

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 26 (June 19-25, 2016)

There are many other events in David's life that we could study, but I think we have seen enough of his tragedies and triumphs to gain some good lessons from **this very human** instrument of God. As we close out this series, let's focus on David's last days and his praise of the Lord.

**Sunday**, June 19 (read 2 Samuel 22:1-7)

*In my distress I called to the Lord; I called out to my God. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came to His ears. (2 Samuel 22:7)*

Observe all the words David uses in v. 1-3 to describe his personal trust in God. Is He **your** rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, shield, stronghold and savior? If so, what do you need to be worried about or afraid of? Someday you will face your last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). Like David, you do not need to fear death, because Jesus has removed its power (Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57). I pray that you follow David's example during times of great stress. His response is printed above for you to use as an example all the days of your life!

**Monday**, June 20 (read 2 Samuel 22:8-16)

*He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under His feet. (2 Samuel 22:10)*

God hates sin because of what it has done to separate His creation from the perfect life that He created. In the darkness of the sins of mankind, He has made Himself known by parting the heavens and descending to earth as a humble baby in a manger. He has defeated Satan and death by His willing death on Calvary. Read today's text with this in mind. Do not focus on the anger of God! It has been satisfied by the death of His Son on the cross. That's the power and beauty of John 3:16! There was no other way for God to have a relationship with sinful man since He cannot look upon sin (see Habakkuk 2:13a). Praise Him today for your salvation. Then you, like King David, can leave this earth rejoicing in His goodness!

**Tuesday**, June 21 (read 2 Samuel 22:17-20)

*He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He drew me out of deep waters. (2 Samuel 22:17)*

Everything that God accomplished by coming to earth would be worthless to me unless I had accepted them for myself! That's why I chose the printed verse above for today's devotion! God not only loves the **world**, but He also loves **each one of us** individually! Do you rejoice in His love, even though you are far from perfect? Are you aware of His rescue mission that includes you from the day you first believed (v. 18)? Do you realize that He has defeated death by bringing us out of the deep waters of sin? Are you grateful for the spacious places in which He has allowed you to live (v. 20)? Do you praise Him for the spacious place He has provided for you in Heaven (see John 14:1-4)? I want my last day on earth to be the best one I have ever experienced! Read David's words over again and rejoice in God's presence.

**Wednesday**, June 22 (read 2 Samuel 22:21-25)

*The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His sight. (2 Samuel 22:25)*

Take the time to meditate on David's prayer in today's text. Even though he has committed adultery and murder, David still sees himself through the Lord's eyes. The king has always been a man after God's own heart, in spite of his failures (see Acts 13:22). His heart has remained pure before a holy God even though his actions are far from perfect. In Ephesians 1:4, Paul uses similar language when he writes, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." Do you realize how much God loves you in spite of your shortcomings? Can you join David in praising Him for His mercy and grace? Will you commit to following His Word and His will from this day forward?

**Thursday**, June 23 (read 2 Samuel 22:26-30)

*You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light. (2 Samuel 22:29)*

David continues his prayer of praise by stating a wonderful truth: Each of us sees through the lens of **our own** worldview. Those who trust God see Him as faithful, blameless and pure while those who are crooked will not be trusting and will see Him as shrewd (v. 26-27). God seeks those who are humble enough to respond to truth so that He can turn their "darkness into light" (v. 28-29). As a result, most of my efforts these days go toward teaching my readers and listeners a **Biblical worldview** so that they can stand up against the **politically correct worldview**. Our politically correct nation has placed a huge obstacle in the path of evangelical Christians, but with God's help, we can scale the wall (v. 30).

**Friday**, June 24 (read 2 Samuel 22:31-37)

*As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. (2 Samuel 22:31)*

Take the time to meditate on the printed verse as well as the precious promises which follow in today's text. Those of you who believe v. 31 are equipped to face **anything** the world throws at you. Those who cannot bring themselves to trust His written Word will face perils beyond their ability to handle. God is a shield and a Rock to all who choose to take refuge in Him (v. 31-32). The promises of the Lord are awesome and very comforting! He promises victory to all who **walk with Him**; then, He enables us to walk wherever He leads by the strength that He gives (v. 32-35). No one else can even come close to bringing us comfort! Don't miss the fact that He stoops down to make us great (v. 36). In other words, "He came down to my level when I couldn't get up to His" (words from a song). My weak ankles are no problem for my strong God (v. 37).

**Saturday**, June 25 (read 2 Samuel 23:1-7)

*"Is not my house right with God? Has He not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will He not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?" (2 Samuel 23:5)*

I want to close our study of King David with today's text, because it expresses the very words I want you to speak when you are nearing your death. David's pen is used to write many songs, but it is God's Spirit that speaks through him (v. 2). The king testifies about the success he has experienced as a ruler, because he has ruled in righteousness and in the fear of God (v. 3-4). Finally, he asks the questions printed above for you to read over and over again. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, your house is right with God. You have an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured by Calvary and the empty tomb. Your salvation is secure, and Jesus is waiting to give you the desires of your heart as you learn to trust Him and His Word. It won't end well for evil men who reject God's plan of salvation (v. 6-7). If David, an adulterer and murderer, can find peace with God, what is hindering your daily walk?