



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

February 21, 2024



Photo: Our Daily Bread

I'VE SEEN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.

2 Samuel 22:50

READ 2 Samuel 22:1-4, 48-51

Throughout her historic seventy years as Britain's ruler, Queen Elizabeth II only endorsed one biography about her life with a personal foreword, *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*. Released in celebration of her ninetieth birthday, the book recounts how her faith guided her as she served her country. In the foreword, Queen Elizabeth expressed gratitude for everyone who'd prayed for her, and she thanked God for His steadfast love. She concluded, "I have indeed seen His faithfulness."

Queen Elizabeth's simple statement echoes the testimonies of men and women throughout history who've experienced the personal, faithful care of God in their lives. It's this theme underlying a beautiful song King David wrote as he reflected on his life. Recorded in 2 Samuel 22, the song speaks of God's faithfulness in protecting David, providing for him, and even rescuing him when his very life was in danger (vv. 3-4, 44). In response to his experience of God's faithfulness, David wrote, "I will sing the praises of your name" (v. 50).

While there's added beauty when God's faithfulness is seen over a long lifetime, we don't have to wait to recount His care in our lives. When we recognize that it's not our own abilities that carry us through life but the faithful care of a loving Father, we're moved to gratitude and praise.

By Lisa M. Samra

PRAY & REFLECT

Heavenly Father, I'm so grateful that in every season of life — sorrow or joy — I've seen Your faithfulness. Amen

How have you seen God's faithfulness? How might you express your gratitude to Him?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

It's helpful to read 2 Samuel 22 along with Psalm 18. This long psalm (only three psalms are longer: 78, 89, 119) parallels David's song in 2 Samuel when David praised God for His protection and deliverance from Saul so many years before, although with some slight modifications. Scholars speculate that those changes were made to adapt the song from personal to corporate use. Nevertheless, as he now moved toward the end of his life, David reflected on God's rescue with clearer eyes than ever before, and he gave praise to God for that specific time when he experienced divine rescue. As such, David referred to Him as his rock, his fortress, and his deliverer. He also referred to Him as his horn (symbolic of power and authority) and shield (Psalm 18:2). Taken together, it's little wonder that David reflected on the mighty God as his stronghold. —

By Bill Crowder

Used with permission