

July 10, 2022

“David Embodies God’s Justice”
Lesson 2 of Unit

2 Samuel 23:1-7
1 Chron. 18:14

Intro

Last week we looked at Samuel’s role as judge in and over Israel. Today we look a little at David, who was anointed by Samuel to be king over Israel.

David began as a lowly shepherd, but became the greatest king in Israel’s history. The reason for his rise in stature was that he was “a man after God’s own heart” (I Sam. 13:14). Yet despite his consistent walk of faith, he is also sadly remembered for his adultery with Bathsheba and the subsequent killing of her husband Uriah. But David was repentant.

Today’s passage happens at the end of David’s life. It is one of two songs (the other in 2 Samuel 22) in which David summarizes his life. Both of these songs acknowledge God’s guidance and faithfulness through the years.

Read 2 Samuel 23:1-7

1. vs. 1: Though it says it, these are not technically David’s “last words”

His last recorded words happen in 1 Kings
This is the beginning of his last song or psalm
The last words someone gives are usually powerful
Here, they reveal David’s view of his life

David is referred to here in four ways that show God’s guidance in his life

“son of Jesse” shows David’s humble background

He was watching the sheep when Samuel came to anoint him king

He was the youngest of 8 brothers

“oracle of the man exalted by the Most High”

Shows David’s view of his position as king

He didn’t seek it; God exalted him and put him in that place

“the man anointed by the God of Jacob”

Samuel anointed David after being led by God to him

Samuel would have chosen someone else (see I Sam. 16:6-7)

“Israel’s singer on songs”

Of the 150 psalms in that book, 73 are attributed to David by title

Two others, Ps. 2 and 95, have no author given

In the NT, these two are attributed to David (Acts 4:25-26, Heb. 4:6-7)

2. vs. 2: David says “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me”

He has been guided by the Spirit his entire life

I Sam. 16:13 says, “from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power”

From that day on...

That indicates David continued to be led by the spirit
“his word was on my tongue”
David not only spoke the things of God, he also had them written down

3. vs. 3: David begins by emphasizing where he gets the things he says
“The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me:”
The image of God as a rock is also used of Jesus in the NT
See I Cor. 10:4, Eph. 2:19-20, I Peter 2:4-8
A rock is associated with firmness and dependability
It maintains solidly in the face of adverse conditions

David notes that a good leader rules in righteousness
That is, he rules with his eye toward what is just and fair
This righteousness is connected with ruling “in the fear of God”
Prov. 9:10 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”
Knowing God and fearing Him leads a ruler into wise leadership

4. vs. 4: All the images in vs. 4 are calm, refreshing, renewing
Light at sunrise, cloudless mornings, sun after rain, grass
The implication is that a leader ruling in godly ways brings this kind of world about

5. vs. 5: This verse contains three rhetorical questions (questions whose answers are implied already)
“Is not my house right with God?”
The implied answer is “Yes, it is”
David has just given several images of refreshing and life in vs. 4
“Has He not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part?”
Again, the implied answer is, “Yes, He has”
This everlasting covenant is fulfilled in Jesus
He is on the throne of David with an eternal kingdom (Luke 1:30-33)
God has promised David this outcome, and He brings it to pass
“Will He not bring to fruition my salvation?”
Again, the answer is “Yes, He will”
God alone brings about our salvation, not anything that we or David can do
“(Will He not) grant me my every desire”
David here could be referring to deliverance from his earthly enemies
David is also a key in the Messianic line, which he would be looking forward to
David is well known for his psalms of praise to God
David lived before Jesus and the cross and the empty tomb
It would be interesting to hear his psalms of praise had he seen those!

6. vs. 6: Vs. 6 and 7 go together
David refers to “evil men” in vs. 6
The words literally mean “no value”
These men have no value
In contrast to David, they have chosen to live lives worthless before God
They are like worthless thorns

7. vs. 7: Instead of gloves (like we might use today), workers then cleared thorns with tools
These tools cut down the thorns
Then they are burned
This is a picture of those who reject following God
They will be cut down and destroyed (see Matt. 3:11-12, Matt. 13:36-43)

Read 1 Chronicles 18:14

8. vs. 14: This verse serves as a summary of all the things David has been saying
He ruled over all Israel
He did what was just and right
This echoes what David said in vs. 3 (above)
He ruled in righteousness, in the fear of God

Application: David was a great leader. But in the verses that follow today's text (2 Sam. 23:8-39), there are lists of people who helped and supported David. Anyone desiring to serve God, and especially leaders (whether politically, in the church, or other positions) needs the help and support of others. We can do this through our prayers, but also our words of encouragement.

We are all called to be "salt and light". So we are all leaders in a way, showing others by our words and actions the way to live a godly life. That is a high calling, a challenging calling.

Prayer: Father God, help us to stay true to Your words and Your ways. Help us to do what is right and just in Your eyes, and to continually remember to acknowledge our dependence on You. In Jesus' name, Amen.