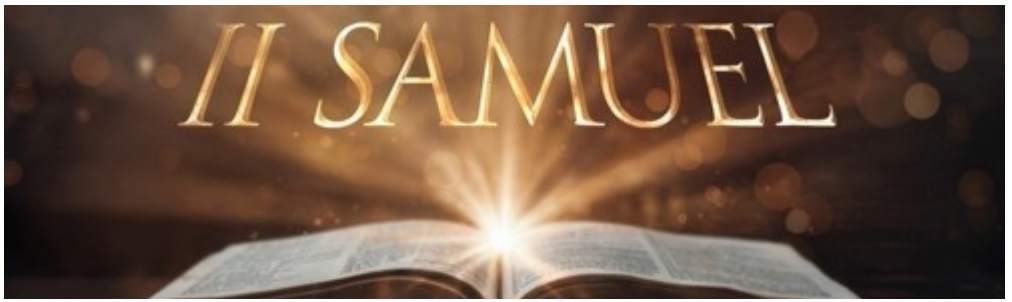
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation," 2 Samuel 22:47

Praise: Psalm 18:29-35 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 22:44-51 - The Nations Are His Inheritance

This is also a song which helps us to look forward with confidence to what Jesus will do in this world, even in our own day. In verse 43, it's really stretching the phrase 'head of nations' - plural - if we apply it to David. Even at the height of his power he was just the head of one nation - the united kingdoms of Israel and Judah. This language goes way beyond David. That's undoubtedly part of the reason that Romans 15 picks up these closing verses and applies them to the Lord Jesus, and to the nations putting their trust in him. Paul tells us there that part of the reason Jesus came was 'in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy'. Then he quotes verse 49. So this is a psalm with a missionary thrust. In fact, the psalms are given to enthuse and equip the church in her mission to take the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to every tribe, tongue, nation and language. And as we look to the future generally, we have a prophecy here of what's going to happen. And that is that Jesus will win. Right up until the end of the world, he will keep saving people. And no-one and nothing can stop him doing that. In those words from Isaiah 52 that Paul quotes in the same chapter of Romans: 'Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.' And the explosive growth and spread of the gospel from that day to this is testimony to the truth of that.

So we can go out with confidence. Jesus will have the reward of his sufferings. The nations are his inheritance, as Psalm 2 tells us. The nations include Scotland. The one who has rescued us from the cords of death - the one who has moved heaven and earth to rescue us - he can do the same for others. 'Great salvation he brings to his king'. And so in light of this song let us pray that we would see the king's great salvation being experienced in this place in these days! And if we stick close to him, we can be sure, that one day, looking back on our lives, we - like David - will have an overflowing abundance of things to praise him for.

Questions

1. How can we have confidence as believers?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation," 2 Samuel 22:47

Praise: Psalm 18:36-41 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

**The goal of Let's Worship God is to
encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.**

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

**Let's Worship God is produced
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.**

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com