

Message #30**II Samuel 23:1-7**

It is fascinating to learn of the last words of people spoken just before they die. Just before Lucille Ball died in 1985, she was asked if there was anything she wanted. Her final words were “My Florida Water.”

Just before Michael Landon died in 1991, he said to his family, “You’re right. It’s time. I love you all.”

Just before Frank Sinatra died in 1998, he said to his wife, “I’m losing it.”

It is fascinating to learn of the last words people spoke before they died.

Verse 1 says, “These are the last words of David.” In the case of David here, when the text says these are his “last words,” we are not speaking of the last words he spoke before he died; we are speaking of the last words he wrote before he died.

David carried on some conversations before he died, but this was the last time he wrote.

We not only get to learn what his last written words were, but we get to study them.

Now when most famous people die, there are usually many responses from other people that are reported. For example, this week Colin Powell died and accolades poured in in print from all kinds of famous people. I read many of them and not one of them said one word about God. Not one of them gave God credit for anything. It was all about him and his greatness.

What a contrast to David’s final words. David wanted God to have the glory for every bit of his life. He wanted people to think in terms of what God did, not what he did.

David’s final words wanted to communicate a thought:

GOD CHOSE ME, ELEVATED ME, MADE A COVENANT WITH ME AND CONTROLLED EVERY ASPECT OF MY LIFE AND ONE DAY GOD WILL DESTROY ALL THOSE WHO ARE ARROGANT AND WICKED.

These are rich verses of Scripture. They are filled with great doctrine. Carefully observe that David identifies God as “The God of Jacob” (v. 1); “The God of Israel” (v. 3) and “The Rock of Israel” (v. 3). God has a future plan for Israel and David will play a key role in that plan. David’s last words zero in on the fact that God is the God of Israel.

Verse 1 introduces us to David and his last words. There are four introductory ways David wants to be identified:

(Way #1) - David was the son of Jesse.

From a human pedigree perspective, David was the son of Jesse. What that means is that David did not come from some impressive lineage or pedigree. David came from humble beginnings. But this humble pedigree would ultimately become the ultimate pedigree because this would be the lineage from which the Son of God would come (Isaiah 11:1-5).

(Way #2) - David was raised on high.

David said I am just a man and it was God who took me from being a lowly shepherd and raised me to becoming king. It was God who chose David and it was God who raised him up.

(Way #3) - David was anointed by God.

God singled out David and anointed him. David stood in awe of the fact that God chose him. David did not anoint himself to be king and even though Samuel did anoint him to be king, David knew it was God who did it.

(Way #4) - David was the sweet Psalmist of Israel.

David was a writer of songs and poetry. In the book of Psalms he wrote 73 Psalms that we specifically know. This is more than any other writer. He wrote theologically, intelligently and beautifully. Everything he wrote was designed to communicate truth about God and he wrote with eloquence.

The fact is, we sing hymns in church today that we can trace back to David. He was the first to bring quality music into Israel's worship (I Chronicles 25:1-7). He appointed 288 very skilled musicians to play music and sing.

There are 14 last words we may glean from this text:

LAST WORD #1 – The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me. **23:2a**

David stood in awe of this reality. He never got over the fact that not only did God anoint him, but God used His Spirit to write and speak for Him. David says the source of the words I wrote was the Spirit of God. In other words, when I spoke or wrote, it was not my words; I spoke prophetic words from God.

Apparently there were times when David was very much aware of the fact that what he was writing was in fact the inspired word of God because God's Spirit was doing it.

I heard a tape of Lewis Sperry Chafer tell the story of when C. I. Scofield first received the first box of Scofield reference Bibles and he gave one to Dr. Chafer. Dr. Chafer said that Scofield said when he got that Bible, he was detached from it.

He said he wrote it but it was like it wasn't him writing it. That must have been what it was like for David. He realized he was writing, but God's Spirit was the one doing it.

LAST WORD #2 – God's word was on my tongue. **23:2b**

The very words I spoke and wrote were God's word. In other words, I revealed the word of God. By referring to the tongue, he is referring to the very words he uttered. So what we learn here is the actual words are inspired, not just concepts.

LAST WORD #3 – God actually spoke to me. **23:3a**

Now one of the things that God spoke to David was about being the kind of leader that He could and would bless. David realized that God was the God of Israel and the Rock of Israel and God had put David in charge as King and he had a tremendous responsibility to rule in the manner God demanded.

He was to be a righteous leader. He was to lead people into the righteous, true ways of God. In fact, there would be results given for being a righteous leader, and there would be results given for being a wicked leader.

He was to be a leader who ruled in the fear of God. In other words, God told him that he was to rule in righteousness and in fear of Him.

David obviously took God's word seriously in his leadership responsibilities.

LAST WORD #4 – God said that one who rules righteously will be a light. **23:3b-4**

The greatest leaders are leaders who view their responsibilities as an entrustment from God. They will seek to make righteous and just decisions. David saw the importance of this. A true leader will rule over men in righteousness. His counsel and decisions will be based on what is right according to God's word. This kind of person will be a shining light to the world.

LAST WORD #5 – God said that one who rules in fear of God will be a light. **23:3c-4**

This is what God told David. Any leader who does not fear the LORD has no business leading. In fact, he should be afraid to lead because God will hold him highly accountable.

A true leader of God will rule over men in the fear of the LORD. This person will have a reverence, respect and fear of God and realize that every decision he makes he will be accountable to God.

This kind of person will be like a refreshing sunshine to a dark cloudy world.

LAST WORD #6 – David’s house was a refreshing light. **23:5a**

A leader has the potential of being a shining and refreshing light to people. Any leader who purposes to lead with a fear of the LORD and make righteous decisions will be a very refreshing light in a very cloudy world.

We know that David was not a perfect man. He sinned, he dealt with the sin and lived with the consequences of the sin. God has restored him. The one thing about David, though, is that he did seem to always try to judge in righteousness and in the fear of God. With the exception of the episode with Bathsheba, David did have an impeccable track record.

When you compare David’s reign as king with Solomon’s reign as king, we would conclude that for the most part Solomon had a scandal free life. But here is what we read in I Kings 11:4- “When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God as the heart of David his father had been.”

So even though David had one scandal in his life, David finished his life wholly devoted to God and Solomon did not.

Now here is the point. When you track statements in Scripture about David, he is the one who ends up being praised and not Solomon (Ps. 89:20; Is. 55:3-4; Rom. 1:3; Rev. 22:16).

It is through David that the light of the world comes. It is David’s house that was a refreshing light to the whole world because he feared the Lord, he faced the sin and he ruled in righteousness.

LAST WORD #7 – God made an everlasting covenant with me. **23:5b**

David simmered on this fact in his final days of life. In spite of his failures and sin, God has made an everlasting, non-ending covenant with David. This is the Davidic covenant.

David’s family would be blessed forever and one from David’s line would sit on a Davidic throne forever.

When we get to the end of our days on earth and reach our time of departure, this thought, if you are wise, will be one we will have. God has entered into an everlasting covenant with us through Jesus Christ that guarantees us heaven.

It is not a temporal covenant; it is an everlasting life covenant. That is a tremendous thought to have in the final days of any of our lives.

LAST WORD #8 – God sovereignly ordered all things in my life. **23:5c**

David did not believe anything in his life happened by chance. He believed God ordered all things in his life. He believed that God was sovereign in all aspects of his life.

LAST WORD #9 – God was David’s security in life. **23:5d**

David never believed that his security came from him or his bodyguards. He believed his security came from God.

LAST WORD #10 – God gave me salvation. **23:5e**

God’s salvation is His greatest gift to any sinner. As we get into our final days on this earth, this becomes a cherished doctrine and possession.

LAST WORD #11 – God fulfilled my desires. **23:5f**

God is able to bring to fruition every desire a person has. The ultimate desire is to be with God, having lived life in a reverence for Him and having lived a righteous life.

LAST WORD #12 – God gave growth. **23:5g**

Growth comes from God. Growth in our spiritual lives, growth in our righteous desires comes from God, and David said it was God who did that.

In the final days of his life, David was thinking about himself and God’s kingdom. It was God who could make it grow.

LAST WORD #13 – God will thrust away worthless people. **23:6**

David was looking into the future and he saw a time when God would rid the world of God-mocking, Israel-hating, Bible-rejecting people. Worthless men will not receive the blessings of God. Worthless people must be destroyed by God because no man can stop them. They are ferocious.

LAST WORD #14 – God will completely burn worthless people and everything they have.
23:7

David believed people will literally burn forever. That is what the Bible teaches. God’s righteous leader will remove all evil leaders. Righteous leaders purge evil, wicked leaders from their realm.

Wicked people will burn forever. That is what David thought about in the final things he wrote.