

# THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

---

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • TV106B

A television broadcast sermon delivered  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 1979

By  
**HENRY T. MAHAN**

---

Transcribed, edited and published  
APRIL 22<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

**HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY**  
Zebulon Baptist Church  
6088 Zebulon Highway  
Pikeville, KY 41501

---

## **2 Samuel 23:1-5**

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

We are turning for our message this morning to the book of **2 Samuel, chapter 23**. I would like for you to turn to this Scripture. I would like for you to mark it in your Bible. I am going to use two verses, **verses 1 and 5 of 2 Samuel 23**.

Now here's the subject: **"THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID."**

**In 2 Samuel 23:1 and verse 5:** *"Now these be the last words of David, David the son of Jesse, David the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet Psalmist of Israel saith:*

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

Now look at **verse 5**: *“Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure, and this is all my salvation and my desire, although he make it not to grow.”*

Now, my friend, there is something special about a man’s last words; it doesn’t matter who it is. There’s something special about the last thing that someone says to you before they die. But, the dying words of a man like David, a man who was declared to be a man after God’s own heart, twice in the Scripture it says: *“David was a man after God’s own heart.”*

Now, the last words of a man who was a man after God’s own heart ought to be especially meaningful as he sums up what it is all about. He’s lived his life, it is over. He’s dying and he’s going to be with God.

These are the last words that he spoke and it ought to be especially meaningful to us. It is and should be and the Holy Spirit has recorded it in the Word of God, the last words of David. Now, who was this man David?

First of all: He’s identified by the Holy Spirit! And this is important; the Spirit of God does not waste words. We need to be careful in reading the Word of God to study the words. He starts off; he says: *“David the son of Jesse.”*

In other words David was a mere man. He had a human father. He was a human being. He was a mortal just like you and me. He was a man of flesh just like you and me, a fallen son of Adam. You could trace David’s house and lineage right on back to Adam, *“David the son of Jesse,”* a mere man, a mortal man.

David was a son, a husband; he was a father, a grandfather, he was a brother, and he was a friend. Real blood flowed through his veins. Real sin, that’s right, dwelt in his heart. His flesh was as earthbound as yours is.

You know, my friend; I think we make a mistake and you will notice in the several years that I have been on this television program; you have never heard me say: “Turn to the Gospel according to Saint Matthew or the Gospel according to Saint Luke. And you have never heard me say, “Saint Paul said this.”

I think we make a serious, serious, mistake. The Word of God doesn’t do it. Those titles are put in your Bible; they are not inspired, “the Gospel according to Saint Mark and Saint Luke.” That’s not in God’s Word.

These men are not called Saint Mark and Saint Paul and Saint Luke. They are no different from any other believer. Paul said: *“I’m not one wit behind the chief apostle, but I am nothing. Who is Paul, who is Apollos, but ministers by whom you believe?”*

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

Special Saints, oh no! My friend, every believer is a saint. Every believer is sanctified in Christ Jesus. And this is a pack of foolishness if you will pardon the expression, to refer to these men as Saint David, Saint Paul, Saint Luke, Saint Mark, and the rest of them.

David was a son of Jesse. And the Bible is very special and particular to point out to you that they are men like you and me. That's the reason the Word of God shows the failures and the falls and the stumbling's of these men.

They were examples for us, not only in their faith, but in their repentance and in their turning to God, in their confessions, their returning to God, in their seeking forgiveness, in their frailties, and in their total dependence upon God, upon Christ for all things.

Christ is our sanctification. There's nothing special about me or you. *"Who maketh you to differ? What have you got that you didn't receive? Now, if you received it, why do you glory as if you didn't receive it?"*

David is the son of Jesse, a mere mortal, a man of flesh, a man with the same conflicts, passions, desires, drives, and failures as you have.

That's what James said about Elijah when he's talking about praying for the sick, he said: *"Why, the prophet of God Elijah was a man of like passions as we are and yet he prayed and the rain did not come for so long then the rain came."*

Secondly: All right, go on, he says: *"David is the son of Jesse. He was a man who was raised up on high"*

Who raised him? God raised him. David didn't raise himself; God raised him. He found favor in the eyes of God. Like Noah; *"He found grace in the eyes of the Lord."* He was highly favored of God. He was an object of God's grace. *"He found grace in the eyes of the Lord."*

He was raised from spiritual death to spiritual life. He was raised, as Hannah said, *"from the dunghill to the throne."* A beggar became a prince and a king by the power of God, by the hand of God.

David, a son of Jesse; Jesse had several other sons and David was just one of them. But God made the difference. God highly favored him and he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. God made the difference.

What did David have that the other sons of Jesse didn't have? He had God and that was the difference, he was highly favored. *"He was raised up on high."* Notice the next thing:

Thirdly: He was the anointed of God!

God gave David a special office; God anointed him. He was a king of Judah and the king of Israel. He was the leader of the people. He was the minister of God. He was God's anointed.

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

God chose him, God anointed him, and God used him. Notice the next thing he says about him in that first verse:

Fourthly: He says: “*David the son of Jesse, (highly favored), raised up on high, anointed of God, and the sweet Psalmist of Israel.*”

Most of the Psalms were written by David, the Book of Psalms. You’ve studied it, you’ve loved it, you’ve cherished it, it’s comforted you, and David wrote most of the Psalms.

And he put it to music. He would play on a lute or some kind of stringed instrument and he would praise the Lord. David praised the Lord. He said in the last Psalm: “*Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*” And David led others to praise the Lord.

Now, the Holy Spirit ought to have our attention by now shouldn’t he? He said: “*These are the last words of David, the son of Jesse, (a man just like you but highly favored of God), a man raised up on high by God, (a man lifted from the cesspool, from the dunghill of human depravity, corruption, and wretchedness and raised on high and made the king).*”

“*He hath made us kings and priests unto our God.*” Highly favored and “*anointed of God,*” anointed with the Holy Spirit, with the gift of God’s presence, with the gift of God’s person, and the sweet singer of Israel, the sweet Psalmist of Israel.

These are his last words; what are they? “*Although it be not so with my house, the Lord hath made with me and everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure. And this is all my salvation and all my desire, although he make it not to grow.*”

Now, this is not a long message; it’s the same length as all of the other messages but I have six points today and to make it easy for you to follow the message and I trust and pray by God’s Spirit to enter into the message. I want to give you these six points from these last words of David:

**First of all:** There’s a word, there is a word of distress!

That’s the first thing I hear in these last words of David, a word of distress. Listen to him; these are the last words of David; “*Although it be not so with my house.*” David said, my house is not right with God, my household.

He’s talking about his family. He’s talking about the royal court. He’s talking about the people of Israel. He had a big family. He had a personal family, an immediate family, a family of the court, and a family of the people of Israel.

David said: “They are not right with God. All of them do not love God. All of them do not seek God. All of them do not worship God. They are not right with God, although my house is not right with God.”

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

Now, there's not a believer listening to me who cannot say those exact words, "*although my house be not so with God.*" Some of you listening to me; you've got children who do not know the Lord, maybe a wife or a husband, a brother or sister, a loved one does not know the Lord.

You have to say the same thing that David says here. Is there any true believer who does not weep over his friends, over his family, over his neighbors who do not know the Lord? This is what David is saying: "*My house is not right with God.*"

Before he goes into the joys of his soul and the rejoicing of his heart he first of all exclaims: "*My house is not right with God; (I acknowledge that, I know that's so).*"

Listen to Moses as he prayed for Israel: "*O God; be merciful to Israel. Lord, don't destroy them. Let not thy wrath come upon thy people.*" Moses was so concerned about Israel that one time he said: "*Lord; if you destroy them, blot me out of the book which you have written.*"

That's distress isn't it, over the lost condition of your friends. Listen to Paul: "*I could wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren according to the flesh. My heart's desire, I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart for my brethren. I would like for them to be saved.*"

So David gives us a word of distress, he said: "I know this; I know that my children are not saved because I'm saved. I know that my loved ones do not know God just because I know God."

My friend; a man's faith in Christ and love for the Redeemer does not guarantee the salvation of his household, no it doesn't! Our Lord said; now listen, **John chapter 1:** "*He came unto his own and his own received him not, but as many as received him, (personally, individually, believed on him, trusted him, and came to him).*"

*"To them gave he the privilege to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name, who were born, not of blood, (that is, not of fleshly inheritance)."*

Salvation does not come down through the bloodline. Salvation didn't come down through the household. It didn't come down through the family tree. "*We are born not of blood, not of the will of the flesh.*" I cannot will my children into the family of God, not of the will of man, but we are born of God.

This new birth, this regeneration, is by the power of God. It's by the sovereign will of God, it's by the work of God, and it's through the blood of Christ.

So, that is the first thing that this man David said, "*this man after God's own heart, this man raised on high, (and highly favored), anointed of God.*" He says: "*My house is not right with God,*" and it gave him great distress.

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

**Secondly:** There's a word of comfort: But, David says; "*yet, the Lord hath made with me an everlasting covenant.*"

Now, David found no comfort in his deeds. He found comfort in the fact that God had made a covenant with him. Now, David found no comfort in his works or in his service, the religious service, or his own faithfulness, but he found his comfort in the faithfulness and purpose of God Almighty.

God is a covenant God. If you will listen to me and you will study the Word of God you will find this is true. The Lord is a God of covenant. He made a covenant with Adam. He said: "Adam, all the trees of the garden you may have and use and freely eat: There's one in the midst of the garden; don't eat it lest you die."

You see, that's a covenant, it's an agreement: "*You don't eat it.*" Well, the Lord made that covenant with Adam and Adam broke it. And as a result of breaking that covenant Adam died. A spiritual death came upon him and all of his people. He was separated from God.

Now, God made a covenant with Noah. God said: "Noah; build an ark and take your family into the ark. I'll save you; there's going to be a flood." And God did what He said.

And at the end of that flood God put a rainbow in the sky and he said: "*Do you see that rainbow? That's a sign of my covenant that I will make with all men that I will not destroy the world again by flood.*" God will destroy it by fire but not by flood. Every time you see a rainbow you ought to think of God's covenant.

And then God made a covenant with Abraham. In **Genesis 12** he said: "*I'm going to make of you a great nation and all the nations of the earth are going to be blessed through you and through your seed.*" And his seed is Jesus Christ!

Abraham was the father of the Jews and God made a covenant with him. God kept that covenant. And God made a covenant with David. He made a covenant with David that said: "*Your throne will be forever.*"

Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ is often called: "*The Son of David*" because both Mary and Joseph were in the house and lineage of David. He was the rightful heir to David's throne in the flesh because he was a Son of Mary, the son of God, not of Joseph, but of Mary.

And that was His throne. God made that covenant with David that his throne would be occupied by the Messiah someday through that little nation Israel, "*a root out of dry ground.*" And that Christ Jesus would sit on that throne as the king of Israel.

When Christ died on that cross; what did they write over His head, "*King of the Jews?*" God kept that covenant.

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

But the covenant that David is talking about here is not that covenant because he calls this covenant, wherein he found his comfort and strength and joy, “*an everlasting covenant,*” everlasting from everlasting, not how long it’s going to last up yonder but where it came from; it’s an everlasting, eternal covenant.

He said: “*It’s not so with my house,* (I know that; my children, my friends, don’t know God, do not serve God, do not love God, and do not seek God). *Yet, God hath made with me* (or made me a part of, or included me in), *an everlasting covenant.*”

Well, with whom did God make that covenant? He certainly didn’t make it with Adam or with Noah, Abraham, David, or any other man because every covenant that God ever made with a man, man has broken it.

Man has sinned under every condition in every environment, under every dispensation, in every circumstance man has failed, always will fail. We have never kept any covenant or agreement with God. He made this covenant with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Listen to this in **Hebrews 13:20**: “*Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*”

There’s where David found his comfort. There’s where David found his hope. There’s where David found his peace, not in David’s righteousness or David’s deeds or David’s works or faithfulness.

He said; “My house is not right with God and I’m grieved over it, burdened over it, and distressed over it. Yet, God has included me in that everlasting covenant. God’s going to have a people. “*It pleased the Lord to make you his people.*”

The Lord Jesus Christ talks over and over again about those that the Father had given Him. He prayed for those that the Father had given Him. He’s going to raise them up in the last day, those that the Father had given Him.

“*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me. I know my sheep. I lay down my life for my sheep. Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them I must bring. And they shall be one fold and one shepherd.*” David is saying, “I’m in that covenant, that everlasting covenant. That’s my hope.”

**Thirdly:** Here’s a word of security! He says: “And this covenant; *God’s made with me an everlasting covenant.* He’s included me in that everlasting covenant and *it is ordered in all things and sure*”

You talk about assurance; where do you find assurance, in your feelings, in your experience, and in your prayers? David found it in God’s purpose.

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

The mercies of God are not left to chance. The fulfillment of God's great covenant is not left in the hands of men but in the hands of Christ. Christ said, *"All things are delivered unto me, of my Father. He hath put all things in the hands of Christ."*

David said: "God's made with me or included me in an eternal covenant and that covenant is ordered in all things." Everything is predetermined, everything is appointed, everything is purposed and it's ordered in all things. It's set forth, one, two, three four.

And it's sure because it's in the hands of Christ. That's who hands God put the covenant in, in the hands of Christ, not in the hands of men, or denominations, or churches. They would fail. They always have. It's in the hands of Christ!

He's our Surety. He's our Redeemer. He's our Saviour. *"Of him are we in Christ Jesus who is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."* He shall not fail, He cannot not fail!

He said: *"I am the good shepherd. I lay down my life for the sheep. Other sheep I have which are not of this fold."* If any part of our redemption is left undone, we have no hope. Christ said, *"All that my Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

*"For I came down from heaven not to do my own will but I came to do the will of him that sent me and this is the will of him that sent me that of all which he hath given me I will lose nothing but raise it up at the last day."*

This covenant is ordered in all things (by whom?) by the living God, and it is sure. Why? Because this covenant and the mercies of it, the grace of it, the fulfillment of it, the glorification of it, and the success of it has all been put in the hands of Christ and He cannot fail.

Now, that's a word of security. And if you try to find your assurance and confidence and security in something that you've done or something you will do, you are going to fail and fail miserably. Keep looking back to Calvary; there's where it was finished. There's where the work was done.

**Fourthly:** Now, here is a word of satisfaction! David says: *"This is all my salvation; God hath made with me, (God hath included me in an everlasting covenant) which is ordered in all things and sure and this is all my salvation"*

Now my friend; we better listen carefully here. These are the last words of David, David, not just anybody, David. And we better listen carefully; he said: *"This is all my salvation."*

My salvation is not in my decisions and doctrines. My salvation is not my experience and feelings. My salvation is not in my merit and works; my salvation is Christ: *"God in Christ reconciled the world unto himself."*



## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

There are two words that we all need to learn, the words substitution and satisfaction. Christ came down here as our Substitute and he made satisfaction before the law and before the justice of God. He went back to glory and there He sat down having finished what he came to do.

**Fifthly:** He fulfilled all that covenant in regard to his people!

We are chosen in Him, we are complete in Him, we are justified in Him, we are forgiven in Him, and we are accepted in Him. Now that's my satisfaction, that's my delight! David said, "*this is all my delight; and this is all my desire.*" Here's a word of delight!

My friend, my one desire; this is what Paul said, "*My one desire is to win Christ and be found in him.*" For to win Christ and to be found in Him is to be found in this everlasting covenant for Christ is the Surety of that covenant.

It's to be found cleansed by the blood of that covenant because His blood is the blood of the everlasting covenant. It's to be found at the right hand of God seated in Christ, blessed in Christ, "*accepted in the beloved.*" It's to be found in eternity glorified in Christ, "*to win Christ and to be found in him.*"

That's my one desire and that's my one delight to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. David said this: "*I shall be satisfied when I awake with his likeness.*"

You see; that's the design of the covenant, that's the goal of the covenant. That's the purpose of the covenant to have a people like Christ. "*He hath predestinated us to be conformed to the image of his son.*" That's what God set out to do in the first place, to make all his people like Christ.

This is the fault of today's religion; Christ is a means to attain their goals, now, isn't that true, whatever their goals are, health, wealth, happiness, and security, huh? David's goal was the glory of God. David's goal was the fulfillment of God's purpose.

He says: "*This is my desire, (His glory).*" David's desire; he said: "*I'm not going to be satisfied till I awake with his likeness.*" I'm not going to be satisfied with a lot of toys down here on the earth, a lot of trinkets, and play-pretties. "*I'm not going to be satisfied till I awake with his likeness.*" That's God's goal for every believer, "*that in the ages to come he might show in us the exceeding riches of his grace and his kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*"

**Sixthly:** But here's a word of reality!

David said, the final word: "*My house is not right with God. God's made with me an everlasting covenant and that covenant is ordered in all things and sure (certain; it can't fail, and that's my salvation, that's my hope, that's my assurance, my foundation) and that's my desire.*"

"*Although he make it not to grow.*" Here is a word of reality. At present, David said; "There aren't many signs or evidences that I'm an object of such great blessings. Look at my body, old

## THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

2 SAMUEL 23:1-5 • HENRY T. MAHAN

---

and withered, and wrinkled, and gray. Listen to my breath; it comes short panting, I'm dying. Look in my eyes, they grow dim. My children are scattered. My house does not know God. I have enemies on every hand but God's made with me a covenant."

Solomon said, "*Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*" My flesh is going back to the dust from whence it came!

The great prophet Habakkuk said in **Chapter 3:17**; listen: "*Although the fig tree shall not blossom; there is no fruit on the vine, the labor of the olive tree fails, the field yields no meat, the flocks are cut off from the fold, there's no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will joy in the God of my salvation.*" He cannot fail!