

## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ [www.preceptsforlife.com](http://www.preceptsforlife.com)

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)**

**TITLE: Program 22 – Encounter In A Cave**

### **TUESDAY**

#### **OPEN**

Pain is horrible and it almost seems trite to say that, doesn't it? And yet, in the midst of pain, which is so bad we want to do something; we want to lash out, especially at the person that is causing that pain. We want vengeance. O Beloved, listen, God says, **"...Vengeance is Mine, I will repay...."**

**(Romans 12:19)** You say, "He's not going to repay. He's going to get away with it. She's going to get away with it." No, no, no, God is God and He has His precepts for life. You can survive.

#### **PART ONE**

So often, Beloved, when we find ourselves in a trial, the temptation in the midst of that trial is to look at that person that is causing the problem and want to lash out at them and want to deal with them immediately, and we forget that God will deal with them. We forget what God tells us about our enemies, that we're to pray for our enemies, that we're to do good for our

enemies, that God causes His sun and His rain to come on the just and on the unjust. We forget that God says, “...**Vengeance is Mine....**” We think almost that we are God and that we can straighten out that person. Now, I’m not saying we don’t let them know what’s going on. I’m not saying that we just have to shut our mouths and be a doormat to that persons abuses and things like that, so please don’t hear that, because sometimes when you’re in pain the problem is you’re hearing what is not being said. And you’re personalizing it and you’re internalizing it and you’re not actually applying according it to its context. So I’m talking about you being in a wilderness situation. I’m talking about you being in a trial, in a test, in a temptation. And we’ve seen as we’ve done this series and looked at God’s deliverance to us in the wilderness, and we haven’t seen that deliverance yet, but we will see it; but when we look at all of that we have to understand that God filters everything that comes into our life through His fingers of love. God has you in His hand. God is sovereign. God tells us in John chapter 10 that God has you in His hand and no one can pluck you out of His hand. (Paraphrased, v. 28-29) All right, so if God is sovereign and He has you in His hand and He is love, then everything that comes into your life has to be filtered though His fingers of love, so that no one can touch you, no one can say anything to you, no one can do anything to you without God’s permission because God is sovereign. And if they do anything God says, that if you are His child ultimately, according to Romans 8:28 and 29 (Paraphrased) you will have that situation work together for your good. It’s not good, but it will work together for your good and God will use it to make you more like Christ. He will use it to shape you to conform you into the image of His Son. Remember God has eternity in mind. Remember that when we’re in a wilderness, when we’re in a trial all we can see is the wilderness, all we can see is the trial, all we can see is the barrenness and the cold at night because the desert can be very very cold at night. All we can do is see ourselves hiding in a cave. Well let’s go to that cave, because that’s where David is

and let's go to 1 Samuel chapter 24, 1 Samuel chapter 24. And this is such an important important chapter. All right, so David is in the cave and it says "[And] **he came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went...to relieve himself....**" (1 Samuel 24:3a) Now, whether he went in to go to the bathroom or whether he went in because he was tired and he needed to lay down and cover his feet and rest a while, we really don't know. I mean they debate on what "relieve himself" means. But it literally, in the Hebrew, it means he went in to cover his feet, okay. **"...And [he] went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave."** (1 Samuel 23:3b) Catch this. I mean David's way back in that cave, and if you've ever gone caving you know caves can go on and on and on and on and on. And if you've seen Raiders of the Lost Ark and all those movies, you've seen all these caves and everything. It's not quite the same thing in those caves as you see in the movies, but anyway, David's back in the cave. Saul comes in and he's in there covering his feet and David knows he's there. Now David has, in a sense, got Saul trapped if Saul stays in that cave. But, before we go on I want us to stop and I want us to see something that is very exciting. Now if you've done your homework, (*laughs*) if you're studying along with me like I pray that you are doing, then you know what's going to happen. If you just by chance came upon this program, then it's because you and I have a divine appointment. God's brought you into the middle of a series on how God takes care of us and delivers us in the wilderness, and you've come on this series, but you can catch up. And you need to listen to what I have said before because it's a very valuable and very pertinent series that will really speak to your heart and really help you in your wilderness in your trial and your temptation. Now you can get information on all of this by going to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com); that's [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com). And while you're there download the study guide because there's more to learn and we want you to see these valuable valuable lessons for yourself. Well, I want you to go to

Psalm 57. Turn in your Bibles and go to Psalm 57. And if you're unable to do that because of where you're listening to this teaching, then just write it down or get the tape and then you can see Psalm 57 for yourself. Now I'm not going to read the whole Psalm, but I want you to see something. At the heading of the Psalms many times he tells when the Psalm was written of or what the Psalm is like, or how the choir director is to set this Psalm or this song. And Psalm 57 says, "For the choir director." Now I've told you that I have a hard time with my pronunciation, so hang on. It's "For the choir director." It's "set to +Al-tashheth." And it is "A Mikhtam," I guess, is the way you say it, M-i-k-h-t-a-m, "of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave." Isn't that neat? You're reading along, you go, "O I know what that means," because you're studying the Bible, because you're seeing truth for yourself. So if you were just reading through the Psalm, through the Psalms and you came to that Psalm and you'd studied Samuel you'd say, "O I know, I know." Now listen, David's in the wilderness; Saul's trying to find him. Saul wants to kill him. Saul is determined. He has said, "[Listen, I will search out all the thousands of Judah until I find him.]" (1 Samuel 23:23) So he's on this pursuit. David's in the wilderness in Engedi and this is what he's writing in this psalm before David, before Saul gets there. **"Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in You...."** (Psalm 57:1a) ["I'm in a cave, but my soul's taking refuge in You."] **"...And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by."** (Psalm 57:1b) I am trusting You God. **"I will cry to God Most High...."** Now when he says, **"God Most High"** he is saying, El Elyon, E-l E-l-y-o-n, and that's the name of God that shows that He is the Most High. He is the sovereign God. You see this name used so much in Daniel the prophet where God stresses His sovereignty over the nations, over time, over individuals. And so he says, **"I will cry to [You] God Most High....,"** (57:2a) the sovereign God that has me in Your hand, that filters everything through fingers of love. It says, **"I will cry to God Most High, to God who**

accomplishes all things for me.” (57:2) **“To God who accomplishes all things for me.”** Not me running ahead of God, not me acting prematurely, not me taking the situation in my own hands. **“He will send from heaven and [help] me. He reproaches him who tramples [on] me....”** It’s Saul. **“...God will send forth His lovingkindness...”** His *cheched*. Remember *cheched* is a covenant term. It’s **“...His lovingkindness and His truth.”** Now I’m going to drop down to verse 7. **“My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast...” (57:7a)** Will you say that with me? Will you say it right now? “O God, I’m in a wilderness. Be gracious to me; be gracious to me. My soul takes refuge in You. O God, I will be steadfast. I will be steadfast.” **“...I will sing, yes, I will sing praises.” (57:7b)** It is so good to sing psalms, to sing praises to God when you’re in the wilderness. Because remember, when David played and sang for Saul and he was tormented by an evil spirit that helped Saul. Now you’re not being tormented by an evil spirit, but the songs help. And he says, **“Awake, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre!...”** He says, **“...I will awaken the dawn.” (57:8)** I will sit here in the darkness of the night and I will sing to God until the light of day comes. **“I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.” (57:9)** Listen to what he says, **“For Your lovingkindness is great [all the way] to the heavens and Your truth to the clouds. Be exalted above the heavens, O God; [and] let Your glory be above all the earth.” (57:10-11)** This is the psalm that he writes in the cave. And we know specifically he writes this one at this time. But also there is Psalm 142, and Psalm 142 is written in a cave and it is a prayer, but it doesn’t tell us which cave or when. But it says, **“I [will] cry aloud with my voice to the Lord. I [will] make [my] supplication with my voice to the Lord. I [will] pour out my complaint [to] Him. I [will] declare my trouble before Him.” (Psalm 142:1-2)** God wants you just to tell it all to Him. Well we’ll be back in just a moment. And make sure, Beloved, you come back. You don’t want to miss these precepts for life.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back, Beloved. Oh how I wish I could just put my arms around you and hold you and weep with you in the midst of this wilderness, in the midst of this barrenness, in the midst of this frustration, in the midst of this pain. I wish I could hold you, but God has a place of refuge underneath the everlasting arms. That's where He has you, under the shadow of the wing of the Almighty. He wants to gather you as a hen gathers her chicks and puts them and protects them and hovers over them and warms them in the midst of the cold and in the midst of the night. That's what He wants to do to you. Well, Psalm 142 is where I left you and I just want you to see what David is saying in verse 3: **"When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, You knew my path...."** (Psalm 142:3a) I want you to know that God knows where you are. He says, **"...In the way where I walk they have hidden a trap for me."** (142:3b) [They have a hidden trap for me.] And that's what Saul is. He has a hidden trap; he's trying to trap David. He says, **"Look to the right and see; for there is no one who regards me; there is no escape for me; no one cares for my soul."** (142:4) Is that the way you feel? **"...There's no escape for me; no one cares for my soul."** (142:4b) You're looking around; no one cares; no one understands. No one understands the pain. No one's been there. God understands. God understands; He sees from heaven. Now watch what he says. This is the way he feels, but does it stop there? Does the Psalm end there? Is that it? No, it's not. Watch what he does. **"I cried out to You, O Lord...."** (142:5a) "I cried out to You." You can't stop with, "No one knows, no one cares," and then you just go into despair. You cannot do that. You've got to say, "[No, I cried out to the Lord.] **I cried out to [the] Lord. I said, 'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.'**" (142:5) "I may not find anyone here, but You are my portion." He says, **"Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. Bring my soul out of prison, so that I may give thanks to Your name;**

**the righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.”**

**(142:6-7)** Do you hear that faith? Do you hear that faith? This is what you need. You need faith, Beloved, to know that God doesn't leave you in the wilderness. Well, let's go back to 1 Samuel chapter 24. In 1 Samuel chapter 24 remember David's in the cave. He's written this Psalm, at least Psalm 57 and probably Psalm 142, he wrote it in one cave somewhere in one of these wildernesses. **“Saul [came] in to relieve himself...,”** to cover his feet.

**“...[And] David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave. [And] the men of David said to him, ‘Behold, this is the day which the Lord said to you, “Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you....”’”** (1 Samuel 24:3b-4a) [“This is your day David, it's finally come. This is your day. Get him David. Get him. You've got him. Get him. Do away with him.”]

**“...Then David arose and [he] cut off the edge of Saul's robe....”** (24:4b)

So either Saul was relieving himself and was concentrating on that or he had laid down, covered his feet, whatever. David is able to walk up, take his sword and cut off the edge of Saul's robe. Now Saul's the king and kings usually wear a different kind of robe than the commoner wears because it signifies that he's the king. **“[And] It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of the robe.”**(24:5) I want you to see something: this is a man after God's own heart. This is a man that is sensitive to the Spirit of the Lord, because remember we saw the Spirit of the Lord came upon him when he was anointed. So this is a man all of a sudden that is smitten. Why? Because he cut off the king's robe. Now, was he saying in cutting off the king's robe, “You don't deserve to be king?” I don't know and I don't think anybody really really knows. Was he making a symbolic act: I'm going to take your kingdom away from you? I don't think so. I don't think it was in character for David. Was he cutting off his robe because he wanted to show Saul, “I could kill you, but I didn't; look it? I cut off your robe; I could have cut you

in two.” I think at least we have that. And it says, “[And] **so he said to his men, “Far be it from me because of the Lord that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the Lord’s anointed.” (24:6)** Now if you downloaded the study guide you know that this is what you want to mark just with three blue dots or three purple dots, if you want to have purple and yellow or your colors for God. If anointing is your picture for God’s blessing then do it in blue, whatever, and I colored it yellow. I want you to see how David treats his enemy. He knows his enemy is the Lord’s anointed. He knows that the Spirit of God had come on Saul at one time. He knows that he was anointed by God to be king. And so he’s saying, “I’m not going to kill him. I cannot kill him. It’s the Lord’s anointed.” “[And] **David persuaded his men with these words and [he] did not allow them to rise up against Saul....” (24:7a)** I mean he’s got 600 men in that cave or somewhere, and those men are with him. And those men are ready to go and I mean they could have Saul dead in a matter of seconds, but he persuades them not. He says, **“...And Saul arose, [and] left the cave, and went on his way.” (24:7b)** So it seems like Saul has gone into that cave to use it as a bathroom and that’s what David has done. And so Saul’s in there basically, not with anyone; he’s alone. I mean it’s a perfect setup to get rid of your enemy. And see, that’s what you may think. But remember God says, **“Vengeance is Mine. I will repay....” “...I will repay....” (Romans 12:19b)** Don’t act like God. You’re not God. Remember there is only one God and it is not you. And don’t take that stance. **“Now afterward[s] David arose and went out [to] the cave and called after Saul, saying, ‘My lord the king!’ And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.” (1Samuel 24:8)** He said, ‘I have acknowledged you as king; I have bowed to you as king.’ “[And] **David said to Saul, ‘Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, “Behold, David seeks to harm you?” Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord had given you**



**today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ (24:9-10) And you want to mark it again. “Now, my father...indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand!...” “See it!” He says, “...For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, ...I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait [to take my life].” (24:11) “...I have not sinned against you....”**

What is God’s Word to you today? What is God’s precept so that you might live? It is this, that you are not God. You don’t take vengeance because if you take vengeance it will eat your lunch, and God will have to deal with you. You trust God even as David trusted God. O Beloved, don’t miss the next program. Don’t miss it. These are valuable precepts for life that you need in order to make it in the wilderness.