

APRIL 9

Read 2 Samuel 22–23

CHAPTER 22

AND David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day *that* the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

2. And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

4 I will call on the LORD, *who is* worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry *did enter* into his ears.

8 Then the earth shook and

trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was wroth.

9 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness *was* under his feet.

11 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

12 And he made darkness pavilions round about him, dark waters, *and* thick clouds of the skies.

13 Through the brightness before him were coals of fire 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 discomfited them.

16 And the channels of the sea appeared, the foundations of the world were discovered, at the rebuking 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, *and* from them that hated me: for they were too strong for me.

19 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

20 He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

21 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

23 For all his judgments *were* before me: and *as for* his statutes, I did not depart from them.

24 I was also upright before him, and have kept myself from mine iniquity.

25 Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight.

26 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, *and* with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

27 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury.

28 And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes *are* upon the haughty, *that* thou mayest bring *them* down.

29 For thou *art* my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness.

30 For by thee I have run through a troop: by my God have I leaped over a wall.

31 *As for* God, his way *is* perfect; the word of the LORD *is* tried: he *is* a buckler to all them that trust in him.

32 For who *is* God, save the LORD? and who *is* a rock, save our God?

33 God *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect.

34 He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*: and setteth me upon my high places.

35 He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

36 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great.

37 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip.

38 I have pursued mine enemies, and destroyed them; and turned not again until I had consumed them.

39 And I have consumed them, and wounded them, that they could not arise: yea, they are fallen under my feet.

40 For thou hast girded me with strength to battle: them that rose up against me hast thou subdued under me.

41 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies, that I might destroy them that hate me.

42 They looked, but *there was* none to save; *even* unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

43 Then did I beat them as small as the dust of the earth, I did stamp them as the mire of the street, *and* did spread them abroad.

44 Thou also hast delivered me from the strivings of my people, thou hast kept me *to be* head of the heathen: a people *which* I knew not shall serve me.

45 Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.

46 Strangers shall fade away, and they shall be afraid out of their close places.

47 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

48 *It is* God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me,

49 And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

50 Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.

51 *He is* the tower of salvation for his king: and sheweth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore.

CHAPTER 23

NOW these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man *who was* raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

2 The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word *was* in my tongue.

3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.

4 And *he shall be* as the light of

the morning, *when* the sun riseth, *even* a morning without clouds; *as* the tender grass *springing* out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

5 Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.

6 ¶ But *the sons* of Belial *shall be* all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands:

7 But the man *that* shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the *same* place.

8 ¶ These *be* the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same *was* Adino the Eznite: *he lift up his spear* against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time.

9 And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines *that* were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away:

10 He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil.

11 And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines.

12 But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.

14 And David *was* then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that *was* by the gate, and took *it*, and brought *it*

to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: *is not this* the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.

18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, *and slew them*, and had the name among three.

19 Was he not most honourable of three? therefore he was their captain: howbeit he attained not unto the *first* three.

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lionlike men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow:

21 And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.

22 These *things* did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men.

23 He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the *first* three. And David set him over his guard.

24 Asahel the brother of Joab *was* one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

25 Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,

26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

27 Abiezer the Anethothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

29 Heleb the son of Baanah, a Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai out of Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

31 Abialbon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, of the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,

33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

35 Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite,

armourbearer to Joab the son of Zeruiah,

38 Ira an Ithrite, Gareb an Ithrite,

39 Uriah the Hittite: thirty and seven in all.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 22 records David's song of deliverance. Psalm 18 is a parallel to this chapter. We see that chapter 22 is prophetic and looks beyond the sufferings and triumphs of David to David's seed, the Lord Jesus Christ. Verses 1-4 show praise; verses 5-7 show David's suffering as a fugitive from Saul, and also speaks of Christ's rejection; verses 8-20 speak of God's intervention; and verses 21-28 show the rewards of the Lord. Finally, praise to the Lord for exaltation over his foes is given in verses 29-51. We must understand the judgment of enemies (verses 29-43) and exaltation over adversaries (verses 44-49) will be realized only by Him into whose hands is committed all judgment (John 5:22).

Chapter 23 records David's last words, as well as giving a roster of David's heroes. This chapter shows what David's mind was on at the close of his glorious but troubled life: the justice of his reign as king; his creation of the Psalms; his devotion to God's Word; and God's covenant with him of an eternal dynasty. Verses 3 and 4 picture the clear morning of the Kingdom Age.

All in all, David was a grand character. He did some things that were very wrong, but he was a remarkable man. He was completely devoted to God and the ways of God. In a world of idolatry, and in a nation that was continually falling away into idolatry, David stood like a rock for God. In every circumstance of life he went directly to God—in prayer, in thanks, or in praise. His two great accomplishments were the Kingdom and the Psalms.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction" (Proverbs 10:14).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 7 (found on page 9).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

**JOSHUA ALLPORT
HERLETTE BRAXTON**

HYMN FOR TODAY

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS
Words and music by George Bennard,
1873-1958

The author and composer of this beloved hymn, George Bennard, began his Christian ministry in the ranks of the Salvation Army. Eight years later he was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal church, where his devoted ministry as an evangelist was highly esteemed for many years.

One time, after returning to his home in Albion, Michigan, Bennard passed through a particularly trying experience, one that caused him to reflect seriously about the significance of the cross and what the apostle Paul meant when he spoke of entering into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings (Philippians 3:10). George Bennard began to spend long hours in study, prayer, and meditation until one day he could say:

"I saw the Christ of the cross as if I were seeing John 3:16 leave the printed page, take form and act out the meaning of redemption. The more I contemplated these truths the more convinced I became that the cross was far more than just a religious symbol but rather the very heart of the gospel."

During these days of spiritual struggle, the theme for "The Old Rugged Cross" began to formulate itself in Bennard's mind. But an inner voice seemed to keep telling him to "wait." Finally, however, after returning to Michigan, he began to concentrate anew on his project. This time the words and melody began to flow easily from his heart. Shortly thereafter, Bennard sent a manuscript copy to Charles Gabriel, one of the leading gospel hymn writers of that time. Gabriel's prophetic words, "You will certainly hear from this song, Mr. Bennard," were soon realized as the hymn

became one of the most widely published songs, either sacred or secular, throughout America.

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suff'ring and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.*

*To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
where His glory forever I'll share.*

Chorus:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

**ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY
THE TRADITIONAL DATE OF THE MARCH
INTO EGYPT.**

**1865
THE SURRENDER OF LEE TO GRANT AT
APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE.**

This ended the Civil War. Someone once said that the condition of our world is only a reflection of the condition of the hearts of its people. No doubt this is true. We are at war in our hearts. There is unrest and lack of peace within us. This is revealed in the condition of the world. Let those in the North pray for those in the South today. Let the southerner pray for the northerner. Let the southern Christian pray for the work of Christ in the North. Let the northern Christians pray for the work of Christ in the South. Let us pray for God to give us the spirit of love and brotherly kindness to each other.

THE BIRTHDAY OF NICHOLAS LENIN.

Lenin furthered the cause of communism which is the great menace of our day. People from everywhere still line the streets in Red Square to see his body. Young people still chant in the schools of Russia "Lenin lives." Let us in rebuttal shout to the whole world that Jesus lives!

HE LIVES

*I serve a risen Saviour. He's in the world today.
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer.
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.*

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.
He walks with me and talks with me, along life's nar-
row way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my
heart.*

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1816
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ORGANIZED** at general convention in Philadelphia. On April 10, Richard Allen was elected bishop.

**1865
NINE BLACK REGIMENTS OF GEN. JOHN
HAWKINS'S DIVISION HELPED SMASH CON-
FEDERATE DEFENSES** at Fort Blakely, Alabama. Capture of the fort led to fall of Mobile. Sixty-eight U.S.C.T. had the highest number of casualties in the engagement.

**1866
CIVIL RIGHTS BILL PASSED** over the president's veto. The bill conferred citizenship on blacks and gave them "the same right, in every State and Territory... as is enjoyed by white citizens."

**1870
AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY DIS-
SOLVED.**

**1898
PAUL BUSTILL ROBESON, ACTOR, SCHOLAR,
SINGER, BORN** in Princeton, N.J. He lived until 1976.

**1968
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BURIED** after funeral services at Ebenezer Baptist Church and memorial services at Morehouse College, Atlanta. More than 300,000 persons marched behind the coffin of the slain leader which was carried through streets of Atlanta on farm wagon pulled by two Georgia mules. Scores of national dignitaries, including Vice-Presi-

dent Humphrey, attended funeral. CORE and the Fellowship of Reconciliation sent twenty-three dignitaries.

RALPH DAVID ABERBATHY ELECTED TO SUCCEED KING as head of Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 7 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

REACTION OF SIN IN HUMAN NATURE

Described as coming from the heart.

() Mark 7:21

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Manifests itself by many evils.

() Mark 7:22

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

Defiles the man and makes him unclean.

() Mark 7:23

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

In this condition declared to be unprofitable.

() Romans 3:12

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

His wicked works prove him to be God's enemy.

() Colossians 1:21

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.