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2SAMUEL 22: 1 David spoke to the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:

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David's psalm of thanksgiving for God's powerful deliverance and manifold blessings, including prophetic declarations relative to the humiliation and exaltation of the Messiah, vv. 1-51.

Verse 1

David spake unto the Lord the words of this song - This is the same in substance, and almost in words, with Psalm 18:1-50, and therefore the exposition of it must be reserved till it occurs in its course in that book, with the exception of a very few observations, and Dr. Kennicott's general view of the subject.

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2SAMUEL 22: 2 and he said, "The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, even mine;

2SAMUEL 22: 3 God, my rock, in him I will take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge. My saviour, you save me from violence.

2SAMUEL 22: 4 I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: So shall I be saved from my enemies.

2SAMUEL 22: 5 For the waves of death surrounded me. The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

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Verse 5

When the waves of death compassed me - Though in a primary sense many of these things belong to David, yet generally and fully they belong to the Messiah alone.

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2SAMUEL 22: 6 The cords of Sheol were around me. The snares of death caught me.

2SAMUEL 22: 7 In my distress I called on the LORD. Yes, I called to my God. He heard my voice out of his temple. My cry came into his ears.

2SAMUEL 22: 8 Then the earth shook and trembled. The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, because he was angry.

2SAMUEL 22: 9 Smoke went up out of his nostrils. Fire out of his mouth devoured. Coals were kindled by it.

2SAMUEL 22: 10 He bowed the heavens also, and came down. Thick darkness was under his feet.

2SAMUEL 22: 11 He rode on a cherub, and flew. Yes, he was seen on the wings of the wind.

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Verse 11

He rode upon a cherub, and did fly - he was seen upon the things of the wind - In the original of this sublime passage, sense and sound are astonishingly well connected. I shall insert the Hebrew, represent it in English letters for the sake of the unlearned reader, and have only to observe, he must read from the right to the left. על וירא ויעף כרוב על וירכב. ruach canphey al vaiyera vaiyaoph kerub al vayirkab wind the of wings the upon seen was he and; fly did and cherub upon rode he

The clap of the wing, the agitation and rush through the air are expressed here in a very extraordinary manner.

Other beauties of this kind will be noted in the exposition of the Psalm alluded to above.

I now subjoin Dr. Kennicott's remarks on this chapter: - "The very sublime poetry contained in this chapter is universally admired, and yet it cannot be perfectly understood, till it is known Who is the speaker, who the person thus triumphant over mighty enemies, whose Sufferings occasioned such a dreadful convulsion of nature, and, who, upon his deliverance, inflicted such vengeance on his own people, and also became thus a king over the heathen. Should we be told that this person was David, it will be very difficult to show how this description can possibly agree with that character: but if it did in fact agree, yet would it contradict St. Paul, who quotes part of it as predicting the conversion of the Gentiles under Christ the Messiah. Rom 15:9; Heb 2:13; and see Peirce's Commentary, p. 50. Now if the person represented as speaking through this Divine ode be David only, the Messiah is excluded. In consequence of the difficulties resulting from each of these suppositions, the general idea has been that it relates both to David and to the Messiah as a prophecy of a double sense; first, as spoken by David of himself, and yet to be understood in a secondary sense, of the Messiah. But it must be remarked here, that if spoken only of David, it is not a prediction of any thing future, but a thanksgiving for favors past, and therefore is no prophecy at all. And farther, it could not be a prophecy descriptive of David unless the particulars agreed to David, which they evidently do not. If then David be here necessarily excluded from the single sense, he must be excluded also from the double sense, because nothing can be intended by any sacred writer, to relate to two persons, unless it be True of both; but it not being the case here as to David, we must conclude that this song relates only to the Messiah; and on this subject an excellent Dissertation, by the late Mr. Peirce, is subjoined to his comment on the Epistle to the Hebrews. It may be necessary to add here two remarks: the twenty-fourth verse now ends with, I have kept myself from mine iniquity, which words, it is objected, are not proper, if applied to the Messiah. But this difficulty is removed, in part, by the context, which represents the speaker as perfectly innocent and righteous; and this exactly agrees with the proof arising from the Syriac and Arabic versions, and also the Chaldee paraphrase, that this word was anciently מעוניים ab iniquitatibus; consequently, this is one of the many instances where the final mem is improperly omitted by the Jewish transcribers. See my General Dissertation. Lastly, the difficulty arising from the title, which ascribes the Psalm to David, and which seems to make him the speaker in it, may be removed, either by supposing that the title here, like those now prefixed to several Psalms, is of no sufficient authority; or rather, by considering this title as only meant to describe the time when David composed this prophetic hymn, that when delivered from all his other enemies as well as from the hand of Saul, he then consecrated his leisure by composing this sublime prophecy concerning Messiah, his son, whom he represents here as speaking, (just as in Psalm 22, 40, and other places), and as describing,

1. His triumph over death and hell;
2. The manifestations of Omnipotence in his favor, earth and heaven, trembling at God's awful presence;

3. The speaker's innocence thus divinely attested;
4. The vengeance he was to take on his own people the Jews, in the destruction of Jerusalem; and,
5. The adoption of the heathen, over whom he was to be the head and ruler. "Another instance of a title denoting only the time of a prophecy, occurs in the very next chapter; where a prophecy concerning the Messiah is entitled, The Last words of David; i.e., a hymn which he composed a little before his death, after all his other prophecies. And perhaps this ode in 2 Samuel 22, which immediately precedes that in 2 Samuel 23, was composed but a little while before; namely, when all his wars were over. Let it be added, that Josephus, immediately before he speaks of David's mighty men, which follow in this same chapter of Samuel, considers the two hymns in 2 Samuel 22 and 23, as both written after his wars were over - Jam Davides, bellis et periculis perfunctus, pacemque deinceps profundam agitans, odas in Deum hymnosque composuit. Tom. i., page 401."

2SAMUEL 22: 12 He made darkness pavilions around himself: gathering of waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

2SAMUEL 22: 13 At the brightness before him, coals of fire were kindled.

2SAMUEL 22: 14 The LORD thundered from heaven. The Most High uttered his voice.

2SAMUEL 22: 15 He sent out arrows, and scattered them; lightning, and confused them.

2SAMUEL 22: 16 Then the channels of the sea appeared. The foundations of the world were laid bare by the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

2SAMUEL 22: 17 He sent from on high and he took me. He drew me out of many waters.

2SAMUEL 22: 18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

2SAMUEL 22: 19 They came on me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support.

2SAMUEL 22: 20 He also brought me out into a large place. He delivered me, because he delighted in me.

2SAMUEL 22: 21 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness. He rewarded me according to the cleanness of my hands.

2SAMUEL 22: 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

2SAMUEL 22: 23 For all his ordinances were before me. As for his statutes, I did not depart from them.

2SAMUEL 22: 24 I was also perfect toward him. I kept myself from my iniquity.

2SAMUEL 22: 25 Therefore the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in his eyesight.

2SAMUEL 22: 26 With the merciful you will show yourself merciful. With the perfect man you will show yourself perfect.

2SAMUEL 22: 27 With the pure you will show yourself pure. With the crooked you will show yourself shrewd.

2SAMUEL 22: 28 You will save the afflicted people, But your eyes are on the haughty, that you may bring them down.

2SAMUEL 22: 29 For you are my lamp, LORD. The LORD will light up my darkness.

2SAMUEL 22: 30 For by you, I run against a troop. By my God, I leap over a wall.

2SAMUEL 22: 31 As for God, his way is perfect. the LORD's word is tested. He is a shield to all those who take refuge in him.

2SAMUEL 22: 32 For who is God, besides the LORD? Who is a rock, besides our God?

2SAMUEL 22: 33 God is my strong fortress. He makes my way perfect.

2SAMUEL 22: 34 He makes his feet like hinds' feet, and sets me on my high places.

2SAMUEL 22: 35 He teaches my hands to war, so that my arms bend a bow of brass.

2SAMUEL 22: 36 You have also given me the shield of your salvation. Your gentleness has made me great.

2SAMUEL 22: 37 You have enlarged my steps under me. My feet have not slipped.

2SAMUEL 22: 38 I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them. I didn't turn again until they were consumed.

2SAMUEL 22: 39 I have consumed them, and struck them through, so that they can't arise. Yes, they have fallen under my feet.

2SAMUEL 22: 40 For you have armed me with strength for the battle. You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.

2SAMUEL 22: 41 You have also made my enemies turn their backs to me, that I might cut off those who hate me.

2SAMUEL 22: 42 They looked, but there was no one to save; even to the LORD, but he didn't answer them.

2SAMUEL 22: 43 Then I beat them as small as the dust of the earth. I crushed them as the mire of the streets, and spread them abroad.

2SAMUEL 22: 44 You also have delivered me from the strivings of my people. You have kept me to be the head of the nations. A people whom I have not known will serve me.

2SAMUEL 22: 45 The foreigners will submit themselves to me. As soon as they hear of me, they will obey me.

2SAMUEL 22: 46 The foreigners will fade away, and will come trembling out of their close places.

2SAMUEL 22: 47 The LORD lives! Blessed be my rock! Exalted be God, the rock of my salvation,

2SAMUEL 22: 48 even the God who executes vengeance for me, who brings down peoples under me,

2SAMUEL 22: 49 who brings me away from my enemies. Yes, you lift me up above those who rise up against me. You deliver me from the violent man.

2SAMUEL 22: 50 Therefore I will give thanks to you, LORD, among the nations, and will sing praises to your name.

2SAMUEL 22: 51 He gives great deliverance to his king, and shows loving kindness to his anointed, to David and to his seed, forever more.”

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