

King David *The Message*

2 Samuel 23:1-7

September 22, 2019 am

HDBC

Let's return to our study of King David. So please open your Bibles to 2 Samuel 23:1-7. We are not quite finished with David's life, but here we have a message from David that is described as being the last words of David. We have more to explore in this series, but let's take a look at this message from David.

He is clearly speaking more as a prophet than as a king. **Last words** – used to introduce a speech, declaration or wise saying. The language indicates that this was the last of David's prophet declarations. These were not literally the last words he spoke. It is a message from God to his nation and about his nation. But it also provides some important insights about God, about David and about leadership. With that, let's dive into the text. **Notice five things.**

1. The Messenger (1)

Notice how he describes himself. He uses four phrases.

A. Son of Jesse

Places him in the right historical context for future readers.

B. Raised on High

He was not one of the more prominent sons of Jesse. In fact, he was the last one that Jesse would have suspect to be called to serve as a king. At the request of the prophet, Samuel, he brought his sons before him so he could select the right one to be anointed as the next king. Jesse completely forgot about David.

C. Anointed of the God of Jacob

Jacob was the father of the Hebrew nation, who's name was later changed to Israel. Jacob means *one who takes another's place*. He did this with Esau on more than one occasion. The name came to be associated with a trickster. He tricked his father about Esau's blessing.

He saw God as the one who could fix his own selfish nature, and make something out of it that could be used for God's glory. God took sinful Jacob and made him into a great nation. This same God was able to take sinful David and make something good out of him.

Jacob was the head of a nation. **David** the head of a dynasty!

D. Sweet psalmist of Israel

I love this phrase. David was known by others as the sweet singer of Israel. He was the chief musician. They knew him as the one who defeated Goliath, but more importantly as the chief musician of Israel.

2. The Source (2-3)

The original source of the message is God, Himself. 4 phrases in vs 2-3 reinforce that God is the source of the message. David is only a spokesman.

A. The Spirit of the Lord spoke

David acknowledges direct revelation for this message.

B. His word was on my tongue

Clarifying that the words, not simply the ideas, belonged God.

C. The God of Israel said

The maker and guardian of Israel has a right to speak to his people.

D. The Rock of Israel spoke

Common metaphor for God. Power, stability, security. Natural fortress.

3. The Message (3b-4)

The message is simple. **God expects two things** of those whom he places in leadership over the nations. These are simple and direct.

Leaders must lead **righteously**.

Leaders must lead in **the fear of the Lord**.

There should be no confusion about what God expects of those who lead not only the nation of Israel but the nations of the world. Let me remind you

that those who are rulers and leaders over the nations are there because of the sovereignty of God. This is true of our nation and of every other nation around the world. **How his providence and our free will** are reconciled is above my paygrade. But not above His.

*The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and **bestows it on whom he wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men.*** Dan. 4:17)

Even the worst leaders have been in power within the sovereign will of God. Pharaoh of Egypt and Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. This is hard to understand, but the Bible teaches it.

David points out that God has two primary challenges for the leaders of people. Here they are again.

A. Lead righteously

Just. Innocent. Right. Without guilt. This word is used to describe God. God is righteous. So, leaders are called to lead with the same standard as God. Doing the right thing, leading the nation consistently with how God would lead the nation if he were the human leader. In step with God. **If God were to step in and take over for a year, nothing would change.**

B. Lead in the fear of the Lord

Lead with the constant awareness of the presence of God, with a desire to yield to God's will moment by moment and day by day. To act and react, to make decisions in light of the presence of God.

The one who leads righteously and in the fear of the Lord will lead the nation into the blessings of God which can be compared to three beautiful experiences that are common to mankind.

Beauty of a sunrise

Warmth of a sunny morning

New growth from the ground after it rains

All three represent stability, prosperity and security. That is what comes to a nation led by a leader who leads **righteously** and in the **fear of the Lord**.

4. The Illustration (5)

David then points to his own experience as an illustration of this truth. This is the way he sought to lead his nation. He failed . . . sometimes grossly and often. But the desire of his heart was to lead righteously and in the fear of the Lord. This was evidenced by the repentance after his failures.

He was not perfect. No ruler is expected to be. But, he the right perspective. He realized he was leading because of the sovereign appointment of God. He desired to rule in the right way. And God honored that, not only during his reign but promised to extend his dynasty.

5. The Warning (6-7)

There is a warning to the wicked. The righteous leader would be empowered to protect his nation against their enemies. They would be defeated and vanquished just as surely as thorns in a garden are pulled up, discarded and burned. David had seen this principle in action.

Takeaways:

1. God speaks, so we need to listen

He always has and will continue to do so. What God wants to be known, will be revealed. God doesn't tell us everything. We don't know everything. But the things God wants us to know, he reveals in a variety of creative ways. Here, he spoke through David. He speaks through his Word, the Bible. He speaks in a still voice through the Holy Spirit. At times he may even reveal His will through our circumstances or through others.

2. God uses people, so we need to be available

David seemed to never get over what did for him and through him. God chose a young shepherd boy who was least in his family to do great things for God. God wants to use you at this time, in this generation! Are you available to Him? Does He know that you are?

3. God establishes leaders, leaders shape nations

Those who are placed in positions to lead other people are expected to lead righteously and in the fear of the Lord. In our nation we have the privilege of selecting our leaders. It would be wise to look for and select leaders who will

do so. Pray for those elected to do so.

4. **We are all sinners, so we all need Jesus**

There is a messianic element to this text, particularly verses 5-7. David looks back to his rule over Israel as an example. But in a very subtle way he also points to the coming Messiah.

Note *everlasting covenant with me*. Then note *will he not make it grow?*

Both of these phrase point forward and hint at the Messiah, Jesus, who was to come from David's family. When he comes, He will bring a kingdom that is built on perfect righteousness. **This will involve judgment of the guilty.**

The Bible clearly tells us we are all guilty. Therefore we need Jesus. Only in Jesus can we be forgiven and avoid the judgment of God. Christ said he came not to judge but to save. He'd rather save you than judge you. But, the choice is yours. He will do one or the other!