

Bible Study October 23, 2024

2 SAMUEL 23 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

The Last Words of David

¹ Now these are the last words of David:

***The oracle of David, the son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man who was raised on high,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the sweet psalmist of Israel:***

**² “The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me;
his word is on my tongue.**

**³ The God of Israel has spoken;
the Rock of Israel has said to me:**

***When one rules justly over men,
ruling in the fear of God,***

**⁴ he dawns on them like the morning light,
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,
like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.**

**⁵ “For does not my house stand so with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.**

***For will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?***

**⁶ But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away,
for they cannot be taken with the hand;**

**⁷ but the man who touches them
arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear,
and they are utterly consumed with fire.”**

2 Samuel 7:16-19 (ESV) ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David. ¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? ¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God. You have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord God!

David's Mighty Men

1 Samuel 22:2 (ESV) - ² And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

⁸ These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.

⁹ And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew. ¹⁰ He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the Lord brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

¹¹ And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. ¹² But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the Lord worked a great victory.

¹³ And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. ¹⁴ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. ¹⁵ And David said longingly, "Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!"

¹⁶ Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the Lord. ¹⁷ and said, "Far be it from me, O Lord, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

David poured out the water as an offering to God because he was so moved by the sacrifice it represented. When the Israelites offered sacrifices, they never consumed the blood. It represented life, and they poured it out before God. David would not drink this water that represented the lives of his soldiers. Instead, he offered it to God.

¹⁸ Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against three hundred men and killed them and won a name beside the three. ¹⁹ He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

²⁰ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two ariels of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen. ²¹ And he struck down an Egyptian, a handsome man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. ²² These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and won a name beside the three mighty men. ²³ He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

²⁰ Benaiah killed a lion, and He went to fight with a staff and took the man's spear and killed him with His own spear.

Each of us will be influenced by those we surround ourselves with. David was a mighty man of valor, and his men accomplished valiant feats. Just as we can be influenced for good we can be influenced for evil, so we must choose our friends wisely.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV) ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals

- 1 Corinthians 15:33 (KJV) ³³ *Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*

²⁴ *Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,*
²⁵ *Shammah of Harod, Erika of Harod, 26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh of Tekoa,*
²⁷ *Abiezer of Anathoth, Mebunnai the Hushathite, 28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai of*
Netophah, 29 Heleb the son of Baanah of Netophah, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the
people of Benjamin, 30 Benaiah of Pirathon, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash, 31 Abi-albon the
Arbathite, Azmaveth of Bahurim, 32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,
³³ *Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite, 34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai*
of Maacah, EIAM the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite, 35 Hezro of Carmel, Paarai the Arbite,
³⁶ *Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite, 37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth,*
the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah, 38 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,
³⁹ *Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.*

These verses tell of some of the exploits that the special corps of David's army carried out. There were two elite groups of men: "the Thirty" and "the Three" (23:18, 23; 1 Chronicles 11:11-25). To become a member of one of these groups, a man had to show unparalleled courage in battle as well as wisdom in leadership. "The Three" was the most elite group. The list of "the Thirty" actually contains 37 names, but it mentions some warriors known to have died (Uriah, for example, in 2 Samuel 23:39). Apparently new members were appointed to replace those who had fallen in battle.