

DAVID: How God Uses Persecution to Perfect His Child

(1 Samuel 18-22:1-2 with four Psalms David wrote while in the cave: 34, 56, 57, 142)

1. GOD REMOVED ALL OF DAVID'S _____.

- God kicked out from under David all his crutches, anything he could lean on that could become a _____.

THE CRUTCHES GOD KICKED OUT FROM UNDER DAVID

2. GOD BROKE DAVID OF SELF RELIANCE TO CREATE GOD RELIANCE. HOW? TAKING DAVID INTO THE DARK CAVE OF DESPAIR.

- DARK DAYS OF _____

So I looked for good, but evil came instead. I waited for the light, but darkness fell. My heart is troubled and restless. Days of suffering torment me. I walk in gloom without sunlight. Job 30: 26-28 (NLT)

- DARK DAYS OF _____

God has blocked my way so I cannot move. He has plunged my path into darkness. Darkness is all around me; thick, impenetrable darkness is everywhere. Job 19: 8 & 23: 17 (NLT)

- DARK DAYS OF _____

They grope in the darkness without a light. He makes them stagger like drunkards. Job 12: 25 (NLT)

- DARK DAYS OF _____

It is a land as dark as midnight, a land of gloom and confusion, where even the light is dark as midnight. Job 10: 22 (NLT)

How long did God keep David in the dark cave of despair?

- Until he got so _____, there was no place to look, but _____!

There is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul. I cried out to Thee, O Lord; I said, "Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me." Psalm 142: 4b-6

- Until _____ became more important than _____.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!...Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Thy glory be above all the earth. Psalm 57: 7 & 11

3. GOD BROKE DAVID FOR THE _____.

- God brought people into his life so he could teach them what _____ him.

And everyone who was in distress, & everyone who was in debt, & everyone who was discontented, gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about 400 men with him. 1 Samuel 22: 2

O taste and see that the Lord is good. How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! O fear the Lord, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want...they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing. Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Psalm 34: 8-11

- The 400 men became David's _____!

Lessons Learned From David

1. Getting crutches kicked out from under you is frightening, but let it cause you to _____, not look for another crutch.

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. Psalm 56: 3

This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose Word I praise, in the Lord whose Word I praise. In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalm 56: 9-11

2. Don't confuse the darkness and depression of the cave for God deserting you, but God isolating you with Himself in order to teach you _____!
(2 Corinthians 1: 8-10)

3. When God breaks you it is not to _____ but to _____ in the lives of others (2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; 4: 3-12).

