

A HEART FOR GOD

LEARNING FROM THE LIFE AND POETRY OF DAVID, part 2

Read 2 Samuel 8

1. List the enemies of Israel who were defeated by David in verses 1–13. Who also fought against these enemies? (1 Samuel 14:47)
2. Who were the Edomites? (Genesis 36:6–8) Who were the Moabites? (Genesis 19:34–36) What is David's history with the Moabites? (Ruth 4:17; 1 Samuel 22:3–4)
3. Saul had already defeated the Philistines many times during his reign. (1 Samuel 14:20, 47; 17:51–52) What imagined "enemy" distracted Saul from his battle with the Philistines? What imagined enemies distract you from your battle with your only real enemy? (1 Peter 5:8) Where should we focus our attention? (Hebrews 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:18)
4. David's victories were always in the face of overwhelming odds. Whose victories were they in reality? (vss. 6b, 14b)
5. As David presides over the peace gained from his victories, he appoints people to his government in verses 16–18. Why do you think his appointments of a recorder and secretary are listed alongside of his appointments of royal advisors and a general of his army? Are they important for Israel?
6. Who or what do we battle against? Who gives us victory? (1 Corinthians 15:54) How do we claim this victory? (1 John 5:1–5)

Read Psalm 18

7. The word used for love in verse 1 is very uncommon. It represents emotional or spontaneous love. Why do you think David uses this word as he looks back over his life and victories?

8. What does David do as he describes his raw emotions and his plight? (vss. 4–6) What do you do as you face things that seem to entangle, coil around, and threaten to destroy you? Can we approach God with same desperation as David?

9. What words and phrases in verses 7–15 describe how God responds to David’s call for help? (Challenge question: What might these words and images remind David and the Israelites of?)

10. Where was David taken from by God? (vs. 16) Where was David brought to by God? (vs. 19) What do “deep waters” and “spacious places” look like for you?

11. Why did God rescue David? (vs. 19) Does God delight in you? Why?

12. In verses 20–24 David extols his own righteousness as the reason God has rescued him. Whose righteousness, cleanliness, and blamelessness do we rely on? (Romans 3:21–24)

13. Look through verses 16–36 and write down all the ways that God helped David. Describe a time in your life where God helped you in the same way.

14. How does the apostle Paul interpret Psalm 18:49 in Romans 15:8–12? What does that mean for us?

15. Remember that David’s victories came because he loved the Lord. Do you have an “emotional” and “spontaneous” love for God as David describes in verse 1? Pray that you will have this love more and more each day.