



Worship Guide for April 21, 2024

Sermon Notes

Over-The-Top Praise: The Lord is My Rock

2 Samuel 22:1-51

In our journey through 2 Samuel, we have seen the extraordinary blessing of God upon David. But David's life has not been easy. Yet, in the end he wants us to know, "*the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.*" As David looks back in reflection on his life, he does not write a lament about how many enemies he's had to face. Instead, he writes a praise song that declares the deliverance and faithfulness the Lord has shown David and his people.

This is not an ordinary praise song! David's praise is far from mild or timid. What we have in this song are vocabulary-stretching, death-defying, earth-quaking, God-glorifying, over-the-top words of praise that are meant to take us back to the sea-splitting power of God in the Exodus and point us forward to the earth-shattering power of God in the Revelation.

As beautiful as this song/poem is, it is also much more than that. The books of Samuel begin and end with songs of praise. Hannah's song and David's song have a number of similarities, and together they help us understand what we see in between. Hannah says, "*He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed*" (1 Sam 2:10). David writes, "*Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever*" (2 Sam 22:51). What Hannah foreshadowed in her prayer has now come to pass—and so much more!

Christ, the true and better David, has come. He is worthy of over-the-top praise such as we see in 2 Samuel 22. *The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation* (v47).

Praise God: He is the Rock of our salvation (2 Samuel 22:1-4, 47-51)

Praise God: He is our Deliverer (2 Samuel 22:4-20, 29-46)

Praise God: He is our Righteousness (2 Samuel 22:21-28)

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
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APRIL

28 Ministry Fair @ 9am-10:15am
29 AHG End of Year Awards @ 6pm

MAY

2 National Day of Prayer
3 Membership Class
4 Student Ministry Yard Sale
6 Holocaust Remembrance Day
10 Fisher's of Men Banquet
11 Women's Ministry Family Event
11 Piano Recital @ 7pm (Rosin)
12 Mother's Day