

# Running with the Big Dogs

## Thanks for the Memories

Introduction to II Samuel 22-24

On every USO show or TV special, the late Bob Hope always sang his theme song, "Thanks for the Memories". As the study in 2 Samuel concludes, David looked back on his life and said, in a sense, "thanks for the memories". In his case, the memories were not all good; however, because of God's love, they all turned out for good. In chapter 22 David reflected on God's work in his, and Israel's, lives. He had delivered them from all their enemies, leading David to praise Him in song. In poetic language David called attention to the way God used the might of nature to bring victory to his people in battle, and how God "finished the job" by bringing David into a spacious place. True salvation brings such freedom, and David attributed his obedience to God as the reason He

had so blessed him. Because of God's covenant with Israel and David, obedience was to result in God's blessing; thus, military victory was to be expected for those who evidenced their faith in God by obeying His commands. The final outcome of such deliverance was praise to God, the rock of their salvation. After this, David, in his "last words", reflected on God's faithfulness to him, and His blessing in providing valiant warriors to fight with and for him. In chapter 23 David listed his "mighty men", and related some of their exploits. Undoubtedly, David could not have achieved the success God had for him without these men, a fact that David readily acknowledged in this chapter. Finally, David recalled a bad memory. He



**When you run with God and follow His lead, you will have success in life.**

had decided to count all of his troops, although this would imply that his success had been due to such numbers, rather than to God. After he did it, God chastised him, but offered him three options for punishment. He took the one that placed him upon God's mercy. God responded as expected, and the outcome of the story was good. David could truly say, "thanks for the memories".

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Study/Discussion Questions for II Samuel 22-24

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader) resources)*

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| <p>1. Read 22:1-7. How did David describe God (v2-3), and what does this mean to you? What had God done for him (v1, 3, 4-7), and what did David do to receive God's help (v7)?</p>                |  |
| <p>2. In 22:8-20 what natural events occurred when God delivered David (v8-16), and what does this say about God's ability to save us? What is another result of God's salvation (v20)? Apply.</p> |  |
| <p>3. From 22:21-28 what had David done to allow God to deliver him (v21-25), and what do you think this means? How do vss26-28 explain this principle?</p>  |  |

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## II Samuel 22-24 Study Questions (cont)

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| 4. Using 22:29-43 how does David describe the Lord (29, 31, 32, 33), and what does God do for His people (v29, 30, 31, 33-37, 40, 42)? What is the result of being aligned with God (v38-43)?  |  |
| 5. Based on 22:44-51 what else had God done for David (v44, 45-46, 48-49), and what did this memory lead David to do (v47, 50-51)? How could we follow David's example?  |  |
| 6. Read 23:1-7. In David's "last words" what did he realize God had done for him (v1, 2, 5)? How had God led him to rule as king (v3-4), and what does this teach us? What are God's enemies like (v6-7), and how must they be dealt with? |  |
| 7. From 23:8-39 what were some acts of heroism by David's mighty men (v9-10, 11-12, 18-19, 20, 21), and how did they show their loyalty (v13-17)? Why was David's response good (v16-17)?  |  |
| 8. Looking at 24:1-9 what did David do (v2), how did Joab react (v3), and how did David respond (v4-9)? Humanly speaking, why do you think David did this, and why did God allow it (v1)?  |  |
| 9. In 24:10-16 what happened inside David (v10), and what did he wisely do (v10)? What was Gad's proposal from God (v12-13), David's answer (v14), and the result (v15-16)? Apply this.  |  |
| 10. From 24:17-25 what did David pray (v17), what was the Lord's answer (v18), and David's response (v19)? What offer did David refuse (v20-23), and why (v24-25)? What does this teach?   |  |
| 11. Summarize the ways the Lord delivered David, how others helped him, and how the Lord graciously disciplined him. How has God done this for you?  |  |

### Scripture to Remember

***"I am in great distress; let us now fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great."  
2 Samuel 24:14***

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### Life Group Questions

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Everyone think about their "prayer life". What makes it difficult to be devoted to prayer, and when is it easier? Do you think we take prayer for granted?
2. Discuss the importance of "asking" in prayer, of "seeking" Him (expressing our desires), and of continuing to "keep on" knocking with determination.
3. Why does the thought that "God is stingy" lurk in the back of our minds? How can we overcome that mindset?
4. When God doesn't give us what we ask for, what are some typical reactions? How do you deal with it? Discuss constructive ways to deal with this.
5. As a group talk about how we can line up with God's plan for prayer—asking, seeking, knocking. Get specific.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.