

1/17/09

**2Sam. 23-24**

When we started our study of Second Samuel, we laid out a simple outline that is presented by many commentators.

- I. The triumph's of David. 2Sam. 1-10
- II. The troubles of David. 2Sam. 11-20
- III. The trials of David. 2Sam. 21-24

Again this third division is an appendix, in that the material breaks from the chronological story of David, but will resume again in the first chapter of First Kings. 2Sam. 21-24

We have studied the first two.

- 1. The famine due to Saul braking covenant with the Gibeonites and request to be avenged. 2Sam. 21:1-14
- 2. The four battles of David and his men. 2Sam. 21:15-22
- 3. The declarative Psalm of praise by David of God's deliverance. 2Sam. 22:1-51

We want to look at the last two:

- 1. The last words of David. 2Sam. 23:1-7
- 2. The list of David's mighty men. 2Sam. 23:8-39
- 3. The pestilence due to David numbering the people and the appeasement. 2Sam. 24:1-25

**23:1-7**

**The last words of David.**

**23:1-2** The introduction to the Psalm. vs. 1-2

- 1) The identity of his words, "These are the last words of David. vs. 1a  
\* Not that they were the very last but those close to the end of his life, but rather those near the close of his life!

- 2) The identity of his person. vs. 1b-e  
\* The superscription. vs. 1b-2  
a) David was the son of Jesse. vs. 1b  
b) David was the man raised up on high. vs. 1c  
c) David was the anointed of the God of Jacob. vs. 1d  
d) David was the sweet psalmist of Israel. vs. 1e

- 3) The identity of the words. vs. 2  
a) The Spirit of the LORD spoke by David. vs. 2a  
b) The words of God were on David's tongue. vs. 2b  
\* As they were on the mouth of Balaam. Num. 23:2, 4

**23:3-4** The description of the words.

- 1) The source of inspiration, "The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me." vs. 3a-b  
\* The prophets were carried along by the Holy Spirit God. 2Pet. 1:20-21

- 2) The sound revelation, “He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.” vs. 3c-d  
\* Expired out from God. 2Tim. 3:16-17
- 3) The applicable benefit. vs. 4
- a) He will lead in truth, “And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises.” vs. 4a
  - b) He would be an encouragement, “A morning without clouds.” vs. 4b
  - c) He would be vibrant leader prospering them, “Like the tender grass springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.” vs. 4c-d

**23:5-7** The reflection of God’s judgment.

- 1) David was Gods’ son. vs. 5
  - a) Despite his past failures, “Although my house is not so with God.” vs. 5a
  - b) Due to covenant, “Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure.” vs. 5b-c  
\* The promise of Messiah. 2Sam 7
  - c) Due to God’s faithfulness, “For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase?” vs. 5d-e
- 2) The sons of Belial. vs. 6-7
  - a) Shall be judged and perish, “But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns

thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands.” vs. 6

\* The word “but” marks the sharp contrast.

- b) Shall be slain, “But the man who touches them Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place.” vs. 7  
\* The enemies of God are the enemies of David!

**23:8-39** **The list of David’s mighty men.**

**23:8-12** The first group of three mighty men of David.

- 1) The progressive list is the record the names of the mighty men who served under David. vs. 8a
  - a) Sort of an elite guard.
  - b) Even bodyguards.  
\* 1Sam. 22:2
  - c) Other lists. 2Sam. 21:15-22, 1Chron. 11:11-25
- 2) Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, was the head among the captains. vs. 8b-c
  - a) The term Tachmonite means “you will make me wise.”
  - b) He was the first among the three. 1Chron. 11:11

- 3) He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. vs. 8d-e
- The name Adino means “his ornament”.
  - Eznite means sharp, strong or spear.
  - 1Chron. differs.
- 4) The second on the list was Eleazar. vs. 9
- He was the son of Dodo, the Ahohite. vs. 9a-b
  - He was one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle. vs. 9c
  - The occasion was when the men of Israel had retreated. vs. 9d
  - His courageous bravery is recorded, “He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword.” vs. 10a-b
  - His victory was through God, “The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.” vs. 10c-d
- 5) The third on the list was Shammah. vs. 11-12
- He was the son of Agee the Hararite. vs. 11a
  - The occasion was when the Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full

of lentils and the people fled from the Philistines. vs. 11b-c

- His courageous bravery is also recorded, “But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines.” vs. 11c-d
- His victory was through God, “But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. And the LORD brought about a great victory.” vs. 12

**23:13-17** The second group of three mighty men of David.

- Three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. vs. 13a
  - 1Sam. 22:1-5
  - Adullam was 16 miles south-west of Jerusalem.
- The scenario, “And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.” vs. 13b

\* The passage. 2Sam. 5:17-25
- The occasion, “David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.” vs. 14
- The longing of David, “And David said with longing, “Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the

well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!”  
vs. 15

- 5) The loving deed of the three, “So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David.” vs. 16a-c
- 6) The loving response of David. vs. 16d-17
  - a) He offered it to the Lord,  
“Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.” vs. 16d-e  
\* Lev. 17:11-13
  - b) He gave the reason, “And he said, “Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?” vs. 17a-e
  - c) The confirmation of both loving deeds, “Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.” vs. 17f-g

**23:18-23** The third group of the mighty men of David.

- 1) The first man was Abishai. vs. 18
  - a) His family, Abishai was the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah. vs. 18a-b
  - b) His rank, Abishai was the head of another three. vs. 18c

- c) His courageous feat, “Abishai lifted his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.” vs. 18d-f
- 2) His character and rank. vs. 19
  - a) He was the most honored of the three. vs. 19a
  - b) He became their captain. vs. 19b
  - c) He however, he did not attain to the first three. vs. 19c-d
- 3) The second man was Benaiah. vs. 20
  - a) His family line, “Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds.” vs. 20a-c
    - 1)) The word valiant “chayil”, can mean strong, efficient and wealthy.
    - 2)) Kabzeel was in the south of Judah, towards the borders of Edom. Josh. 15:21
    - 3) Once he was over the “Thirty”. 1Chron. 27:6
  - b) His courageous deeds. vs. 20d-22
    - 1)) He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. vs. 20d
    - 2)) He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. vs. 20e
    - 3)) He killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went

down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. vs. 21

4) Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men by these deeds. vs. 22

4) His rank in the order. vs. 23

a) He surpassed the thirty, "He was more honored than the thirty. vs. 23a

\* These could have been formed from the cherithites and Pelethites, the body-guards of David.

b) He was not equal to the first three, "But he did not attain to the first three." vs. 23b

c) He was honored by David, "And David appointed him over his guard." vs. 23c

\* Benaiah also became Solomon's bodyguard and executioner and struck Joab down. 1Kings1-2

**23:24-39** The corporate list of 31 mighty men of David.

1) The list begins with Asahel, whose name means "God made", the brother of Joab, who was one of the "Thirty". vs. 24

a) He was the nephew of David, son of David's sister Zeruah, and brother of Joab and Abishai.

b) He was swift of foot and he was killed by Abner when he pursued him in battle and caught him. 2Sam. 2:18-23

2) The list finishes with Uriah the Hittite, whose name means "Yahweh is my light", who was also one of the "Thirty".

a) He was the husband of Bathsheba.

b) He was killed by David by ordering Joab to put him in the heat of the battle, to be killed by the Ammonites. 2Sam. 11

3) The list consist of "Thirty" but a total thirty-seven in all, which include the six listed before the list of "Thirty". vs. 8-23

4) The list in Chronicles has 16 more names, which gives evidence that the group of elite thirty were added whenever there was a replacement. 1Chron. 11:26-41a

5) It has been noted that more than half of the men are from Judah or territories close by to Judah.

**24:1-25** **The pestilence brought about by the sin of David.**

**24:1-9** The census taken by David.

1) The declaration of judgment was two-fold. vs. 1

- a) The people of Israel had sinned and David had sinned. vs. 1
  - 1)) For God to be angry, implies a failure by the people, though we are not told specifically the nature of their sin.
  - 2)) For God is Holy and perfect.
- b) The fact that God moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah, seem to be unjust. vs. 1b-c
  - 1)) But the parallel passage clears up the seeming injustice by God, revealing it was a test David failed.
  - 2)) Like in the instance of Job, God allowed the test, “Now **Satan** stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.” Job 1-2, 1Chron. 21:1
- 2) The transgression against God. vs. 2-3
  - a) David through pride wanted to assess his military might. vs. 2
    - 1)) Verse 9 makes it clear, “men who drew the sword”, from age 20 Num. 1:3
    - 2)) The census was for assessing the military might, being able to have confidence in them, instead of God.
    - 3)) The Lord was displeased. 1Chron. 21:7

- \* “Some trust in horse, some trust in chariots, but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” Ps. 20
- b) Dan to Beersheba, indicated the farthest boundary of the north to the south.
- 3) Joab understood the sin against God. vs. 3
  - a) Joab told David, the number of people do not matter to God and that was up to God. vs. 3a-c
  - b) Joab asked David his motive, for desiring “this thing”. vs. 3d
    - \* Joab warned David regarding God’s judgment, “Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?” 1Chron. 21:3f
- 4) David paid no attention to the checks by Joab and his officers, abusing and misusing his power and authority. vs. 4
- 3) The execution of the census order by David. vs. 5-9
  - a) They first went to the east. vs. 5
  - b) They then were to the north. vs. 6-7a
  - c) They went to the south. vs. 7b-8a
  - d) They returned to Jerusalem after nine months and twenty days. vs. 8b
    - \* A little longer than the time David hid his sin with Bathsheba, until Nathan was sent by God.

- e) The senses was reported to David. vs. 9
- 1) The numbers differ Chronicles. 1Chron. 21:5-6
  - 2) A possible explanation is given to us in Chronicles, “Joab the son of Zeruiah began a census, but he did not finish, for wrath came upon Israel because of this census; nor was the number recorded in the account of the chronicles of King David.” 1Chron. 27:24

**24:10-17** The plague due to the census.

- 1) David was contrite in heart. vs. 10
  - a) Conviction fell on David. vs. 10a
  - b) Confession came from David, “So David said to the LORD, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done.” vs. 10b-c
  - c) Purification was asked by David. vs. 10d-g
  - d) Humiliation marked his attitude, “for I have done very foolishly.” vs. 10h
- 2) God spoke to His prophet. vs. 11
  - a) The time was when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad. vs. 11a
  - b) Gad was David’s seer. vs. 11b
    - \* “Now the prophet **Gad** said to David, “Do not stay in the

- stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah.” So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.” 1Sam. 22:5
- 3) God sent His prophet to David. vs. 12
    - a) He was sent in the authority of Yahweh. vs. 12a-b
    - b) He was sent to offer David a choice judgment. vs. 12c-d
  - 4) Gad the prophet spoke forth the three choices. vs. 13
    - a) The first was seven years of famine. vs. 13a-c
    - b) The second was to flee three months before your enemies. vs. 13d-e
    - c) The third was three days’ plague in the land?” vs. 13f
    - d) The exhortation by Gad to David, to consider well his choices, in order to return and tell God. vs. 13g
  - 5) David chose to trust the direct hand of God rather than man’s. vs. 14
    - a) David spoke forth his choice, to fall under the mercies of God. vs. 14
    - b) God honored David’s choice, striking seventy thousand men of the people. vs. 15
    - c) God was merciful to David,, sparing Jerusalem. vs. 16
      - 1) The word relent “nacham” is used for man’s repentance but we know

God can not repent, as man repents. Num. 23:19

- 2) The used of the word appears a number a times to describe the deep grief and sorrow of God over the sin and evil of man.
- 3) Thereby acting in mercy, as He always knew He would.
- 4) The angel of the LORD, is Jesus Christ and found throughout the Scriptures. Gen. 16:7, 22:11, Ex. 3:2, Num. 22:24
- 5) The are was at Gibeon and David feared to inquire of God, due to the Angel of the LORD. 1Chron. 21:27-30
- 6) David revealed his heart of a shepherd. vs. 17
  - a) David saw the people suffer because of him. vs. 17a
  - b) David asked the Lord to judge him alone and his house. vs. 17b-g

**24:18-25** The purchase of the threshing floor by David.

- 1) David was commanded to offer sacrifice to God by Gad the prophet. vs. 18-19
  - a) Gad stated the location. vs. 18
    - 1)) The same place Isaac was offered.
    - 2)) The same place Solomon would build the temple, at the directions

of David. Gen. 22, 2Chron. 3:1, 1Chron. 22:1-6

- b) David complied in obedience. vs. 19
- 2) David went to speak with Araunah. vs. 20-22
  - a) The attitude of Aruanah towards David was one of honor and humility. vs. 20-21a
  - b) The dialogue between David and Araunah, revealed the purpose of David's coming and Auranah's benevolence. vs. 21c-22
- 3) David interceded for Israel and restored fellowship with God. vs. 23-25
  - a) Auranah expressed his kindness and desire for David's success. vs. 23
  - b) David expressed his personal responsibility and love for God. vs. 24
    - \* Is different, perhaps including other things, without doubt. 1Chron. 21:25
  - c) David sacrificed to God. vs. 25
    - 1)) David offered two offerings, one for dedication and consecration, the other for fellowship with God. vs. 25a-b
    - 2)) David was honored by God in prayer, forgiving and stopping the plague. vs. 25c-d