

## Every Distress

How does one recoup from the infestations of the soul? How can we overcome the scars of life when many go so deep, and still tingle and twinge to the touch? How can we be redeemed from our inescapable past?

There are many examples left for us in the Bible that chronicle the sad debacles of humanity. Over and over, as moved by some unseen force, men and women slip by the wayside, fall headlong into sin, and wallow pitifully in their imperfections. Few realize the full degree to which they have fallen and still fewer seek relief; they just know that life is miserable and find only the temporary escape of the temporary pleasures in this temporary fleshly existence. And with the onset of old age, the reality of death holds little more than the dread and fear of accountability. It is a pity, really, that relief is within the pages of a Book rarely opened and barely studied.

In 1 Kings 1: 29, a simple sideline comment from a dying king takes on a life of its own, as do many phrases in God's revelation. In the waning moments of a tumultuous life of mistakes and mishaps, the great King David was taking care of some last-minute business and throws in a passing thought; one that was ever on the mind of the man after God's own heart. He states words to live by: "*As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress....*"

Yes, David's life hit peaks and valleys that few of us come close to experiencing. He had his moments of fear in the darkness of a cave and he sat in royal regalia as reigning monarch. And through it all, it was God who had seen him through every up and down, every sorrow and sadness, and every triumph and defeat. So, as an old man approaching his inevitable demise, he could rest with his fathers and leave a legacy that is still honored and revered to this day. Odd, isn't it, how the weak and faltering, when coupled with the strength of God, manage to become the stuff of legends.

Through the trials of life, those insidious spills we take and those embarrassing blotches on our spiritual robes can be overcome. The shame and disappointment last only so long as we stray from God. When we return to Him Who pleads with open arms, He receives the repentant soul, cleansed and pure. And, so David would sing, "*Great deliverance He gives to His king, And shows mercy to His anointed, To David and his descendants forevermore*" (Psalm 18:50).

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