

2 SAMUEL OVERVIEW (INTO 1 KINGS) - LESSON 16

I. CHAPTERS 21-24

A. Appendix Part 3: The Song of Deliverance

1. Overview of 2 Sam 22 - a song of David to the Lord

a. Written by David to acknowledge God's safekeeping & victories

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b. Written in four parts

- 1). Introduction: vss 2-4
- 2). Narrative of God's interventions on his behalf: vss 5-19
- 3). Foundation for his protection and success: vss 20-30
- 4). Specific acts of God's intervention: vss 31-51
 - a.) God's goodness and character are highlightd
 - b.) Confidence that God's character will allow this to continue for him and his kingdsom
 - c.) Theme rises from his earthly kingdom to the Messianic Kingdom, with assurances that God's protection extends to every believer

4. David describes why he received such divine protection & rescue

a. David claims God supported him because of his righteousness (22.21-25)

- 1). It must be realized that David was looking at this in the backdrop of Saul having persecuted him
 - a.) With all the temptations to blame God, curse Him, break His commandments, David had done none of these
 - b.) Even when he had the opportunity to slay Saul, he did not strike the Lord's anointed
- 2). He had sought to please God in his private and public life (to this point)
- 3). Because of all this, David believed that was why God had preserved him

b. David also says there's a general principle God follows (22.26-28)

- 1). God similarly reciprocates those who are kind, blameless, pure
- 2). He intervenes for those who are afflicted (humble)
- 3). But the corollary is also true
 - a.) God reacts in a twisted or shrewd way with those who are perverted
 - b.) ESV: tortuous, NIV: shrewd, NRSV: perverse

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5. David describes what God had done for him in battle

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a. He details specific strengths God gave to him (22.29-34)

- 1). vs 29: God gave him understanding in confusion, weakness, depression
- 2). vs 30: God gave so much strength to David that he could take on an army
- 3). vs 31: God gave His promises and they were fulfilled, trusting in Him provided a shield against his enemies
- 4). vs 32: God provided the hope David persevered because of, it could be trusted to hold
- 5). vs 33: Once again, David believes God provided him the protection of a fortress because of his righteousness
- 6). vs 34: God provided him with swift feet to outrun his enemies, and to climb to inaccessible places (historic facts)

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b. He also shows that God enabled his battle skills & results (22.35-43)

- 1). vs 35-36: He gave David enough strength to bend a bronze bow, and shielded him from harm
- 2). vs 37: One of the worst mistakes in battle is to slip ... God kept David from that ... his steps were confident & sure
- 3). vs 38-41, 43: David was able to utterly destroy his enemies through God's enabling his abilities
- 4). vs 42: God also kept anyone from coming to help David's enemies

c. He finishes by describing the end result of his battles (22.44-46)

- 1). God saved him from the contentiousness of his own people (likely referring to Saul's attacks)
- 2). Foreigners were under Israel's subjection
 - a.) David was recognized as the king of the great nation among others
 - b.) Just hearing of his approach with his armies led other countries to render homage to him

6. David closes with praise for God, extolling his love for Him (22.47-51)

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a. vs 47: David declares that the Lord lives, not like the lifeless idols of countries surrounding them

b. vs 48-49: He summarizes again what God has done for him

c. vs 50-51: David declares to the nations how God has supported His anointed one

- 1). And not just military and diplomatic support, but loving kindness

E Appendix Part 4: 2 Sam 23

1. (2 Sam 23.1-7) David's Last Song

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- a. David's actual last words are in 1 Ki 2.1-9
- 1). This is actually his last poetic writing
 - 2). 2 Sam 22 was David's look back at his past, CH 23 is his look into the future
- b. (vs 1) Note how David describes himself
- 1). "...the son of Jesse..." >> no royal lineage, a low commoner
 - 2). "...raised on high..." "the anointed of the God of Jacob ..."
 - a.) The God of his forefathers, the God of the Promise, exalted him in spite of his low beginnings
 - b.) In this, he is a type of Christ
 - 3). "...the sweet psalmist of Israel."
 - a.) 73 psalms in Book of Psalms are attributed to David
 - b.) Reading and meditating on them clearly shows that God spoke through him
 - c.) Not the usual standards for such writings of the period
 - d.) (2-3a) And God was about to speak through him again
- c. (3b-5) A difficult passage - Two meanings ?
- 1). # 1: Concerning David's reign
 - a.) He states what a ruler who rules righteously would be like
 - He rules in fear (awe, respect) of God
 - His rule would be enlightening, pleasant
 - His rule would promote growth
 - b.) (vs 5) He then asks for agreement that his reign has been thus
 - He refers to God's covenant with him to produce those results if he follows God's will (2 Sam 7.8-16)
 - As a result, God has allowed his rule to bring order, growth in his kingdom,
 - "salvation" is the personal safety God has given him
 - 2). # 2: A description of the coming Messiah and His reign
 - a.) David is looking for the coming of a King Who will rule with all righteousness
 - b.) He would rule with all reverence for God and His will
 - c.) This King's reign would institute a new day of living for the world
 - d.) David's covenant with God would assure that the King would come from David's line
 - e.) The covenant also assured that God would keep David safe to produce the Messianic line
- d. (6-7) The contrast
- 1). Unlike David's house, the worthless are compared to thorns that are so worthless that men dig them up and burn them
 - a.) Heb bel·e·yah·al = worthless particularly relating to righteousness
 - 2). Men who deal with them must be well armed
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2. (Appendix Part 5) More of David's mighty men

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a. Overview

- 1). Men of special valor supporting David who were recognized throughout Israel
 - a.) Aided David in gaining the crown and subduing Zion

- 2). Many sermons have been preached on 2 Sam 23.8-39 and its parallel, 1 Chron 11, to extol believers to develop the qualities and accomplishments akin to these men

- 3). Three groups

- a.) The Mightiest three
- b.) Three of the Thirty
- c.) The Thirty

b. (2 Sam 23.8-12 / 1 Chr 11.10-14) The Three

- 1). Elite of the elite
- 2). Josheb-basshebeth
 - a.) Commanded the group
 - b.) Slew 800 of the enemy with his spear in one engagement

- 3). Eleazar the Ahohite

- a.) Stayed his place in a battle with the Philistines when all others had withdrawn
- b.) Fought so long that his sword hand became weary, but defeated all of the enemy

- 4). Shammah the Hararite.

- a.) Refused to retreat from a bean patch while others did, and stood to gain the victory

c. (2 Sam 23.13-23 / 1 Chr 11.15-25) Three of the Thirty

- 1). (vs 13-17) Fetching the water
 - a.) David and his men were being pursued by the Philistines
 - b.) David took rest in the cave of Adullam
 - c.) He was overheard wishing he could have a drink from the well at Bethlehem
 - David had played there as a boy
 - A Philistine encampment surrounded Bethlehem, preventing access to the well
 - d.) These three loyal men heard his wish, broke through the Philistines, and returned with the water
 - David was touched, and wouldn't drink it because of the danger they had put themselves in for him

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- 2). (vs 18-23) Further exploits by two of them
- a.) Abishai, Joab's brother
 - Killed 300 with his spear in one encounter
 - Became the commander of the Thirty
 - b.) Benaiah the son of Jehoiada the priest
 - He struck down two of Moab's heroes ("Ariel")
 - He killed a lion in a pit on a snowy day
 - He took the spear away from a striking Egyptian warrior and killed him with it
 - He was appointed head of David's bodyguard, and later became commander in chief of Solomon's army
 - c.) Scholars assume that Joab was the third hero
 - Likely his deeds were wiped from the record because of his killing of Absalom
- d. (2 Sam 23.24-39 / 1 Chr 11.26-47) Rest of the Thirty
- 1). Their exploits are not listed, but they are listed akin to an honor role
 - 2). Some key points
 - a.) The group of The Thirty was actually only 30 men at all times
 - The mention of 37 names provides for those fallen and replaced by the time of the writing
 - It may also be that others were simply added to the honor role for similar feats
 - b.) The group was diverse
 - Their names indicate they were from all over Israel
 - Some came from outside Israel
 - c.) Uriah the Hittite was the last name on the list
 - It is presumed he was added because of his bravery at the battle he was killed

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3. 1 Chr Chapter 12 names others for special honor
- a. (1 Chr 12.1-7) The Benjamite marksmen
 - 1). Saul was still king and hunting David, who was at Ziklag, where he ruled for 16 months in Philistine territory
 - 2). 23 warriors from Benjamin cast their lot with him
 - a.) Risked their lives and property in loyalty
 - b.) Could accurately use the bow and sling from either hand



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- b. (12.8-15) Gadites with strong fighting skills
- 1). They joined David in his early days of hiding from Saul
 - 2). Particularly skilled in the use of sword and shield
 - 3). Also swift use of their feet
 - 4). Said to look like fierce lions likely because of their beards
 - 5). They became captains in David's army
 - 6). Attacked what were likely the Philistines in the Jordan valley and drove them out
 - 7). The least man was worth a hundred regular fighters, and the greatest worth a thousand
- c. (12.16-18) A band that was Spirit-led
- 1). In David's early days of hiding, he was joined by some from Benjamin and Judah
 - a.) David was suspicious that they might betray him to Saul
 - b.) He challenged them to be loyal as he indicated he trusted their intentions to God
 - c.) The Spirit delivered a message of loyalty through Amasai
 - The Hebrew text literally says that the Spirit clothed Himself with Amasai
- d. (12.19-21) Defectors from Manasseh
- 1). The situation
 - a.) David's army was joining Philistine king Achish to battle Saul at Mount Gilboa
 - b.) Achish's officers were suspicious of having David at the rear, so Achish sent them back to Ziklag
 - 2). The defectors
 - a.) On the way back to Ziklag, seven high officers of Saul's army defected to David
 - b.) Ziklag had been raided by nomads and David's army's families had been taken
 - c.) These defectors of the Manasseh aided David in overtaking the raiders and bringing back the families

These notes were originally written as I composed this study for our Faculty & Staff Bible Study at the local university. It is important to note that they follow the narrative in *Old Testament Survey Series: The Books of History* by James E. Smith (1995, College Press Publishing Company) very closely. It is the best summary I found, so it is the foundation for the study. In many cases, I used Dr. Smith's words directly, sometimes paraphrased them for clarity, sometimes enlarged on them with other resources. Since I didn't expect to publish the notes, I did not cite them at the time. It is now difficult to distinguish quotes from Dr. Smith, material from other resources, or what thoughts the Spirit gave me. Suffice to say that, if it is insightful to your spiritual growth, give all the glory to the Spirit, some credit to Dr. Smith, and none to me. I'm just the Spirit-led editor and teacher.

Bob Kostrubanic, November 5, 2021