

“Tasting God's Greatness by Our Prayers in Great Trouble and His Greater Response”

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- ¹ Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ² And he said:
- “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
³ The God of my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the horn of my salvation,
My stronghold and my refuge;
My Savior, You save me from violence.
⁴ I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised;
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
⁵ “When the waves of death surrounded me,
The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.
⁶ The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.
⁷ In my distress I called upon the LORD,
And cried out to my God;
He heard my voice from His temple,
And my cry *entered* His ears.
⁸ “Then the earth shook and trembled;
The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken,
Because He was angry.
⁹ Smoke went up from His nostrils,
And devouring fire from His mouth;
Coals were kindled by it.
- ¹⁰ He bowed the heavens also, and came down
With darkness under His feet.
¹¹ He rode upon a cherub, and flew;
And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.
¹² He made darkness canopies around Him,
Dark waters *and* thick clouds of the skies.
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 He sent out arrows and scattered them;
Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.
¹⁶ Then the channels of the sea were seen,
The foundations of the world were uncovered,
At the rebuke of the LORD,
At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.
¹⁷ “He sent from above, 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 out into a broad place;
He delivered me because He delighted in me.

Main Idea: For those in whom the Lord delights in Christ, the greatness of our troubles is meant to provoke us to cry out to our greater God, so that His greater response will result in His everlasting praise.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Second Samuel, 22 versus 1 through 20. These are God's words then. David spoke to y'all who the words of this song, when the day, when y'all way, had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies.

And from the hand of Saul and he said, Yahweh is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, the God of my strength, and whom I will, trust my shield, and the horn of myself salvation, my strong hold, and my refuge my savior. You saved me from violence. I will call upon Yahweh.

Who is worthy to be praised social. Shall I be saved from my enemies? When the waves of death surrounded me? The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of shiol surrounded me. The snares of death. Confronted me in my distress, I called upon Yahweh and cried out to my God and he heard my voice from his temple.

My cry entered his ears that the earth shook and trembled. The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken because he was angry smoke went up from his nostrils and devouring fire from his mouth. Coals were kindled by it, he bowed the heavens. Also and came down with darkness under his feet.

He wrote upon a cherub and flew, and he was seen upon the wings of the wind, he made darkness canopies around him, dark waters and thick clouds of the skies from the brightness before and close a firework in old Yahweh, thundered from heaven. And the most high uttered, his voice, he sent out, arrows and scattered them, lightning bolts and he vanquished them.

Then the channels of the sea were seen. The foundations of the world were uncovered at the rebuke of Yahweh at the blast of the breath of his nostrils. He sent from above. He took me it drew me out of many watchers. He delivered me from my strong enemy from those who hated me for they were too strong for me.

They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but Yahweh was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place. He delivered me because he delighted in me.

So, for the reading of God's inspired and an errant word,

Now, this psalm in second, Samuel 22 is found almost identically in Solomon, 18 as well. And here the profit, who is assembling material that began with that, which Samuel assembled in this probably profit from the school of Samuel school in Bethel, that was set up.

Has included at the end of the David material, it says on the day when you always had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. So what seems to be the case as one of two things, either the Lord carried. David along to write this song very early on, when Saul was his primary enemy and he had to be delivered from multiple enemies in that time.

And even afterward, of course, he found himself, repeatedly under attack or he began writing it. Well, he was, or when he was delivered from the hand of Saul and continued to add to it. Either way, this is a song that the Lord gave David for praising God, for all of his deliverances and especially in Christ.

If you were to flip over to psalm 18, you would see that it starts to the chief musician. Psalm of David, the servant of Yahweh, He spoke to Yahweh the words of this song on the day that y'all wait, delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

And so when he addresses it to the chief musician, those priests who were to lead the singing for the public worship of God. We find out that this isn't just Eve's dropping on something that David was able to sing because he was the Lord's anointed and had all these personal promises to him.

This is something that the Lord puts in the mouths of his people, and not only this week, but especially next week when we start talking about being delivered. According to our righteousness, we'll see why. That is the case. This is a psalm that must be sung and can be some in union with Christ.

Well, the main features of these first 20 verses which were just going to bite off that section this afternoon, the main features are the greatness of our god, the greatness of our troubles and the greatness of his response to to us. When we cry out in trouble, it begins with the greatness of his God, just piles up language here, doesn't he?

He always is my rock, my fortress. My deliverer, God of my strength in him, I will trust my shield, horde of my salvation, my strong old, my repage, my savior. You saved me from violence. I will call upon y'all who is worthy to be praised. Social, I'd be saved from my enemies.

One of the reasons why we have enemies. And one of the reasons why we're saved from enemies is to turn our voice to the Lord with a dual purpose. One that we would call upon him and two that by being put into an extremity, being put into a situation where we have to call upon him, that we realize his worthiness to be called upon that.

It's precisely because he is able to deliver us from such situations that he bears us through such situations that we might have that experiential taste of his worthiness. As we both call out to him in it and praise him for salvation from it, much of the church treats us like Jeb's friends treated him.

They say, well if the Lord's delighted in you that wouldn't be happening to you. They said that indeed to our Lord on the cross. Didn't they let God bring him down from there? If he delights in him and yet we have in verses in the next portion of the psalm versus five through seven, what the experience sometimes is like of those in whom the Lord delights.

When the waves of death surrounded, me, these are waves. They are on usual waves because they are coming from every direction and the waves themselves are death. It's a, it's a very rich rich phrase and it's vocabulary in the poetry. So you have the waves of death closing in.

Like a noose, the floods of ungodliness made me afraid or overwhelmed me the waves, but we, when they come up, you know, it's not a tiny little waves but waves like mountains and as they get nearer, you see their relative comparative size to you. And so, the floods of ungodliness overwhelm me the sorrows of Seoul surround me.

Death is the first set of waves and right. Behind death. As the news closes in. You see the grave? You see the snares of death. Confronted me. This is often the experience of believers in this life. Your God, who is the great God of versus one through four and who responds in the great way of versus eight through 20.

Often brings his saints through great trouble like we see in verses 5 through 7, If it were not, so he would not give you prayers to pray and songs to sing from the midst of it. The Lord Jesus tells you in this world, you will have trouble, but take heart.

I've overcome the world, the apostle. Paul at the end of his first missionary journey goes back through.

He's planted these churches and he goes back through and he's planting a press butary. That's one of the reasons why we're pressed material. Is he waited to a point elders until he planted all of the churches and then he installed elders in all of them at once.

But one of the things that says he is doing there in axes, he encouraged them telling them that through many tribulations. We must enter the kingdom of God. So you want to be an encouraging person. Make sure you tell what another often through many tribulations. We must enter the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit encourages you, but telling you that you have been given this marvelous gift of believing in Jesus Christ. And suffering for Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus says, that whatever you have lost for his sake, you'll get a hundredfold brothers and mothers and sisters and lands with persecutions.

He says, do not allow a church that has in its mouth. The lies of the friends of Job to deceive you. This is often the experience of those in whom God delights because it's often against the black felt of the most difficult circumstances that the brilliant diamond of the greatness of our God in the first section that we have today and the greatness of his response to us in the third section that we have to today is seen so the greatness of our God.

The greatness of our troubles is a greatness of his response. Five through seven is short and tame by comparison to versus 8 through 20. He uses here images from creation images, from the flood images from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah images. From the plagues images from the crossing of the Red Sea images from the shaking, and burning of Sinai.

The earth shaking and the channels of the sea being uncovered, God in thick, cloud and darkness and bowing the heavens, deviring fire and coals. And in multiple places, he, he takes the composite picture of the most intense events of salvation history. Redemptive history up until that point and he weaves them into a word picture of how God responds when he hears the cry of one of his children in his distress.

He says, I called upon Yahweh. I cried out to my God. He heard my voice from his temple and my cry, entered his ears. So the picture is you've got these waves upon waves, that are like mountains above him and he cries out, we sometimes in the In the evening.

When it's, when it's cool and we made it to the end of the day without running the air conditioning. We'll open up all the windows and end doors and stick fans in them all, and scream at each other for a couple of hours until bedtime So that we can be heard over the, over the noise.

The Lord can hear the cries of one of his children from his throne in heaven. Over all of the noise of all of the troubles You've got Romans 8, right? Nothing can separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ. Jesus, no kind of trouble, death opposition, persecution angels, demons anything.

Well you also have second Samuel. 22 and saw 18. Nothing can separate us from the ear of God. That is in Christ. Jesus to hears his saints who cried to him over everything else and he responds with an activity and an intensity and a power that puts to shame those tiny little waves because they only looked big to you, because you're this tiny little creature, but he's the creator of before, whom the creation itself.

Buckles at his breath, similar to the comparison and Psalm 46, the nation's rage and they like, yeah, they the, the earth moves. It, you know, that's the little needle on your Richter scale. He utters his voice. He just the first sound that he makes the earth melts such as the comparative power of your God.

And that's what the piling up, poetic language and versus 8 through 20 are is supposed to convey to you. So behold, dear Christian. Yes, you may and almost certainly will upon the veracity of the word of God. Go through great troubles but you have an infinitely greater God who brings the ones in whom he delights in Jesus through such troubles that we may have that experience of his greatness when we see the great herness of his response to us for Christ's sake.

And for the love, for the sake of the love in which he gave Christ, take heart, he has overcome the world, it's bright. We thank you. Oh, Lord, for the troubles of David and the way that they became a means of so many different, good things that you have done for your people.

Most of all bringing Christ into the world, but also this afternoon by making them the occasion on what you carried him along to write this for our edification in prayer and song meditation response. We pray that you would make us to rejoice to cling to Christ and to suffer together with him, whatever your wisdom, has a pointed.

We pray that in the greatest of our suffering's, you would make us to have the the clearest and most glorious experience of your greatness to us the relationship into which you have brought us that we would know. You not only as a rock, a strong, hold a horn of salvation but that we would know US hours.

Our very own we pray that you would make us to know by faith the response of your almighty power in heaven because ordinarily on earth. What we can see with our eyes is the greatness of our trouble. So we thank

you for telling us the greatness of your response in your word and we pray that your spirit would stir up our faith.

That we would be more. Sure. Even of what we hear from passages like this. Then of what we perceive in our circumstances, grant to us, to have your joy as our strength, went to us. To remember the key that we have, whether in doubting castle or any, any persecution that we have the ear of the living God and that you hear us over all the noise and make us quick to call out to you deliver us from our enemies and grant that you would be praised by our lips, by our hearts and all of your people forever.

We ask it in Jesus name. Amen.