



 LifeGroups
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David, the Psalm Writer

Lord Can Rescue Us

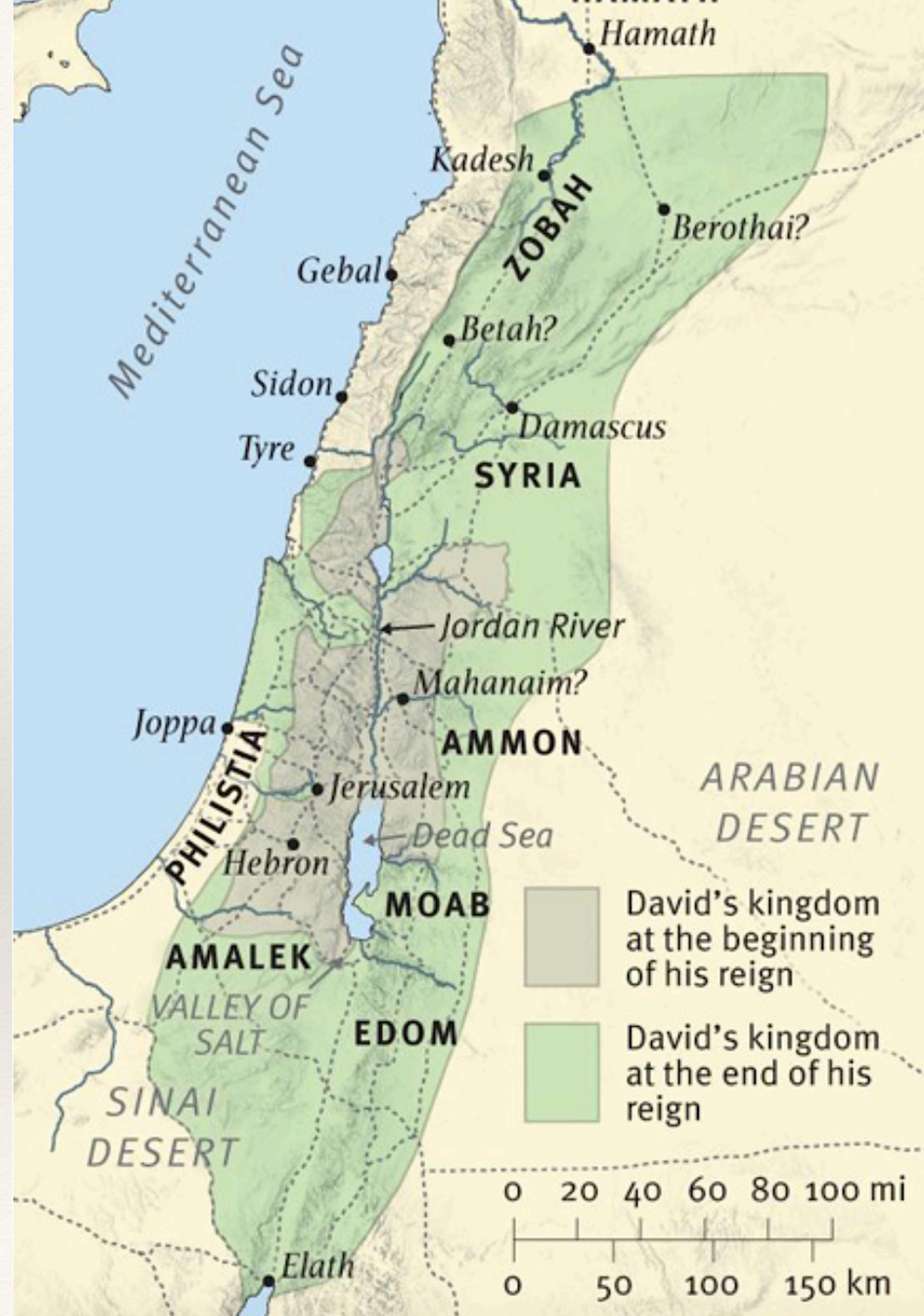
- The Lord can rescue us from any enemy, no matter how strong.
- 2 Samuel 22:1–20
- The end of chapter 21 describes David's victories over the Philistines near the end of his life, after he had returned to the throne, forgiven his enemies, and avenged the Gibeonites (21:15–22).
- The Philistines had been David's consistent enemies since his very first individual battle with Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

Lord Can Rescue Us

- This summary reminds us of Goliath, who was a giant from Gath.
- This story has four giants, one of which was a giant from Gath with heavy armor and weapons who taunted Israel like Goliath.
- Psalm 18 is included in 2 Samuel. The introduction says it is the song David wrote when the Lord delivered him from “all” his enemies and Saul.
- Saul’s death is recorded at the end of 1 Samuel but is included here because it is the end of David’s life, after the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies.

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- Chronicles tells us that by the end of David's reign, the Philistines were subdued.
- The reign of Solomon, whose name means "peace," would be one of peace from all the surrounding nations (1 Chronicles 20:4; 22:9).
- First Kings tells us that Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean and to the border of Egypt, including the Philistines, and they all paid him tribute as vassals (1 Kings 4:21).



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- Though later kings would again fight wars, Scripture describes David as having complete victory over all his enemies so that in his son's days, the kingdom could be at peace, a foreshadowing of Christ accomplishing victory over evil so that the eternal kingdom of God would have eternal peace.
- This psalm was David's final victory song, but he gave all the credit to the Lord, just as he had from the very beginning in his first victory with Goliath.
- He didn't claim his own might or power or wisdom but only the power of the Lord.

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- Many of the psalms describe God as rock, fortress, refuge, shield and stronghold.
- The words that this psalm uses as images of the places soldiers could go for protection when they were being attacked.
- David lived that truth as a tangible reality when he was on the run from Saul and Absalom.
- God-made caves were his physical fortress, as effective as any man-made fortress could be. And the Lord was his spiritual fortress (22:3).

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- But beyond that, God was also his deliverer and savior. David didn't just run to God and hide. The Lord came down and fought David's enemies for him.
- David described the Lord's anger (22:8) and His great strength (22:12–16).
- The Lord is “Most High” – no enemy is too much for Him, no matter how powerful (22:18).
- Paul said the same is true for us today. The Lord fights our battles for us; we need only to stand firm on Him (Ephesians 6:10–18). No matter what enemies we face, the Lord is stronger (1 John 4:4).

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- David was a warrior and a king, but he was also a songwriter, an artist. This tells us something about his personality and his relationship with God.
- Songs / poetry are a wonderful way to express prayer and worship, because deep meaning can be conveyed through figurative language that can be harder to express in plain language. Poetic language adds emotion. You experience poetry differently than narrative.
- Singing adds another layer of art and emotion to poetry and helps us remember the words, which was important in the ancient world when things were passed down orally.

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- David wrote a lot of psalms in his lifetime, but this was the one chosen in 2 Samuel as a conclusion to his life. This was what his life was all about – the Lord's provision, protection and deliverance.
- David gave all glory and honor to the Lord for His work in David's life.
- David knew he was nothing without the Lord's strength and power.
- As God had told him, the Lord took him from being a lowly shepherd tending his father's flock and made him king over all Israel.

God Blesses the Humble

- God blesses the humble and righteous and humbles the proud.
- 2 Samuel 22:21–51
- The first section of this second half of the psalm (verses 21–25) is difficult to read after the last several chapters of David's story.
- That included his own great sin and then his son, Amnon's, great sin and David's lack of punishing him for it.

God Blesses the Humble

- Because we know the context of David's story, we must deduce that being "righteous" and "blameless" in God's sight doesn't mean doing everything perfectly.
- It means that when we do sin, as we sometimes will, we thoroughly repent.
- David's hands were "clean," not because he had never committed any sins, but because God "washed" them through David's confession and repentance (Psalm 51).

God Blesses the Humble

- The poetic structure of the next section offers several parallel lines about how God relates to people. He is merciful to the merciful and blameless to the blameless.
- He blesses the pure and righteous but “seems tortuous” to the crooked. He saves the humble but humbles the proud (22:26–28).
- David was telling us that if God seems tortuous to you, it’s because you aren’t walking with Him. If He is humbling you, it’s because you need to be humbled. God is good and everything He does is right (22:31).

God Blesses the Humble

- This isn't a works-righteousness theology, it's being honest about what it looks like to walk with the Lord.
- David said that walking on the path of the Lord instead of the ways of the world made his feet like the deer (22:33–34), able to keep his footing over the rough terrain of life.
- The Lord lights our path to show us the right way to go (22:29; Psalm 119:105) and give us supernatural strength to handle what life throws our way (22:30–46).

God Blesses the Humble

- The imagery David used are physical battles he had with his enemies, as a warrior and king, but we can apply the same truths to our spiritual battles.
- If we put on the armor of God and let Him fight our battles for us, we can stand firm against all the dark forces of evil in the world (Ephesians 6:10–18).
- David praised God both for what God had done for him (22:47–50) and simply for who He is, because there is none like Him.
- He is worthy of all our praise (22:32).

God Blesses the Humble

- This psalm is a personal psalm about what God had done for David, but all the psalms were also used in corporate worship and to teach the people about God, so we can all apply these general principles to our lives.
- The Lord will fight our battles for us when we put our trust in Him, and He blesses those who put their trust in Him.
- This doesn't mean "if you're good, God gives you presents" but that He gives those who trust in Him spiritual blessings such as peace, joy, wisdom and all the other Fruit of the Spirit so we can walk in His ways and live the abundant life He meant for us to live.

Godly Leader Lead by Wisdom

- Godly leaders lead by the wisdom of the Lord.
- 2 Samuel 23:1–7; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7
- Second Samuel records these as David's last words even though there are a few more chapters in the book. They are a good follow-up to the psalm in chapter 22 and a conclusion of how God had worked in David's life.
- David recognized again that he came from a humble place in the world, but the Lord had exalted him to the highest place in Israel (23:1).

Godly Leader Lead by Wisdom

- David described himself not only as the anointed of God (king) but also as a psalmist; both identities he took to heart as critical to who he was as leader of God's people (23:1).
- As king, he was Israel's civic and military leader, but he also led them in worship, which is a necessary part of being a leader after God's own heart.
- Not all leaders must be musicians to lead God's people, because not all worship is expressed through music (Romans 12:1–2). But all spiritual leaders should lead their people in worship of God alone. That is an essential part of being a spiritual leader.

Godly Leader Lead by Wisdom

- David's last words are given by the Spirit of the Lord, who came upon him the moment he was anointed and worked through him all his life afterward (1 Samuel 16:13). In these last words, the Spirit told David that when leaders rule justly "in the fear of God," the Lord shines on them.
- We know from Psalms and Proverbs that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- It is where we get godly wisdom, which is why people whose leaders fear the Lord are blessed, because those leaders will guide them in the ways of the Lord, which leads to abundant life and spiritual blessing.

Godly Leader Lead by Wisdom

- Throughout their history, Israel had blessing when they walked in the ways of the Lord, but when they followed their own ways, things fell apart.
- In the same way, when our churches and our families follow the voice of His Spirit and walk in His ways instead of the ways of the world, we will experience peace and blessing.
- David closed with the promise of God's everlasting covenant with him, to establish his eternal kingdom through a son of David – Jesus (2 Samuel 7:12–16).

Godly Leader Lead by Wisdom

- This promise was not only for David; it is for all of us (Isaiah 9:6).
- David was a leader after God's own heart, but he was not perfect; he sinned greatly. But one day, a son of David would come who would live a sinless life and die as the sacrifice for our sins, and the Lord would establish his throne forever (Philippians 2:1–11).
- The promise of David's covenant is a perfect king who will rule over a perfect kingdom. All things will be under His dominion, and everything will be ruled in the fear of the Lord, so all things will be good. No evil, no crying, no pain.

Godly Leader Lead by Wisdom

- David's reign of peace and rest from all his enemies was a mere shadow of the perfect kingdom of eternal peace that would come in his descendent, Jesus.
- This is the hope and the promise David pointed to with his final words. This was his legacy and his desire for himself and for his people. Not his own power and majesty as king but pointing ahead to the One who would rule with God's power and majesty.
- This was a man after God's own heart who pointed to the Lord instead of himself.