

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Jan.1

MONDAY

God comes to David's rescue in glorious fashion - as if God were pulling him from the floodwaters - and puts him in a safe place.

READ: II Samuel 22:17-20

Re-read the last few words of verse 20 again.

Isn't that an amazing thought? God finds delight in us! A careful reading makes it clear that He delights in us as we allow him to rescue us from the evil that would overwhelm us. David writes (in another passage) that our delight is in the Lord. But here we read that His delight is in us! Carry that thought with you today, and live a life that God will truly delight in!

TUESDAY

David speaks of his own determination to follow the Lord and obey His Law. He writes that God will reward his innocence.

READ: II Samuel 22:21-25

David is not saying that God saved him because he was so innocent. He's saying that as God's child, he tries to obey God and follow after Him always, and that God rewards him for that. He says (in verse 25) that he is innocent or clean *in God's eyes*. That's the story of every believer. And it's ours today, as well. We have been declared righteous by God Himself and we are clean in his sight! Hallelujah! How then, shall we live?

WEDNESDAY

After writing in the last few verses how God has rewarded him, David now expands on that thought and says that God always helps and rewards the righteous.

READ: II Sam.22:26-28

David describes 2 attitudes which God punishes. One is devious people (lit. *crooked*) and one is haughty (self-exalting) people. Both attitudes are seen in those who reject the Lord and seek their own best interests. In all of this, David writes, we reap what we sow. Let us sow the seeds of a virtuous life and we will have God's blessing and life everlasting!

THURSDAY

David thinks of what God means to him in his daily life, and then describes some of the things God does for him.

READ: II Sam.22:29-30

The Lord is like a lamp who lights my way, David says. He enables me to face enemy troops and defeat them. He enables me to leap over walls when I need to escape. David's brief list surely does not include every circumstance of our lives, but it's long enough to make a point: that God will be with the believer, and will protect and guide him always. That is just the sort of good news we need to remember today, amen?

FRIDAY

David begins these verses by saying that God's way is perfect, and concludes by saying that God makes David's way perfect, as well.

READ: II Sam.22:31-33

Do you see the importance of the Word of God in our daily lives? That, according to David, is involved in God's work in his life: being his shield and rock, and then making David's way to be perfect. The Hebrew word perfect was used to describe metals purified in a fire. For us, fire represents the trials and tribulations of life. God takes us thru the fire, and we emerge purified! (And God's Word is what gets us thru the fires!)

SATURDAY

David tells us that God gave him feet like a deer and hands that are good in war.

READ: II Sam.22:34-35

Feet like a deer emphasize the steadiness and stability which God gives us as we live our lives. That God *sets us on high places* means that God allows us to end up in places or situations which cannot be explained simply by natural processes. And in telling us that God gives him the hands of a warrior, even to the point of being able to string a bronze bow, David is saying (very poetically) that God makes the ordinary to be quite extra-ordinary in our lives. Isn't this our story, that God enables us to live for Him and is in control? The guidance and strength He brings into our lives is beyond the ordinary! #63