

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Jan.8

### MONDAY

David writes about the Lord being the source of personal abilities and the source of external blessings. He's saying that *every good gift comes from above!*

**READ: II Sam.22:36-37**

*Your gentleness has made me great* the NKJ says. The NIV Bible says that *God stooped down to make him great*. You see, the Greek word translated gentleness is really a verb that means to bend over, such as a mother might bend over a baby's crib. God did that! He bent over and gave attention to David and made him to prosper in his life and to be great. God bends over you and me, as well. He stoops down in order to save us! In that way, His gentleness has made us great!

### TUESDAY

Having just thanked the Lord for all the abilities He gave him, David now tells how he has used these abilities to totally crush all his enemies.

**READ: II Sam.22:38-40**

David saw his enemies as God's enemies, and so he not only defeated them but defeated them with a delight that's apparent in these verses. Jesus taught a new commandment which forbids such action. We can never do what David did because we can never tell what work God has started in the heart of another. In addition to that, the greatest enemies we face are those spiritual foes ever around us. By God's grace, we can read David's words and apply them to the victories God gives us over these spiritual foes.

### WEDNESDAY

David continues to delight in the victories God has given him over his enemies. It's as if he has been able to put his foot on the neck of his enemies and subdue them on the ground.

**READ: II Sam.22:41-43**

David says that even though his enemies cried out for help, God did not answer their cries. That is because God operates on the basis of His relationship. He hears the cries of His own! These enemies of David did not love God nor trust Him. They were simply looking for rescue. In the last days, we read in Revelation, many who are face-to-face with eternal judgment will cry out to the Lord for help, and He will say to them, "I never knew you." With God, relationship is everything!

### THURSDAY

David praises God for establishing him as King over all Israel. Eventually, David's rule was recognized not only by all twelve tribes, but by the nations around him, as well.

**READ: II Sam.22:44-46**

David tells how some surrounding nations submitted to his rule not by conquest, but simply by hearing about David and his kingdom. The words *coming from their strongholds with trembling* pictures nations coming out of nowhere to honor him as king. In a way, this submission pictures God's reign over all the earth, when some from every tribe and tongue and nation will come to know and love the Lord. That's why we tell our loved ones of Jesus, and why we send missionaries around the world and why we speak up for the Lord.

### FRIDAY

David calls God his Rock, and he declares that God lives and that He brings salvation.

**READ: II Sam.22:47**

When David says that God is his Rock, he's repeating what Moses said about God some 500 years ago. (and wrote down in Deut.32:31) What it tells us is that David's understanding of who God is and what He is like came from Scripture. He would have never thought on his own to compare God to a rock! But the Bible (the OT) did. And David read that and believed it. How important it is for us to know God thru the Bible! He has made himself known to us there in its pages. And we must determine to read the Scriptures and look for Him there.

### SATURDAY

David finishes this Psalm of Praise (remember: it's repeated in Psalm 18) by personalizing everything: You have delivered me; You have lifted me up; I will sing of your praises.

**READ: II Sam.22:48-52**

What stands out here is that David is set upon declaring God's greatness *to the nations*, (to the *Gentiles*, some translations say) to those who are not Jewish and therefore not familiar with the Law, and who do not share the great Heritage of the Tribes of Israel. To them, David declares the greatness of God! Should not that be our story? To those who are within (our brothers and sisters in the Faith), we are to speak always of God's goodness and glory. And to those who are yet unsaved, we are to declare His greatness, as well. And to tell what God has done for me.