

An aerial photograph of a lighthouse situated on a rugged, rocky island. The lighthouse is a tall, cylindrical structure with a white top section and a dark lower section. The surrounding water is a deep blue, and white waves are crashing against the rocky shore, creating a dramatic and powerful scene. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

# **Promise, Power, and Purpose**

**Psalm 138:7-8**



What is Palm Sunday?

**Why is it relevant today?**

# Psalm 138

<sup>1</sup> I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup> I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks  
to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted above all things  
your name and your word.

<sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me;  
my strength of soul you increased.

# Psalm 138

- <sup>4</sup> All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth,  
<sup>5</sup> and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he knows from afar.

# Psalm 138

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;  
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

# Our Theme

God has made a promise *to* His people and exerts His power *toward* His people and fulfills all of His purposes *for* His people.

# **Promise, Power, and Purpose**

God makes a promise to you.

## **Psalm 138:7**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand  
against the wrath of my enemies,  
and your right hand delivers me.



# God's Promise?

“You **will** walk through trouble.”

Psalm 138:7

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble,**

you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand  
against the wrath of my enemies,  
and your right hand delivers me.

## Psalm 138:7

Though **I walk** in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand  
against the wrath of my enemies,  
and your right hand delivers me.



David walked through many troubles.

The Jews of Jesus' day walked  
through many troubles.

We are walking through trouble right now.

# Jesus' Promise?

**John 16:33**

**In the world you have tribulation.**

# Ongoing Present-Tense Reality

John 16:33

In the world **you have** tribulation.



**Everyone** will experience trouble;  
this world is filled with trouble.

**Troubles do not discriminate!**

# God's Promise to the believer?

“I will preserve your life.”



Psalm 138:7

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David put His trust for preservation  
in the hands of His God.

But like the Jews of Jesus' day,  
we are tempted to misinterpret  
the promise God made.

# How did the Jews understand the promise?

## John 6:15

Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

**They were looking for an earthly king.**

**John 6:15**

Jesus therefore perceiving that they were intending  
to come and take Him by force, **to make Him king,**  
withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

# How did the Jews understand the promise?

## Mark 11:9-10

And those who went before, and those who followed after,  
were crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord;

Blessed is **the coming kingdom of our father David;**  
Hosanna in the highest!”

They were expecting immediate deliverance from temporal troubles.

**What are we expecting  
from the Lord?**

# What did God promise?

## Psalm 138:7

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God did rescue David from  
temporal trouble...

...and yet he died.

**But though he did die,  
yet he lives!**

# Jesus' Promise to us?

**John 11:25-26**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life;  
he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies,  
and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?"

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# Your response?

## John 11:25-26

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Do you believe this?"

# Promise, Power, and Purpose

God makes a promise to you.

God exerts His power toward you.

# **God's Power Toward You?**

He will overthrow all your enemies.

# God's Power toward David

## Psalm 138:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand  
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# God's Power toward David

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# Who were David's enemies?

Saul

Abner

Absalom

Shimei

The surrounding nations.

**God overthrew ALL of David's enemies!**

# Who are your enemies?

## Satan

1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary**, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

## Your flesh/lusts

1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, **which wage war** against the soul.

# Who are your enemies?

## The World

1 John 3:13

Do not marvel, brethren, if **the world hates you.**

## Death

1 Corinthians 15:26

The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

**God has overthrown ALL of your enemies!**



# God's power toward you?

## Satan

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,  
“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom  
of our God and the authority of His Christ have come,  
for **the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down**,  
who accuses them before our God day and night.

## Your Flesh/Lusts

Romans 7:24-25

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free  
from the body of this death?

Thanks be to God **through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

# God's power toward you?

## The World

John 16:33

In the world you have tribulation,  
but take courage; **I have overcome the world.**

## Death

2 Timothy 1:10

...**our Savior Christ Jesus...abolished death**, and  
brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

# God's Power Toward You

He will overthrow all your enemies.

He will save you.

# God's Power toward David

## Psalm 138:7

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# God's Power toward David

## Psalm 138:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand  
against the wrath of my enemies,

and **your right hand delivers me.**

The deliverance David had in mind was primarily physical and temporal.

**But the greatest deliverance God provides is spiritual and eternal!**

# God's Power toward you

## Psalm 138:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand  
against the wrath of my enemies,

and **your right hand delivers me.**

# Delivers me from what?

# God's deliverance?

## **1 Thessalonians 1:10**

...you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.



# God's deliverance?

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...you turned to God from idols to serve a living

and true God, and **to wait for His Son** from heaven,  
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come.

# What does this mean for you?

## 1 Peter 1:3-5

..God ... has caused [you] to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

# **Promise, Power, and Purpose**

God makes a promise to you.

God exerts His power toward you.

**God has a purpose for you.**

**Psalm 138:8**

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.



**God has a purpose for you**

You are the work of His hands.

**Psalm 138:8**

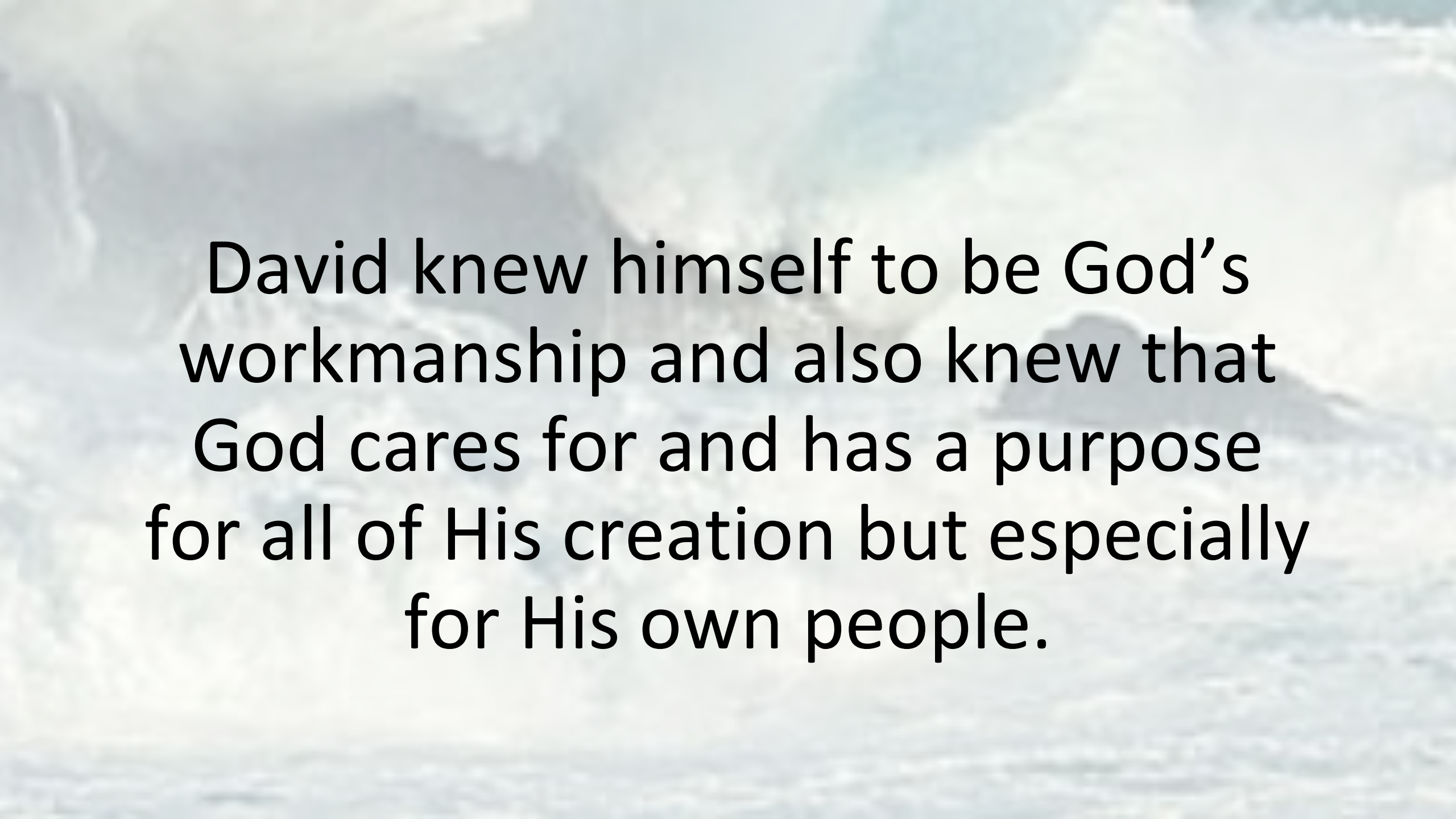
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## **Psalm 138:8**

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your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

**Do not forsake the work of your hands.**



David knew himself to be God's workmanship and also knew that God cares for and has a purpose for all of His creation but especially for His own people.

# You are the work of God's hands!

**Psalm 100:3**

Know that the LORD Himself is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.



# You are the work of God's hands!

**Psalm 100:3**

Know that the LORD Himself is God;

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**Psalm 100:3**

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**Ephesians 2:10**

For **we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus  
for good works, which God prepared beforehand,  
that we should walk in them.

If God has made you and has called you to be His child, surely He loves you and has a purpose for you!

**He will not fail in either!**

**Psalm 138:8**

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
**your steadfast love, O LORD, endures**  
**forever.**

Do not forsake the work of your hands.



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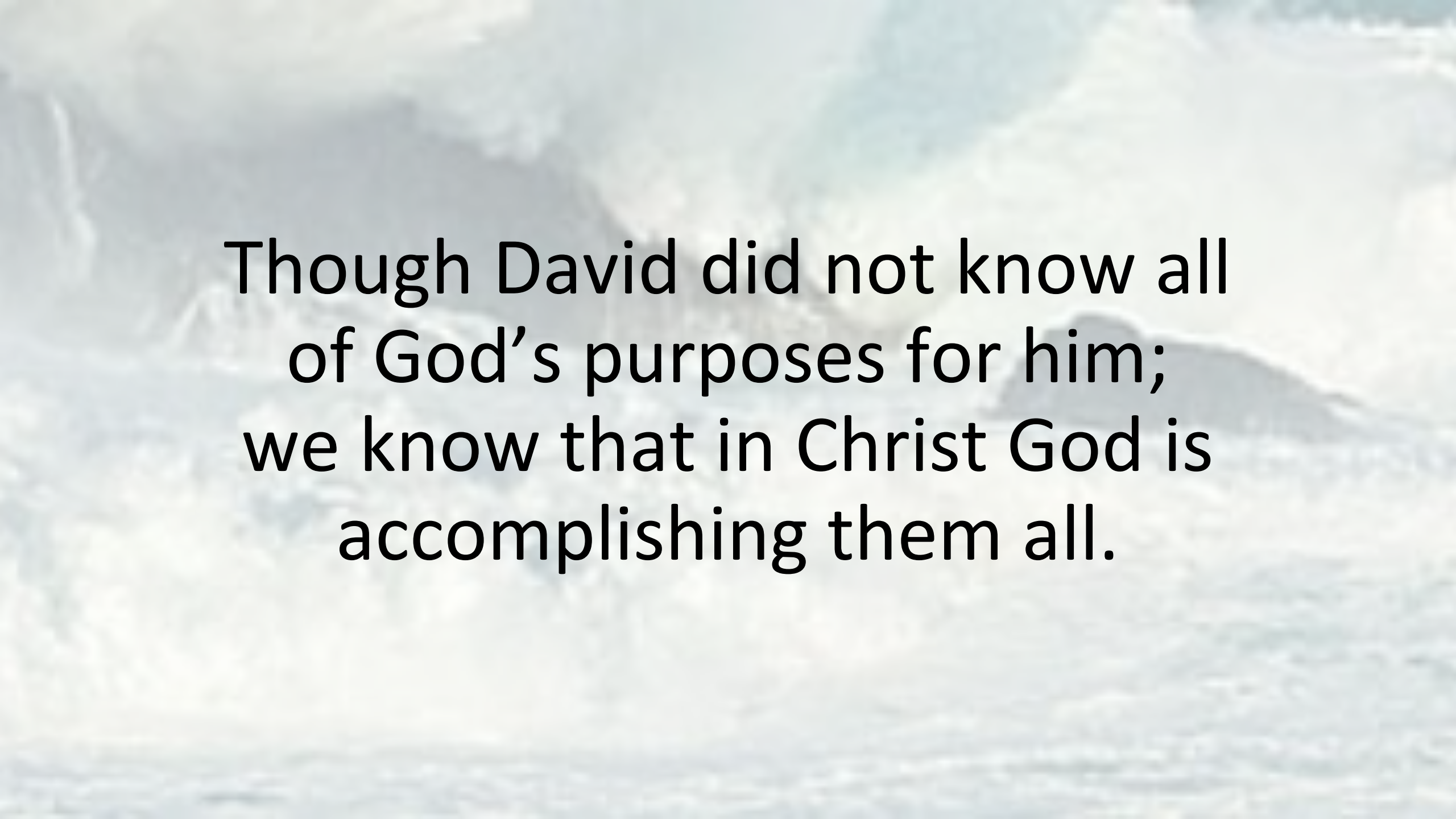
He **will** fulfill His purpose for you.

Psalm 138:8

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;

your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.



Though David did not know all  
of God's purposes for him;  
we know that in Christ God is  
accomplishing them all.

Though we do not and cannot  
know all of God's purposes for us;  
we can know that He **is** and  
**will** fulfill them!

**Philippians 1:6**

For I am confident of this very thing,  
that He who began a good work in you  
**will** perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

**God is not quarantined;  
He has not been furloughed!**

We don't need to know all or any of what the Lord is doing in or through us.

**We just need to know that we are His and He is ours!**

# **Concluding Thoughts:**

Let's not fall into the same old temptations, looking for material and temporal hope.



# **Concluding Thoughts:**

Instead, let's look to the promise of Christ and anticipate the display of His power and trust that He is fulfilling His purpose in spite of what we see around us.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rugged coastline. In the foreground, there are large, light-colored rocks. The ocean is a deep blue, with white foam from waves crashing against the shore. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

**Concluding Thought:**

Let's Remember and Rejoice!