Introduction: In 1854 Henry David Thoreau wrote, 'The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation'. This observation seems to be more true now than at any time before. But, now it is true of men, women and children as young as seven or eight years old who are struggling with and suffering from the acceleration of innovations that distract people from what God created them to be. People are becoming more and more isolated due to what is ironically called 'social media' to the point they become anti-social. The result of this is multitudes of people are not having enough face-to-face encounters with other people created in God's image. Late in life the apostle John wrote this pastoral advice to a church leader, 'I have much to write you … but I hope to come to see you face-to-face, so … our joy may be complete (2 John 12-13; see also 3 John 1, 13-14). *** Worse than this, many people do not know God the Creator as a powerful living Person who is with them and in them in a restored relationship through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). So they live defeated lives with no hope of relief from their pain that is more than they can overcome in their own strength. *** Our passages give hope to all people. We find David is a type of his great descendant, Jesus, when because God is with him he does two seemingly impossible things. First, he drives the Jebusites out of Jerusalem. Second, he is firmly established as king by the power of his covenant God, Yahweh. *** In a psalm written for worship in God's Temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, all pronouns are plural) the poetic lines tell how living in God's presence gives deliverance and rescue by the faithful God. He moves heaven and earth for those who love Him and cry out to Him for the salvation of rest. *** We will now consider the highlights of our passages about our relationship with God the Savior.

I. Israel unites under king David to conquer Jerusalem after four hundred years; **and**, **because God was with him**, **David became greater and fully established as king**; **but he disobeyed God by taking more women**. (*2 Samuel 5:1-16*)

A. After four hundred years, all Israel united under God's anointed king David conquered Jebusites in Jerusalem, and David became greater because God was with him. (*Verses 1-10*)

1. Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said: Behold! We (are) your bone and flesh; when Saul was over us you led us out and brought us in, and Yahweh said you will be shepherd of My people and prince over Israel. (*Verses 1-2*)
   Full unity: God's will is that His people have full and complete unity (Psalm 133; Ephesians 4:1-13).
2. Then all the elders of Israel came to the king and made (cut) a covenant with him in Hebron before Yahweh; then they anointed David king over Israel. (*Verse 3*)
   Covenant: Covenants with and before Yahweh were made by cutting animals in two and walking between them (Genesis 15:8-18; Jeremiah 34:18). They are confirming with David what Yahweh said by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:11-13).
3. David was thirty years old when he began to reign: he reigned forty years; seven years and six months over Judah in Hebron, and over all Judah and Israel, thirty three years in Jerusalem. (*Verses 4-5*)
   Summary: This is a typical summary statement for David and Solomon, and after them, the twenty kings each of Israel and Judah,
4. Then the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites dwelling in the land who said to David: You will not come in here, but the blind and lame will make you turn away, saying (to themselves) David will not come in here. (*Verse 6*)
   Pagan disdain: The Jebusites had kept the Israelites from capturing their city since Joshua (15:63), four hundred years! Why would anything be different with this new king?
5. Then David took the stronghold of Zion, the 'city of David'; he said on that day: whoever smites the Jebusites will (use) the water-shaft to get at the 'lame and blind' hated by David's soul; therefore it will be said the 'blind and lame' will not come into the house of David; then David dwelt in the stronghold and built up around (it) from the ramparts inward. (*Verses 7-9*)
   Finally capture Jebus: The lead paragraph of this account is that David did what was impossible for four centuries: he finally captured Jerusalem to make it 'his' city! David turned the pagan taunt to him on its head. More details about the capture are given in Chronicles (first book 11:4-9)
6. .Then David became greater and greater, and Yahweh Sabaoth (was) with him. (*Verse 10*)
   Yahweh's presence: The 'Lord of Hosts' (of heaven and earth) was always 'with David'. Being closely connected to the presence of Almighty God gave David the strength to do the 'impossible'!

Almighty God's presence empowers people to do the impossible

Application: We must also worship the creator covenant God, who rules everything, for His love and grace to people, so we will put Him first in our lives, and love, trust and obey Him. Then we will know that in response to our worship of Him, He will work through us to do what seems impossible!

B. Yahweh established David as king, and exalted the kingdom of Israel; but, David now had many more wives, doubly disobeying God. (*Verses 11-16*)

1. Then Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David, and cedar trees and craftsmen of wood and stone for walls, and they built a house for David. (*Verse 11*)
   Palace: The king of Tyre, on the Mediterranean Sea north of Israel, sent messengers, workers and materials to David in Jerusalem to build his house.
2. Then David knew that Yahweh had established him as king over Israel and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people. (*Verse 12*)
   Yahweh established: Yahweh made David's authority as the ruler of Israel firm; and, Yahweh exalted the kingdom of His people. This would have been considered impossible for the descendants of Israel after they had been slaves in Egypt for four hundred years (Genesis 15:13; Exodus 12:40-41).

Application: In the matter of Uriah (2 Samuel 11; 12:11-14), David' flaw brought contempt on Yahweh before God's enemies and was punished greatly. And, because every one of us has flaws, we need to individually, and as a church, ask the Holy Spirit to show us our flaws, so that individually, and as a church, we are not doing anything to misrepresent Jesus to our neighbors.

3. And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem after he came from Hebron … and more sons and daughters were born to David … [eleven sons]. (*Verses 13-16*)
   Multiple wives: David already had six wives! The only difference between a concubine and a wife was a concubine's sons had no inheritance rights. David had broken the seventh Word (of commandment) about not committing adultery (Deuteronomy 5:18). Now he also violates the command that kings must not have multiple wives (Deuteronomy 17:14-17).

II. Living in God's presence gives faith that He will deliver and be a refuge because He is faithful; **He will protect with His angels delivering and saving those who love Him**. (*Psalm 91*)

A. Living in the presence of the Almighty gives people faith for deliverance by the faithful God because He is the refuge, giving freedom from fear of what He created. (*Verses 1-10*)

1. (He) dwelling in the hiding place of the Most High / in the shadow of the Almighty, he will lodge. (*Verse 1*)
   Live in protection: Anyone dwelling under the care of the Almighty, hidden by the Most High will lodge protected by God (Psalm 36:7; 57:1; 91:4).
2. I will say to Yahweh: My refuge and my fortress / My God, I will trust in Him // Because He Himself will deliver you from the snare of the trapper / from the pestilence (plague) of destruction. (*Verses 2-3*)
   Faith for deliverance: The psalmist believes Yahweh to be a refuge to him. Shifting to the second person, he encourages each one worshipping with him of Yahweh's deliverance from enslavers and deadly plagues if they have similar faith.
3. With His wing feathers, He will cover you / and under His wings, you will seek refuge / shield and protection, (are) His (faithful) truth. (*Verse 4*)
   His faithfulness: People who keep themselves under the shelter and protection of the Almighty Yahweh will be covered and protected as with a shield, and be delivered from evil people and plagues.

Remaining in the shelter of the Almighty guarantees deliverance

4. You will not fear the terror at night / nor the arrow that will fly by day // nor the pestilence walking in darkness / nor the destruction that destroys at noon. (*Verses 5-6*)
   No fear: Those remaining in Yahweh's protection will not fear human weapons, nor unseen terrors by day or night.
5. A thousand will fall at your side / and ten thousand at your right hand / on you, it will not come near // Only with your eyes, you will consider / and the retribution of the wicked, you will see. (*Verses 7-8*)
   Not be exposed: Many people fall for many reasons. Everyone experiences grief and loss. But eternal destruction will not come near those remaining in Yahweh by faith. Instead, they will see the wicked get the punishment they deserve.
6. Because You, Yahweh, are my refuge / and you have made the Most High your habitation // It will not be sent upon you: evil / neither will a plague come near your tent. (*Verses 9-10*)
   Back to beginning: This completes the first thought of this stanza of the psalm. When Yahweh is the song leader's refuge and the habitation of each one worshipping with him, whatever is troubling them will not cause them ultimate harm.

B. Most High Yahweh will protect His people with His angels, delivering all who love Him with the salvation of rest. (*Verses 11-16*)

1. For He will command His angels concerning you / to guard you in all your ways // Upon their hands, they will lift you up / lest you strike your foot against a stone. (*Verses 11-12*)
   Angels: God has a host of strong and obedient spirit beings He has created. His purpose for them is to assist Him in protecting the physical beings He created on this earth to also do His will.
2. On the lion and adder (venomous snake), you will tread / you will trample under-foot the young lion and the serpent (dragon). (*Verse 13*)
   Dangerous creatures: Each of the individual worshippers with the song-writer will be given strength by Yahweh to overcome the most dangerous creatures.
3. Because he has desired to love Me, I will deliver him / I will set him on high because he has known My Name. (*Verse 14*)
   God's response: Each one who desires to love God with all they are, will be delivered and exalted. This is an incentive to obey the greatest commandment (Deuteronomy 6:1-7; Matthew 12:28-34).
4. He will call Me and I will answer him / I will be with him in trouble / and I will set him free and honor him. (*Verse 15*)
   Answered prayer: People who call out to God in both desperation and confidence, remaining in His shelter, will be answered by Him with honor and freedom in Him, even if they are troubled by persecution leading to death. Jesus said that some of His followers would be persecuted to death, but not a hair on their head will perish, meaning they will be with Him for eternity (Luke 21:12-19).

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5. In long days, I will satisfy him / and I will make him see My salvation. (*Verse 16*)
   Salvation of rest: In Jesus, all may enter the eternal Sabbath-rest, starting now and going on forever (Hebrews 4:6-11).

Application: We must know intimacy with God through turning from our own desires and way to THE Way, Jesus. Then we will enjoy His love; and, as an expression of thanksgiving for being delivered from darkness into His Light, we will do the good works He prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Conclusion: People with an intimate personal relationship with God by faith in His faithfulness, love, truth, justice, mercy, and so much more, will be delivered from threats, trouble and distress to be enabled by Him to do what seems impossible.

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