HUDSON'S HOPE CHAPEL

The Lord Is My Rock

November 22, 2026 · Series: After God's Own Heart · Luke Hughes-Bunger

Main Passage: 2 Samuel 22:1-7, 17-20, 47-51 (ESV)

Big Idea: We can make the Lord our refuge because His faithful love is fulfilled in Jesus, the living King who saves and keeps His people.

Introduction

In E. B. White's Charlotte's Web, Wilbur is a pig whose future depends on the help of a friend. When he discovers that he is being raised for food, he is frightened. Being a pleasant pig will not save him. Charlotte, a spider in the barn, promises to help.

Her words woven into the web attract attention to Wilbur. People see an extraordinary pig. Readers see the faithful friend working for his safety. At the county fair, Wilbur receives a special award and his future is secured. Charlotte, however, is near the end of her life. Wilbur takes her egg sac home and later cares for her children. He remembers the friend who helped keep him alive.

The story invites us to look beneath appearances. When we think about our lives, do we notice only our achievements? Or can we recognise the love and help that have brought us through?

David's song directs our attention to the Lord. David is Israel's king, a former shepherd with courage and genuine faith. He also commits terrible sins. God confronts and forgives him, but the damage to others remains. As we reach the conclusion of his story, his song invites us to recognise God's faithfulness and find our own refuge in Him.

You do not need to have followed the series to understand this invitation. The passage speaks to experienced believers, people whose faith feels weak, and those still exploring Christianity.

Make the Lord Your Refuge

2 Samuel 22:1-7, 17-20

Safety in the middle of danger

David describes God through several pictures: a rock, a fortress, a shield, and a refuge. Each picture suggests protection and security. They matter because David knows what it is to face danger. His faith does not make the world harmless or remove every frightening experience.

In verses 5-7, he remembers feeling surrounded by death. He cries to God in his distress, and God hears him. Prayer begins where David actually is. He does not need to hide his fear or sound calm before he calls for help.

We can find prayer hardest when we most need it. Pride makes it difficult to admit that we cannot manage. Shame makes us reluctant to seek forgiveness. Grief can leave us feeling that we must first collect ourselves. David's prayer encourages us to bring these things to God honestly.

We can speak about the concern that keeps us awake, the mistake we are ashamed of, or the loss we cannot explain. God does not need polished language to understand our need. Turning to Him is itself an act of dependence.

Where we look for security

Knowing about God is different from relying on Him. We can know Christian teaching while placing our security in being liked, staying in control, or making ourselves indispensable. A criticism or an unexpected change may reveal how much we have depended on those things.

These pressures can be familiar even to someone who has followed Jesus for years. We may pray about a situation while continuing to believe that everything depends on our ability to manage it. Recognising this is an opportunity to return to God, not a reason to hide from Him.

David's song invites a personal question: where do we turn when we are frightened? The answer helps us identify what we are treating as our refuge. We can bring that need to the Lord and ask Him to teach us to trust Him there.

The Lord takes hold

In verses 17-20, God is the one who reaches down and brings David to safety. David admits that his enemies are stronger than he is. The man known for confronting Goliath still has limits. His courage cannot explain every deliverance.

Like Wilbur, David knows that the life others admire depends on help he has received. This changes the way he tells his story. He directs attention to the God who has sustained him.

Gratitude begins when we recognise that we are not self-sufficient. We can thank God for His care without pretending that our own decisions never mattered. Dependence helps us acknowledge the source of our strength and remain willing to receive help again.

Loved without having our sin excused

Verse 20 says that God delights in David. That cannot mean God approves of everything he does. The account of Bathsheba and Uriah plainly condemns David's wrongdoing. God's love confronts him and calls him to repentance, which means turning away from sin and back to God.

Being loved by God does not give anyone permission to harm another person. Forgiveness does not make the harm unimportant. David's story holds together God's real mercy and the seriousness of human responsibility.

Yet David is truly loved. He is more than a difficult servant whom God reluctantly tolerates. God has chosen him and made promises to him. The song expresses confidence in that willing love.

We may believe that God forgives while imagining that He grows colder whenever we approach Him again. David's testimony challenges that fear. It also raises a question: how can ordinary people share such confidence? The closing verses lead us towards the answer in Jesus.

Trust the King Whose Love Will Hold You

2 Samuel 22:47, 50-51; Romans 15:8-9

A promise beyond one lifetime

David praises the living God and speaks of love for his descendants that endures forever. Earlier, God promises to establish his royal house: his family line of kings. David's death will not bring God's purpose to an end.

The New Testament identifies Jesus as the Son of David. He is the promised King who fulfils God's word. This connection grows from the passage itself. The song's closing promise directs us beyond David towards the One who can accomplish what David cannot.

David can lead people and also wound them. His best actions cannot cancel his guilt or overcome death. We need a King who is faithful without failure and able to save those who depend on Him. Jesus is that King.

The rescue Jesus provides

Jesus loves the Father perfectly, serves others with His authority, and gives Himself for people who have sinned. Sin is our refusal to give God His rightful place. It appears in our selfish choices, our excuses, and the harm we cause.

Our need goes deeper than encouragement to improve. We need forgiveness and a restored relationship with God. We cannot remove guilt by promising better behaviour or collecting enough good deeds.

At the cross, Jesus bears the judgment our sins deserve. The innocent King gives Himself for guilty people. God takes evil seriously while providing mercy through the death of His Son. Jesus then rises from the dead. Our Saviour is alive.

Those who trust Him are forgiven and welcomed into God's family. His Spirit begins to change them, giving them a growing desire to love what is good and turn from sin. Our confidence rests on what Jesus has done, rather than on an impressive religious record.

Welcome for searching and struggling people

If you are exploring Christianity, there is room for honest questions. You do not need to pretend that everything is settled in your mind. The invitation is to trust Jesus, who died and rose to bring people into peace with God.

If your faith feels weak, remember that Christ's ability to save does not rise and fall with your emotions. You can ask Him to help you trust Him. A difficult day or a trembling prayer does not make His sacrifice less sufficient.

For established believers, assurance also makes honest repentance possible. We can receive correction, confess wrongdoing, and ask for help with a hidden sin. We do not need to defend everything we have done in order to protect our standing. God's grace calls us to obedience and gives us courage to begin.

Mercy that reaches others and lasts through grief

In verse 50, David speaks about praising God among the nations. The same song appears in Psalm 18. Paul quotes its words in Romans 15 as he explains how Christ brings people from outside Israel to praise God for His mercy. God's saving purpose reaches beyond one nation or background.

There is room for people like us, and for our neighbours. This encourages a welcoming posture towards those who are unfamiliar with church. We can point them to the Saviour whose mercy we also need.

That welcome does not promise an easy life. David's deliverances do not remove all his grief. Trusting Jesus does not guarantee that every relationship heals or every consequence disappears. The promise is that these things cannot undo His saving work. Jesus will raise His people to life with Him. His love will hold them to the end.

Application and Conclusion

Across David's life, we meet the God who chooses, sustains, confronts, forgives, and keeps His word. David shows us something of trust and repentance. His failures also show why we need the greater King, Jesus Christ.

Choose one thing you are trying to carry alone. Bring it honestly to Jesus in prayer each day this week. It might be a fear, a sin you have excused, or a grief that feels beyond words. Thank Him that His saving work opens the way for you to come.

Let that prayer lead to the response it requires. If you are confessing hidden sin, seek help from a trustworthy Christian. If fear makes you demand control over someone else, release that demand and act with love. Choose one step that fits the need you are bringing to God.

If you have never trusted Jesus, begin by asking Him for forgiveness and placing your trust in Him. You can also speak with Pastor Luke about what it means to follow Him. The faithful God whom David praises invites you to make Him your refuge.

Discussion Guide Questions

1. What does Charlotte's friendship help us notice about the difference between an impressive life and the help behind it?
2. Read 2 Samuel 22:1-7. Which picture of God's protection stands out to you, and why?
3. What can make prayer difficult when we most need help? How does David's cry encourage honesty?
4. What are some things we can rely on for security instead of God?

5. Read verses 17-20. Who acts, and what does David admit about his own strength?
6. How can God's delight in David be real without approving his treatment of Bathsheba and Uriah?
7. Read verses 47, 50-51. How does the promise reach beyond David's lifetime, and how does Jesus fulfil it?
8. Why does weak faith not make Jesus less able to save? How can assurance encourage repentance?
9. Read Romans 15:8-9. What does God's mercy to the nations mean for the way we welcome people exploring faith?
10. What one need will you bring to Jesus each day this week? What step of obedience belongs with that prayer? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.