

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

I. THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID. (23)

THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID (v. 1-7)

A. (v. 1)

1. ***“Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,”***

a. *“the sweet psalmist of Israel”*

1) In the book of Psalms, there are 73 of the 150 psalms ascribed to David. He may have written more, but those are the ones directly ascribed to him.

B. (v. 2)

1. ***“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”***

a. David claims to speak under Divine revelation and inspiration.

b. **NOTE:** This verse demonstrates the verbal inspiration of Scripture.

1) Cf. [Mark 12:35-37](#) - During His Passion Week, we read, “And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? For **David himself said by the Holy Ghost**, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore himself

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

*calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son?
And the common people heard him gladly.”*

- 2) Cf. **Acts 2:30** - Peter, in speaking of David, said, “Therefore **being a prophet**, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;”

C. (v. 3-4)

1. “The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.”

- a. God is giving the REQUIREMENTS for GODLY LEADERS.
 - 1) He must *be just*.
 - 2) He must rule *in the fear of God*.
 - a) No man can rule who is not himself ruled.
 - i. Cf. **Luke 7:8** - The centurion said to Jesus, “For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.”
 - ii.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

3) He must

D. (v. 5)

1. ***“Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.”***

a. *“He hath made with me an everlasting covenant”*

1) David understood the covenant God made with him as:

a) Unconditional (*“He hath made with me”*)

b) Eternal (*“everlasting covenant”*)

2) **KEY:** The Davidic Covenant is UNCONDITIONAL and ETERNAL!

DAVID’S MIGHTY MEN (v. 8-39)

E. **The First Order of Three. (v. 8-12)**

F. **The Second Order of Three. (v. 13-39)**

1. **The Top Three of the Second Order. (v. 13-23)**

2. **The Order of the Thirty. (v. 24-39a)**

3. **The Total. (v. 39b)**

II. THE NUMBERING OF THE PEOPLE. (24)

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

THE SIN (v. 1-9)

A. (v. 1)

1. **“And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.”**

a. “again”

- 1) The first time the LORD’s anger was kindled was when there was a famine because there had not been restitution for Saul slaughtering the Gibeonites (2 Sam. 21:1).
- 2) We are not told what Israel did this time for the anger of the LORD to be kindled against them.

b. “He moved David”

- 1) **Q** = Here, it says that the LORD (“He”) moved David to number the people, however, in 1 Chronicles 21:1, it says that it was Satan who moved David to number the people. Was it the LORD or Satan?... YES! BOTH!!
 - a) Satan was the one who immediately incited David, but ultimately it was God who permitted Satan to carry out this provocation.
 - i. Cf. Job 1:6-12
 - b) **NOTE:** Satan wanted to destroy David, but it was God’s purpose to humble David to teach them a valuable spiritual lesson.
 - c) **KEY:** There are times that God will allow the enemy to come against us, but the

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

purpose is for a greater purpose, which often times is to humble us so that He can give us even more grace! ([James 4:6](#); [1 Pet. 5:5](#))

- i. Cf. [Romans 8:28](#) - “*And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”
 - ii. Cf. [Genesis 50:19-21](#) - After revealing himself to his brothers, “*And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.*”
 - d) **NOTE:** We see God’s purpose in redeeming mankind through the death of His Son ([Acts 2:14-39](#)), yet He allowed Satan to try and destroy the Son of God ([John 13:2](#); [1 Cor. 2:8](#)). God’s purpose was greater and the Devil was used as a pawn in God’s sovereign plan!
- c. “Go, number Israel and Judah”
- 1) It was not necessarily wrong for David to take a census of the people.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

- a) In the Law of Moses, there were a couple censuses taken to number the people that are ready for battle (**Num. 1 & 26**), but they were to pay a tax for the census (**Ex. 30:12-13**).
- 2) However, it was David’s motive for numbering the people that was wrong, which may have been demonstrated in a failure to pay the tax for the census (**Ex. 30:12-13**).
 - a) Josephus believed that this was the reason that God was angry, because David did not pay the tax under the Mosaic Law.
- 3) **Q** = What was David’s MOTIVE for numbering the people?...
 - a) He may have wanted to know how many people were under his authority.
 - i. **NOTE:** There is always the temptation for pastors to count the number of people in their congregation, but I believe that it is a trap that is to be avoided!! May God deliver us from numbers!
 - a. Too many look at higher numbers as the measure of success, but that is not how the Lord measures success!
 - ii. **KEY:** The Lord measures the success of a ministry by the faithfulness of the pastor and the faithfulness of the people in their ministry!!

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

- b) It seems from the context (v. 9) that David was looking at the military strength as the basis for security.
 - i. He may have been thinking about invading the surrounding nations, or their ability to defend themselves against an invading enemy, so he’s wanting to number the people to see what his chances are.
 - ii. **KEY:** In other words, David was trusting in the arm of flesh rather than trusting in the arm of the Lord.
 - a. It is always a mistake to think that a nation’s security rests in its military prowess. A nation’s strength rests in the power of its God.
 - i. Cf. **Proverbs 14:34** - *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”*
- 4) **NOTE:** Some pastors wrongly want to number their congregations because they think, “If we get more people, then we’ll have more resources. If we have more resources, we can do more and grow the church!” However, it is wrong! We need to rely on the Lord to build His Church.

B. (v. 9)

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

1. **“And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.”**
 - a. Israel = 800,000 soldiers
 - b. Judah = 500,000 men
 - c. TOTAL = 1,300,000 soldiers
 - 1) Thus, a total population of the nation would be about 6 million people.
 - d. **Q** = Why do the numbers recorded here in 2 Samuel seem to disagree with the account in 1 Chronicles?...
 - 1) Cf. **1 Chronicles 21:5-6** - *“And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all they of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword. But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.”*
 - a) Israel = 1,100,000 soldiers
 - b) Judah = 470,000 soldiers
 - c) TOTAL = 1,570,000 soldiers
 - 2) **KEY:** The discrepancy involves the difference in who was included in each report!

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

- a) Here in **2 Samuel 24**, there were 500,000 men of Judah, yet in **1 Chronicles 21** the figure is 470,000, which did not include the 30,000 men of the standing army of Judah mentioned earlier in **2 Samuel 6:1**, which is evidenced by the fact that Joab did not complete the counting of the men under Judah, which were the Tribes of Benjamin and Levi (**1 Chron. 21:6**).
- b) Also, here in 2 Samuel, the number of men of valor who drew the sword was 800,000, but DID NOT INCLUDE:
 - i. The standing army of 288,000 (**1 Chron. 27:1-15**)
 - ii. The 12,000 specifically attached to Jerusalem (**2 Chron. 1:14**).

C. (v. 10)

- 1. ***“And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.”***
 - a. David was convicted of his sin, which was immediately followed by confession.
 - 1) A lot of times, when we are convicted, we want to cover our sin instead of confess it.
 - a) Cf. **Proverbs 28:13** - *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso*

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

- b) Cf. **1 John 1:8-10** - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

THE JUDGMENT (v. 10-17)

D. (v. 13)

- 1. “...*Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land?...*”**
 - a. **Q** = Here, one of the punishments mentioned is a famine of “seven” years, but according to **1 Chronicles 21:12**, the famine was to be “three” years. Which one is right?...
 - 1) Some commentators propose that the prophet Gad actually confronted David on 2 different occasions.
 - a) They say that the language used is different between the 2 accounts.
 - i. In the 2 Samuel passage here, Gad presents it as a question.
 - ii. In the 1 Chronicles passage, it is more of a command.

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

- b) So, the thought is that this passage in 2 Samuel was given for David’s consideration, and after a little time, the prophet Gad came back to David for his decision, and by that time, God had reduced the duration of the famine from seven to three years.
- 2) Other commentators suggest that the record here in 2 Samuel is a copyist error, and that the more reliable manuscripts read “three” like the 1 Chronicles passage, so the 2 Samuel passage here should read “three” instead of “seven.”

THE PURCHASE OF MOUNT MORIAH (v. 18-25)

E. (v. 24)

1. ***“And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing...”***
 - a. Very few people understand what it is to sacrifice in giving to the LORD. Generally, most people give from their abundance, but very few ever give sacrificially unto God.
 - 1) So often we're giving to the Lord that which cost us nothing. Very few people are willing to actually give God that which really costs them something.
 - b. Cf. [Mark 12:41-44](#) - *“And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw*

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”

- 1) **NOTE:** God doesn’t measure our gifts by the amount that’s given, but He measures our gifts by how much it cost us.
 - 2) Jesus said, “*Freely you have received, freely give.*” ([Matt. 10:8](#))
 - c. **KEY:** God does not need your money, but He wants you to have a giving heart!
 - 1) A lot of times, you can tell where someone is spiritually by how they deal financially.
 - d. Cf. [Philippinas 4:19](#) - The Apostle Paul wrote a “thank you” letter to the church at Philippi because of their generous financial support they gave him on his missionary endeavors, and he wrote to them, “*My God shall supply all of your need according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus.*”
 - 1) **NOTE:** Paul the Apostle declared that God will supply the needs of giving believers! You cannot out-give God.
- 2. “...So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”**
- a. “*fifty shekels of silver*”

THRU BIBLE

2 Samuel 23–24 | “The Last Words of David”

- 1) David paid 50 shekels of silver for *the oxen*, and he also paid 600 shekels of gold for the threshing floor (1 Chron. 21:25).
 - a) Some scholars also suggest that 600 shekels of gold were paid for “*the place*,” (1 Chron. 21:25) which in the Hebrew language implies more than just the oxen and the threshing floor that was purchased here in 2 Samuel. They say that Araunah must have possessed a large portion of land on Mount Moriah which would prove valuable to David in the future.

F. (v. 25)

1. **“And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings...”**
 - a. From now on, it will only be here on Mount Moriah where God will accept sacrifice and offerings.