

2 Samuel 23-24 - Things That Really Count

Your last words

2Sa 23:1-39 NIV ***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:**

- The importance of last words...
- For David, it all revolved around God - **exalted** by God, **anointed** by God, **sings** songs to and about God

The wisdom you impart to the next generation

David passes along some wisdom - about ruling in the fear of God and the future of evil men

- 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."
- **Rule in righteousness in the fear of the LORD**
 - Psa 128:1-6 NIV A song of ascents. Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. 2 You will eat the fruit of your labor; **blessings and prosperity** will be yours. 3 **Your wife** will be like a fruitful vine within your house; **your children** will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 Yes, this will be the **blessing** for the man who fears the LORD. 5 May the LORD bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. 6 **May you live to see your children's children--** peace be on Israel.
- **How do we get the fear of the LORD**
 - Pro 2:1-5 NIV My son, if you **accept** my words and **store** up my commands within you, 2 **turning your ear** to wisdom and **applying your heart** to understanding-- 3 indeed, if you **call out for insight** and **cry aloud for understanding**, 4 and if you **look for it** as for silver and **search for it** as for hidden treasure, 5 **then you will understand the fear of the LORD** and find the knowledge of God.

The legacy you will leave behind - more giant killers who relied on the LORD

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, Elikah 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, Azmaveth 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.**

2 Samuel 24

God can be trusted! (How easily we forget)

- We see above that the LORD brought a great victory that day - even when there was ONE man (see 2Sa 23:10-12)

2Sa 24:1-25 NIV Again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and **he [Satan - se 1 Chron 21:1]** incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah." 2 So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are." 3 But Joab replied to the king, "**May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it.** But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?" 4 The king's word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to

enroll the fighting men of Israel. 5 After crossing the Jordan, they camped near Aroer, south of the town in the gorge, and then went through Gad and on to Jazer. 6 They went to Gilead and the region of Tahtim Hodshi, and on to Dan Jaan and around toward Sidon. 7 Then they went toward the fortress of Tyre and all the towns of the Hivites and Canaanites. Finally, they went on to Beersheba in the Negev of Judah. 8 After they had gone through the entire land, **they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. 9 Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.**

God is merciful! (David chooses God's judgement)

10 David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "**I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant.** I have done a very foolish thing." 11 Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: 12 "Go and tell David, 'This is what the LORD says: **I am giving you three options.** Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'" 13 So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you **three years of famine** in your land? Or **three months of fleeing from your enemies** while they pursue you? Or **three days of plague in your land**? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me." 14 David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. **Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great;** but do not let me fall into human hands." 15 **So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died.** 16 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

The important things in life will cost me something!

17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "**I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family.**" 18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "**Go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.**" 19 So David went up, as the LORD had commanded through Gad. 20 When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. 21 Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "**To buy your threshing floor,**" David answered, "**so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped.**" 22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king **take whatever he wishes** and offer it up. **Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood.** 23 Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the LORD your God accept you." 24 But the king replied to Araunah, "**No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.**" So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. 25 David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. **Then the LORD answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.**
There is a cost to following Jesus

- Luk 9:51 NIV As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.
- Luk 9:57-62 NIV As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "**I will follow you wherever you go.**" 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59 He said to another man, "**Follow me.**" But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Still another said, "**I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.**" 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

We only have one life and it is short - live it well

1Ki 1:1-5 NIV When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. 2 So his attendants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm." 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. 4 The woman was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no sexual relations with her. 5 Now **Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king."** So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.

Keep your promises

1Ki 1:28-31 NIV Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba." So she came into the king's presence and stood before him. 29 The king then took an oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, 30 **I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me,** and he will sit on my throne in my place." 31 Then Bathsheba bowed down with her face to the ground, prostrating herself before the king, and said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

David dies - last words

1Ki 2:1-4 NIV When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "**So be strong, act like a man, 3 and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go** 4 and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'"