

2nd Samuel Chapter 23

V: 1 The last words of David; more or less the end of the story of David's life. We'll still review a few things that are filling in some of those historical blanks, in 1st Kings we'll see David as the bed ridden king who passes the mantle of leadership onto his son Solomon – so this is the beginning of that end.

- Great men like Moses, Joshua, and David – their last words leave us a legacy of faith, not speaking of trivial things, focusing on important things, things eternal.
- The son of Jesse – David came from humble beginnings, a shepherd boy, the least in his household – raised up on high by the Lord, anointed to be king.
- David acknowledged that God had raised him up, not that he was in any way a “self-made” man.

David was picked out by God himself to be king:

Deuteronomy 17:15 “Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee...”

- David was chosen by God to be king over Israel.

Psalms 75:6 “⁶For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and sitteth up another.”

- God empowers those whom He calls, and He anointed David with His Spirit:

1 Samuel 16:12-13 “¹²... And the Lord said, arise, anoint him: for this is he. ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward...”

- Declared to be the “sweet psalmist of Israel.” At least 73 of the 150 Psalms are attributed to David's authorship.

V: 2 David knew that he was speaking, writing by the power of the Spirit:

Peter acknowledged this:

Acts 2:29-30 “²⁹Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. ³⁰Therefore being a prophet,...”

2 Peter 1:19-21 “¹⁹We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: ²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the

prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

- Jesus affirmed the fact that David was inspired by God:

Mark 12:36 “For David himself said by the Holy Ghost,”

- David’s heart was open to the things of the Lord, he was willing to be used of and to speak for, to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- May that be true of each of us as well!

V: 3-4 The God of Israel, The “Rock” of Israel had spoken to David, and he had come to understand the most important principals of leadership:

David wasn't the only one to see God that way, so did Moses:

Deuteronomy 32:3-4 “³Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.”

- Of course the “Rock” of Israel is none other than Jesus himself.

Paul, speaking of Israel's wilderness wandering years:

1 Corinthians 10:4 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

- To rule over men, one must fear God and be ruled by Him, submitted to Him, otherwise its tyranny.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

- One who rules in submission to the Lord will be a blessing to those whom he rules, like a beautiful sunrise on a cloudless day – there will be clarity.
- It will be like the tender grass springing out of the earth after the rain on a spring day.

Pictures of green grass in various places: Gath, Ephraim, Bet Shan.

- David is prophesying of the reign of Jesus, what a wonderful day that that will be when he reigns and rules on earth!

V: 5 Although, my house – not so, David admitting that he had not been a good leader in his home, admitting his failures as a husband and father.

- “Yet” – nevertheless, God made an everlasting covenant, He made a promise to David that one of his descendants would be the Messiah who would sit upon his throne forever.
- Like Abraham, David believed God and took Him at His word!

“Ordered in all things and sure...” David was confident just as we should be also.

- David acknowledging God’s grace and mercy in his life – and that upon these things does his salvation rest.

Paul expressed the same thing:

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 6-7 But on the contrary: the sons of Belial – sons of the Devil, the wicked ones will be like grabbing a thorny branch which is quickly cast away.

- Anyone taking hold of them must wear iron gloves and pick them up with a spear to toss them into the fire, where they will be destroyed.
- V: 4-7 So this beautiful metaphor that a Godly leader is like a beautiful sunrise on a bright cloudless day, like the grass that comes up after the spring rains speaking of fruitfulness and the contrast of the ungodly leader that is like a thorny branch that when it pricks your hand is quickly thrown away, eventually into the fire.

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- Now we have a listing of David’s might men of valor: The listing in 1 Chronicles Ch. 11 parallels this list then adds another 16 names. The list from 2 Samuel are the men who were with David when he was running from Saul, the list from 2nd Chronicles adds the names of the men who joined David’s ranks as he reigned, and the military exploits that followed.

V: 8 **Tachmonite**: “thou will make me wise” - **Josheb-Basshebeth, Adino**. Being chief of these men, he was more than likely the toughest of them all.

- **Adino** – “lifted up his spear” to kill 800 men in one battle.
- The lifting up of our hands is symbolic of prayer – because he lifted up his hands God gave him victory over his enemies.

Whole armor, big guns:

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”

- If we want to be mighty for God we must be a man or woman of prayer.

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”

- The battles that we're engaged in are won or lost depending on prayer:

A good example of this is the battle with the Amalekites:

Exodus 17:8-12 “⁸Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.
⁹And Moses said unto Joshua, choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. ¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.”

- As long as Moses' hands were raised there was victory, and when he grew weary, other men came along side and strengthened him in prayer which led to the victory.

V: 9-10 **Eleazar** – fighting so hard and so long in defeating the Philistines that his hand became one with his sword.

- If we want to be like one of David's mighty men of valor for God, then our hand must cleave to the sword – the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Ephesians 6:17 “... the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

- The Word of God should always be in our hand, we should be very familiar with it, know how to use it – our lives depends on it.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”

Romans 10:17 “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

- That is not just a verse that is directed at others... it is directed at us – our faith grows stronger the more we are into and connected to, cleaving to the Word of God.

V: 11-12 **Shammah** – stood alone to defend a “hill of beans” – “and the Lord wrought a great victory!”

- The Philistines and all the other enemies always seemed to attack when there was a harvest to be stolen away – in this case a hill of lentil beans.
- **Shammah** = “Frightful” – “Astonishment” When everyone else fled the scene, **Shammah** remained faithful, he stood his ground and fought.
- Why risk your life for a hill of beans? Because it belonged to the Lord!

Leviticus 25:23 “The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine (God’s); for ye are strangers and sojourners with Me.”

- If we’re going to be used then we need to be faithful to what the Lord has called us to until He says to do something else. **Shammah**’s job was to guard those beans and he did – and the Lord wrought a great victory.

1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Shammah reminds me of what we read about the full armor of God in Ephesians:

Ephesians 6:13 ¹³“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
¹⁴Stand therefore....”

- True Christianity is not a limp wristed, spineless, wimpy kind of a movement – we’re called to take a stand, and to take it again, and again – our faith and God’s word doesn’t change with the shifting morays of our culture – we’re called to take a stand on all kinds of stuff.
- Shammah had that kind of an attitude that said I’m going to serve the Lord even if it kills me!

Romans 14:12 “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lords.”

V: 13-17 David is hiding out in the cave of Adullam, the Philistines are encamped in the valley below, and in the city of Bethlehem, about 12 miles away.

- He mentions how nice it would be to drink from the well in Bethlehem. **Three of the mighty** men take off to fulfill David’s desire.
- They fight through the Philistines and bring back the water from the well in Bethlehem, and gave it to David.
- Their desire was simply to please their captain, their king – that should be our desire as well to please our King and Savior.

John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.”

- David receives this precious gift but won't drink it, instead he offers it as a drink offering, he pours it out to the Lord because these men had risked their lives to please David.
- David took that which was precious to him, that which he desired, his will and offered it as a sacrifice unto the Lord.

Jesus would later say in the garden:

Luke 22:42 “... Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but thine, be done.”

- Jesus set His will aside to please the Father, and we're called to do the same.

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

- If we're going to be used of God then we have to be willing to give up that which is precious to us, to yield our desires, and our will to Him as an act of worship – as a living sacrifice to our Lord.

V: 18-19 **Abishai**, Joab's brother – **Abishai** who saved David from the giant in chapter 21; killed 300 men with a spear in one battle.

- **Abishai**, Joab's brother – but there is no mention of Joab in this list of mighty men of valor – he was definitely a fearsome warrior, a killing machine, but not a man of prayer, or of the Word, or of faith. He didn't make the list:

Matthew 7:22 “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?”

- Like David, Joab had murdered and been deceitful – but unlike David there is no record of him ever repenting of those things which were in his heart.
- In the end Joab was disloyal to David and tried to put Adonijah on the throne instead of David's chosen successor Solomon, and this cost him his life.

V: 20-23 **Benaiah**: (Levite) “Yahweh has Built” – he killed two fierce lion like men of Moab, he killed a lion, and a big Egyptian (Chronicles / 7'6" tall), taking his spear from him and killing him with it.

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- Appointed to be chief over David’s personal guard, one of David’s most trusted men who went on to serve Solomon in his reign.
- The same tactic that worked for Banaiah and the big Egyptian will work for us, take the enemies weapon away, the favorite weapon of our adversary is the lie.

John 8:31-32 ³¹... if ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

V: 24-39 **Asahel**, Joab & Abishai’s fleet footed brother who didn’t know when to stop, he wouldn’t stop chasing Abner and died for it.

- **Eliam**, Ahithophel’s son.
- **Uriah** the Hittite.
- Valiant men, warriors, all loyal to David – proven in battle.
- Another obvious omission on this listed of the who’s who list of valiant men is David himself, truly a valiant warrior – their leader in every sense of the word.
- These men were devoted to David, and he was devoted to them.
- This list is proof that David couldn’t have done all the things he did alone, or without them.
- All these men recognized God’s hand being upon David and wanted to be part of what God was doing through him.
- As a servant of Jesus Christ, we’ve been inducted into His army.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 ³Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

Summary:

1. Adino – prayer
2. Eleazar – Sword / Word.
3. Shammah – Stand / Commitment
4. 3 Unknown might men – living to please their Lord.
5. Benaiah – walking in the truth.