

Famous “Last Words”

*Dwight Eisenhower, January 17, 1961.*

*Delivered by television broadcast to the American public, he warned “we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.”*

*Eisenhower felt so strongly about this, that when he would get advertisements from the arms makers, he would angrily throw the magazines into his fireplace in the White House. He prepared this message over the course of two years.*

Quite an introduction! Preparing the “oracle.” (vss. 1-2)

*Oracle means, literally, “A communication from a deity.”*

*The last words of David.*

*The oracle of David.*

*The oracle of the man lifted on high.*

*The anointed of Israel.*

*The sweet psalmist.*

*The Spirit speaks by me.*

*His word is on my tongue.*

*The God of Israel has spoken.*

*The Rock of Israel has said to me.*

The Oracle (vss. 3-7)

Prosperity under the king’s rule

*“will he not cause to prosper all my help [salvation] and desire?”*

His just rule is like morning sun and rain on the grass

*The king’s rule is compared with “three lovely experiences common to mankind everywhere: the early morning, when light dawns, the warmth of the sun on a cloudless morning, and rain that enables grass to sprout even after a long drought.” – Joyce Baldwin, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary*

*Psalm 72:6-8 (of Solomon)*

*<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!*

*<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!*

*<sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!*

David’s assurance

*He has made with me an everlasting covenant.*

*2 Samuel 7:12-13 “I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”*

**What Are the Blessings of Living Under the Rule of Christ?**

According to professor Jerram Barrs, from Pastor Brian’s class notes circa 2009:

Blessing 1 – the pleasure of the Lord (Psalm 147:11)

Blessing 2 – eternal rewards (Matthew 6:19)

Blessing 3 – rewards within ourselves and in our lives (clear conscience, healthy relationships, calling/purpose)

Blessing 4 – material prosperity (Prov. 8:18, Prov. 3:16, Psalms 112:3, Proverbs 10:15)

**How Does the *Abnormality* of the Fall Affect These Blessings?**

Abnormality never changes the pleasure of the Lord.

Abnormality never changes the eternal consequences or rewards.

Abnormality cannot change the clear conscience (though some are so sensitive, or crushed by life, that their consciences are always troubled).

Abnormality can change the fulfillment of our humanity. There is no guarantee people will treat us like we treat others – spouses can be unfaithful, people can betray us, some never get to experience our full calling or purpose.

Abnormality can change the material prosperity – accidents, sickness, disasters come to all.

**The King and the Thorns**

*Genesis 3:17-18 “Cursed is the ground because of you, in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life, thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you.”*

*Matthew 27:29 “And twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head...”*

**Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. God blesses the one who joyfully lives under his rule. Does this surprise you? Does this mean that we merit our blessings or earn them from God? Why/how is this compatible with grace?
2. What do you think about looking at the fallen state of our world as an *abnormality*?
3. Why can no circumstance remove the pleasure of the Lord from you?
4. What is the duty of a faithful subject to a king? Are you obeying him and living under his rule?