

**David**  
**Part 24**  
“David’s Last Words and Mighty Men”

Following David’s Return to Jerusalem other challenges arise:

1. Sheba’s Rebellion (Ch. 20) - This is short lived uprising that was quickly put to rest.
2. The Gibeonites are avenged (Ch. 21) - God deals with Israel about their mistreatment
3. Wars with Philistines continue (Ch. 21) and God continues to give Israel victory.
4. Chapter 22 is dedicated to David’s song of praise which is also written in Psalm 18.

**2 Samuel 23** NIV

**1** These are the last words of David:

“The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,  
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,  
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,  
the hero of Israel’s songs:

**2**

“The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me;  
his word was on my tongue.

**3**

The God of Israel spoke,  
the Rock of Israel said to me:  
‘When one rules over people in righteousness,  
when he rules in the fear of God,

**4**

he is like the light of morning at sunrise  
on a cloudless morning,  
like the brightness after rain  
that brings grass from the earth.’

5

“If my house were not right with God,  
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,  
arranged and secured in every part;  
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation  
and grant me my every desire.

6

But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,  
which are not gathered with the hand.

7

Whoever touches thorns  
uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;  
they are burned up where they lie.”

- From Verse 1 it's easy to think this is the end for David. But this wasn't from his deathbed, but this was the last poetic expression of David.
- 2 Samuel 23 shows us something incredible about David. For one it's a reflective chapter where David in all that he has accomplished, gives glory to God and to the incredible men that have surrounded him on his life journey.

In this last Psalm David, begins by saying

**Vs. 1a**

**The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse...**

David remembers where he came from... How important is it for David the king of all Israel and Judah to begin with remembering his humble beginning.

Who was Jesse? Jesse is someone we probably wouldn't know if it weren't for David. Jesse was a simple farmer/shepherd in Bethlehem who raised a bunch of hard working boys.

David doesn't forget that before the palace he was a simple boy from a simple family.

### **Vs. 1b**

the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High...

- Second David states an obvious and important detail. The man exalted by the Most High. David knew none of this would have happened without God.
- God put his hand on that small town shepherd boy, that shepherd boy that no one ever knew existed and God exalted him.
- God alone is gets all the credit for the rise of David.

### **Vs. 1c**

the man anointed by the God of Jacob,

- David recognizes something else very important; He was anointed by God and that anointing was real and trustworthy in his life.
- Even though Samuel the Prophet was the instrument that brought it to him, it was divine. David had a unique empowering and enabling from God.

### **Vs. 1d**

the hero of Israel's songs:

The NKJV says "the sweet psalmist of Israel"

- David had a beautiful gift of eloquence and expression of worship to God. But what made him the "**hero or sweet psalmist of Israel**" was hidden in David's deep personal relationship with God.

- During the time of David's reign, Israel had a king that forever marked their history. David was a man after God's own heart. Many kings throughout Israel's history have desired many different things but David desired God.
- For this reason David will forever be remembered as the great king of Israel. Solomon was also remembered for great accomplishments after he asked God for a discerning heart. Solomon was concerned with the task of leading the nation while David was concerned with God. For this reason David is mentioned more in scripture than any other king.
- The New Testament begins in **Matthew 1:1** with these words "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David"
- Solomon is mentioned twice in the New Testament in a sort of backhanded way.

#### **Matthew 6:28,29**

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."

*The difference between David and Solomon was found in their different relationships with God. David's passion in life was simply to be with God (**Psalms 84:10**), while Solomon's passion was personal improvement (**1 Kings 3:4-15**). We can also say that David endured to the end, loving and serving God in the final chapters of his life (**2 Samuel 23:1-7**), while Solomon forsook God in his later years (**1 Kings 11:4-8**). (Guzik)*

#### **Vs. 2-5**

2

"The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me;  
his word was on my tongue.

3

The God of Israel spoke,  
the Rock of Israel said to me:  
‘When one rules over people in righteousness,  
when he rules in the fear of God,

4

he is like the light of morning at sunrise  
on a cloudless morning,  
like the brightness after rain  
that brings grass from the earth.’

5

“If my house were not right with God,  
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,  
arranged and secured in every part;  
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation  
and grant me my every desire.

- David recognizes the word of God to him.
- With that anointing was an assignment from God that begins with hearing and obeying the instruction of the Lord.
- The text speaks to David in his political duties to Israel. If he will lead them in righteousness and the Fear of the Lord they will be blessed, refreshed and prosperous.
- The word of the Lord to David here is like the word of the Lord to Israel in **2 Chronicles 7:14**  
“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”
- When a nation walks in Righteousness and the Fear of the Lord then there is refreshing, newness and blessing from God. But where wickedness advances the blessing of God is removed.

- This is the promise of God to Israel and can be applied to any nation, including America.
- Reminds me of the words of John Adams when he wrote on October 11, 1798 "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other".

**Verses 1-7 - David points to God first and gives him glory.**

**Verses 8-39 - David also gives credit to the incredible group of men that he calls his mighty men.**

## **David's Mighty Warriors**

**8** These are the names of David's mighty warriors:

Josheb-Basshebeth, a Tahkemonite, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter.

**9** Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the Israelites retreated, **10** but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The Lord brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.

**11** Next to him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. When the Philistines banded together at a place where there was a field full of lentils, Israel's troops fled from them. **12** But Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the Lord brought about a great victory.

**13** During harvest time, three of the thirty chief warriors came down to David at the cave of Adullam, while a band of Philistines was

encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. **14** At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. **15** David longed for water and said, “Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!” **16** So the three mighty warriors broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the Lord. **17** “Far be it from me, Lord, to do this!” he said. “Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?” And David would not drink it.

Such were the exploits of the three mighty warriors.

**18** **Abishai** the brother of Joab son of Zeruiah was chief of the Three. He raised his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed, and so he became as famous as the Three. **19** Was he not held in greater honor than the Three? He became their commander, even though he was not included among them.

**20** **Benaiah** son of Jehoiada, a valiant fighter from Kabzeel, performed great exploits. He struck down Moab’s two mightiest warriors. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. **21** And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian’s hand and killed him with his own spear. **22** Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he too was as famous as the three mighty warriors. **23** He was held in greater honor than any of the Thirty, but he was not included among the Three. And David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

**24** Among the Thirty were:  
Asahel the brother of Joab,  
Elhanan son of Dodo from Bethlehem,

**25** Shammah the Harodite,  
Elika the Harodite,

**26** Helez the Paltite,  
Ira son of Ikkesh from Tekoa,

**27** Abiezer from Anathoth,  
Sibbekai the Hushathite,  
**28** Zalmon the Ahohite,  
Maharai the Netophathite,  
**29** Heled son of Baanah the Netophathite,  
Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah in Benjamin,  
**30** Benaiah the Pirathonite,  
Hiddai from the ravines of Gaash,  
**31** Abi-Albon the Arbathite,  
Aznaveth the Barhumite,  
**32** Eliahba the Shaalbonite,  
the sons of Jashen,  
Jonathan **33** son of Shammah the Hararite,  
Ahiam son of Sharar the Hararite,  
**34** Eliphelet son of Ahasbai the Maakathite,  
Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,  
**35** Hezro the Carmelite,  
Paarai the Arbite,  
**36** Igal son of Nathan from Zobah,  
the son of Hagri,  
**37** Zelek the Ammonite,  
Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah,  
**38** Ira the Ithrite,  
Gareb the Ithrite  
**39** and Uriah the Hittite.  
There were thirty-seven in all.

- When I read this, it's clear that these men were incredible and both God and David felt they were important enough to dedicate most of the chapter to them and remember their names. I can imagine David told these stories over and over and his kids and grandkids knew it very well.



- But there are also a couple other important reasons that they are named and remembered.
1. David was nothing without these men.
  2. These men were nothing without David.
- David was destined to lead; and these men chose to follow David when it wasn't cool or comfortable. They followed David for many difficult years as he ran from the threat of Saul.
  - It's important to note; these men didn't start as mighty men; these are the men spoken of in 1 Samuel 22 who were distressed, indebted, and discontented.
  - David took these men who might have been regarded as the outcasts of society and turned them into valiant warriors.
  - David could have never accomplished all he did without these men and these men could have never done it without David.
  - These remarkable men were the foundation of the greatness of David's reign and all that God called him to accomplish.

*The day for mighty men and women – heroic men and women for God – has not ended. “The triumph of the church as a whole depends upon the personal victory of every Christian. In other words, your victory, your life, your personal testimony, are important to the cause of God today. Victory for the church on the whole world-front depends upon victory in your life and in mine.” (Redpath)*