

# 2 Samuel 22:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;

## Analysis

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**When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid;**

This verse contributes to the narrative of David's Song, emphasizing praising God for deliverance. David's psalm of deliverance (parallel to Psalm 18) celebrates God's faithfulness throughout his tumultuous reign. The Hebrew poetry employs vivid imagery of divine intervention, warrior language, and covenant terminology. Theological themes include praising God for deliverance, reviewing God's faithfulness in retrospect, the righteousness of God's judgments, and anticipation of ultimate victory through God's anointed (messianic overtones).

## Historical Context

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The historical setting of 2 Samuel 22 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding praising God for deliverance provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid

anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of praising God for deliverance?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

## Interlinear Text

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|                |           |                |             |               |                |            |            |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| בְּלִי עַל     | גַּדְלֵל  | מִתְּנַכֵּל    | מִתְּנַכֵּל | מִשְׁבְּרֵי   | אָפָּגֶן       | בְּיַיְמֵי | בְּיַיְמֵי |
| H3588          | compassed | When the waves | of death    | me the floods | of ungodly men |            |            |
|                | H661      | H4867          | H4194       | H5158         |                | H1100      |            |
|                |           |                |             |               |                |            |            |
| בְּאַתְּנִי:   |           |                |             |               |                |            |            |
| made me afraid |           |                |             |               |                |            |            |
|                |           |                |             |               |                |            |            |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jonah 2:3** (Parallel theme): For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

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