

David, for he was chosen when he was the despised one. (1 Sam. xvi.) The *preserving* power of grace shines in David, for he is kept, and kept holy and harmless too, when persecuted and tempted of the enemy. (1 Sam. xviii. 30.)

The *victory* of grace shines in David for the hand of the Lord leads him through all resistance and enmity up to the place of honour and safety. (2 Sam. i.-x.) And lastly, the brightest too of all displays, the *restoring* power and love of grace shines in David, for when after all the divine goodness he sinned against the Lord and caused His Name to be blasphemed, grace restores the soul, and leads it again in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. (2 Sam. xi. 23.) Thus grace makes a blessed shew of itself in this wondrous and varied history, that whether we be sinners still at a distance, or saints who have been overtaken and lost our due place and honour in joy and blessing, we may still know what God is to our holy encouragement and comfort. The (saint) wants the same treasures of grace after he has believed as he did before. Nothing but fulness of it will do for him. But Jesus still has it to the end. He not only *elects*, *preserves* and *blesses*, through His grace, but He *restores* also, and this is to His highest praise. . . . David the blotted, tainted David has a song. (2 Sam. xxiii.) He tasted 'tis true the dreadful bitterness of trespassing against the God of all goodness, but grace had its way in his soul, and *gives David a song again*.