

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 SAMUEL 23

2 SAMUEL 23:1-7 - FINAL WORDS OF DAVID

THIS IS SORT OF AN "ORACLE" OR WORD FROM THE LORD AS OPPOSED TO A MORE TRADITIONAL PSALM. "IT VIEWS DAVID'S CAREER IN RETROSPECT" (NAB NOTE, 2 SAMUEL 23:1). THESE ARE NOT THE LITERAL LAST WORDS OF DAVID, BUT THE FINAL OFFICIAL WORDS.

"THE PSALM OF CHAPTER 22 LOOKS BACK UPON HOW YAHWEH ESTABLISHED THE KINGDOM; THE PROPHECY OF 23:1-7 LOOKS FORWARD TO HOW YAHWEH WILL CONSUMMATE THE KINGDOM." (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG. 295-6)

V. 1 - DAVID'S DESCRIPTION OF HIMSELF

THE SON OF JESSE

THE ANOINTED OF THE GOD OF JACOB

THE MAN WHO WAS RAISED ON HIGH

THE SWEET PSALMIST OF ISRAEL

V. 2-3A - THE LORD SPOKE TO ME...

V. 3B-4 - THE LORD'S MESSAGE TO DAVID

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO DAVID?: 2 SAMUEL 23:3-4 (NLT) - THE GOD OF ISRAEL SPOKE. THE ROCK OF ISRAEL SAID TO ME: 'THE ONE WHO RULES RIGHTEOUSLY, WHO RULES IN THE FEAR OF GOD, 4 IS LIKE THE LIGHT OF MORNING AT SUNRISE, LIKE A MORNING WITHOUT CLOUDS, LIKE THE GLEAMING OF THE SUN ON NEW GRASS AFTER RAIN.'

THE PICTURE HERE IS OF REFRESHMENT, RENEWAL AND RESTORATION ALL BECAUSE OF THIS RULER.

V. 5-7 - DAVID'S RESPONSE TO GOD'S MESSAGE

WHAT IS DAVID'S RESPONSE? YES, THIS IS WHAT MY HOUSE IS LIKE - WHY? - BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH ME, ORDERED IN ALL THINGS, AND SECURED MY SALVATION AND MY DESIRE. (V. 5)

2 SAMUEL 23:5 (NLT) - "IS IT NOT MY FAMILY GOD HAS CHOSEN? YES, HE HAS MADE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH ME. HIS AGREEMENT IS ARRANGED AND GUARANTEED IN EVERY DETAIL. HE WILL ENSURE MY SAFETY AND SUCCESS.

DAVIDIC COVENANT: 1 CHRONICLES 17:11-14: SON OF GOD, SON OF DAVID, KING FOREVER

SURENESS OF DAVIDIC COVENANT: JEREMIAH 33:14-26

V. 6-7 - NO EVIL MAN, NO EVIL PLAN WILL THWART GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID. THE EVIL MUST BE DEALT WITH BECAUSE THEY, UNREPENTANT, ARE PAINFUL TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD. (LIKE A BRIAR VINE, IT IS HARD TO HOLD IT WITHOUT BEING CUT). PART OF GOD'S PROMISE TO BLESS DAVID INVOLVES THE ELEMENT OF "CURSING" THOSE WHO CURSE HIM. THIS IS A COMMON ELEMENT TO GOD'S COVENANT CARE FOR HIS BELOVED:

SATAN - GENESIS 3:14-15 - THE LORD GOD SAID TO THE SERPENT, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS, CURSED ARE YOU MORE THAN ALL CATTLE... 15 AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN YOUR SEED AND HER SEED: HE SHALL BRUISE YOU ON THE HEAD, AND YOU SHALL BRUISE HIM ON THE HEEL."

ABRAHAM - GENESIS 12:3 - AND I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU, AND THE ONE WHO CURSES YOU I WILL CURSE. AND IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED."

JACOB - GENESIS 27:29 - MAY PEOPLES SERVE YOU, AND NATIONS BOW DOWN TO YOU; BE MASTER OF YOUR BROTHERS, AND MAY YOUR MOTHER'S SONS BOW DOWN TO YOU. CURSED BE THOSE WHO CURSE YOU, AND BLESSED BE THOSE WHO BLESS YOU."

KINGDOM OF GOD - MATTHEW 13:41 (ESV) - THE SON OF MAN WILL SEND HIS ANGELS, AND THEY WILL GATHER OUT OF HIS KINGDOM ALL CAUSES OF SIN AND ALL LAW-BREAKERS,

KINGDOM OF GOD - 2 THESSALONIANS 1:6-7 - FOR AFTER ALL IT IS ONLY JUST FOR GOD TO REPAY WITH AFFLICTION THOSE WHO AFFLICT YOU, 7 AND TO GIVE RELIEF TO YOU WHO ARE AFFLICTED AND TO US AS WELL WHEN THE LORD JESUS WILL BE REVEALED FROM HEAVEN WITH HIS MIGHTY ANGELS IN FLAMING FIRE

2 SAMUEL 23:8-36 - DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

2 SAMUEL 23:8-12 - THE NAMED THREE, A SPECIAL GROUP DISTINCT FROM THE GROUP OF 30

1 - JOSHEB-BASSHEBETH, A TAHCHEMONITE (AKA ADINO THE ENZITE) - CHIEF OF THE CAPTAINS (THE THREE)
MENTIONED FEAT: KILLED 800 MEN AT ONCE

2 - ELEAZAR, SON OF DODO THE AHOHITE
MENTIONED FEAT: ONE OF THE THREE MEN WITH DAVID WHEN THEY DEFIED THE PHILISTINES AFTER THE REST OF THE ARMY HAD LEFT. HE FOUGHT UNTIL HIS HAND COULDN'T EVEN LIFT THE SWORD AGAIN.

3 - SHAMMAH, THE SON OF AGEE A HARARITE
MENTIONED FEAT: DURING AN ATTACK FROM THE PHILISTINES IN A LENTIL FIELD, THE ISRAELITE ARMY FLED AND SHAMMAH HELD HIS GROUND AND DEFENDED THE FIELD, STRIKING DOWN THE PHILISTINES.

AS WE LEAVE THE 3 GREATEST OF DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN, IT'S GOOD TO PAUSE AND RECOGNIZE WHAT THE NARRATOR NOTES AT THE END OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THESE INCREDIBLE WARRIORS:

2 SAMUEL 23:128 - AND THE LORD BROUGHT ABOUT A GREAT VICTORY.

WHILE WE STAND AMAZED AT THE MIGHT OF THESE MEN (AND THEY DID HAVE NOTABLE COURAGE AND POWER), WE ARE REMINDED THAT THE LORD BRINGS VICTORY FOR HIS PEOPLE.

2 SAMUEL 23:13-17 - THE UNNAMED THREE CHIEFS OF THE 30

THESE THREE MEN RISKED THEIR LIVES OUT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION TO THEIR KING. THEY SNUCK OR BATTLED THROUGH AN ENCAMPMENT OF THE PHILISTINES TO BRING DAVID SOME WATER FROM THE WELL OF BETHLEHEM (HIS HOMETOWN). UPON SEEING THEIR TREMENDOUS ACT OF KINDNESS AND LOVE, DAVID GIVES THIS PRECIOUS THING TO THE LORD, TO HONOR HIM AND THESE THREE UNNAMED MEN.

"(DAVID) CANNOT BELIEVE THE RISK HIS MEN RAN. IT IS THE WATER OF BETHLEHEM BUT TO DAVID IT REPRESENTS THE BLOOD OF HIS MEN. 'BLOOD' BELONGS TO YAHWEH. HENCE, HE DARE NOT DRINK IT. HE POURED IT OUT, NOT BECAUSE IT WAS TRASH, BUT BECAUSE IT WAS TREASURE - AND IT BELONGED TO YAHWEH...JOYCE BALDWIN POINTS OUT, DAVID RECOGNIZED THAT 'ONLY THE LORD WAS WORTHY OF SUCH SACRIFICE.'" (DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG. 306)

2 SAMUEL 23:18-19 - ABISHAI, THE LEADER OF THE 30 MEN

ABISHAI WAS THE BROTHER OF JOAB, THE SON OF ZERUIAH, THE SISTER OF DAVID. WE HAVE SEEN ABISHAI MENTIONED THROUGHOUT, AS SORT OF A SECOND-IN-COMMAND GENERAL TO THE LEAD GENERAL, HIS BROTHER JOAB. HE HAD RENOWN IN ISRAEL AND BEFORE DAVID (V. 18), AND THUS BECAME THE COMMANDER OF THE 30, HOWEVER HE DID NOT "ATTAIN TO THE THREE" (V. 19). HE IS CALLED THE "MOST HONORED OF THE THIRTY." MENTIONED FEAT: KILLED 300 MEN WITH HIS SPEAR, (MOST LIKELY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, CP DAVIS, PG 307)

2 SAMUEL 23:20-23 - BENAIAH, THE SON OF JEHOIADA, SON OF VALIANT MAN OF KABZEEL.

BENAIAH WAS A VALIANT MAN. HE ALSO HAD RENOWN LIKE THE THREE (V. 22). HE WAS HONORED AS A MEMBER OF THE THIRTY AND DAVID APPOINTED HIM OVER HIS BODYGUARD

MENTIONED FEAT: DONE MIGHTY DEEDS, KILLED THE TWO SONS OF ARIEL OF MOAB. THE KJV REFERENCES THESE MEN AS "LION LIKE MEN" (ARI-EL). HE ALSO KILLED A LION, IN THE MIDDLE OF A PIT, ON A SNOWY DAY. HE ALSO KILLED AN IMPRESSIVE EGYPTIAN WHO HAD A SPEAR. IN THIS BATTLE, BENAIAH ONLY HAD A CLUB, BUT HE MANAGED TO SNATCH THE EGYPTIAN'S SPEAR, AND USE IT AS HIS OWN WEAPON TO BRING VICTORY.

2 SAMUEL 22:24-39 - REMAINING MEMBERS OF "THE THIRTY"

1. ASAHIEL THE BROTHER OF JOAB WAS AMONG THE THIRTY;
2. ELHANAN THE SON OF DODO OF BETHLEHEM,
3. SHAMMAH THE HARODITE,
4. ELIAH THE HARODITE,
5. HELEZ THE PALTITE,
6. IRA THE SON OF IKKESH THE TEKOITE,
7. ABIEZER THE ANATHOTHITE,
8. MEKUNNAI THE HUSHATHITE,
9. ZALMON THE AHOHITE,
10. MAHARAI THE NETOPHATHITE,
11. HELEB THE SON OF BAANAH THE NETOPHATHITE,
12. ITTAI THE SON OF RIBAI OF GIBEAH OF THE SONS OF BENJAMIN,
13. BENAIAH A PIRATHONITE,
14. HIDDAI OF THE BROOKS OF GAASH,
15. ABI-ALBON THE ARBATHITE,
16. AZMAVETH THE BARHUMITE,
17. ELIAHBA THE SHAALBONITE,
18. THE SONS OF JASHEN - SON 1
19. THE SONS OF JASHEN - SON 2
20. JONATHAN (SON OF) SHAMMAH THE HARARITE,
21. AHIAH THE SON OF SHARAR THE ARARITE,
22. ELIPHELET THE SON OF AHASBAI, THE SON OF THE MAACATHITE,
23. ELIAM THE SON OF AHITHOPHEL THE GILONITE,
24. HEZRO THE CARMELITE,
25. PAARAI THE ARBITE,
26. IGAL THE SON OF NATHAN OF ZOBAB,
27. BANI THE GADITE,
28. ZELEK THE AMMONITE,
29. NAHARAI THE BEEROTHITE, ARMOR BEARERS OF JOAB THE SON OF ZERUIAH,
30. IRA THE ITHRITE,
31. GAREB THE ITHRITE,
32. URIA THE HITTITE;

V. 39B - 37 IN ALL (INCLUDING "THE THREE" OF VERSE 8-12 AND THE TWO LEADERS OF V. 18-23)

THERE IS A CORRESPONDING LIST IN 1 CHRONICLES 11 WHICH DIFFERS IN SOME PLACES. THIS "IS PRIMARILY A LIST BUT IS INTENDED TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WARRIORS WHO LOYALLY SERVED DAVID AND HIS KINGDOM OVER THE YEARS. IT IS AN HONOR ROLL OF KINGDOM SERVANTS" ((DALE RALPH DAVIS, "FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 2 SAMUEL", PG. 303-4).

THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY MORE THAN JUST 30 NAMES LISTED HERE. THERE ARE A FEW REASONS WHY THIS IS THE CASE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ORIGINAL GROUPING CONSISTED OF 30 MEN AND AS MEN WERE ADDED, THEY RETAINED THE NAME AS THE "THIRTY". IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT AS MEN WERE KILLED AND NEW MEMBERS WERE ADDED, THEY KEPT THE GROUPING OF 30, BUT EVERY MEMBER IS HONORED IN THE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT.

THE LIST ENDS WITH A BANG. "URIAH THE HITTITE". WE ALL KNOW WHO THIS IS. WE ALL KNOW WHAT THIS NAME REPRESENTS. AND THE NARRATOR OF 2 SAMUEL WANTS US TO RECALL JUST THAT.

"THE LIST OF MEN WHO WERE DAVID'S 'BODYGUARD' ENDS WITH THE NAME OF THE ONE WHO DID NOT BETRAY THE KING, BUT WAS BETRAYED BY HIM. THE END OF THE LIST IS MEANT TO TELL US, 'DON'T FORGET THE NAME OF THE LAST OF DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN!' (HANS WILLIAM HERTZBERG, 1 & 2 SAMUEL: A COMMENTARY, PG 408)

DAVID'S INDISCRETIONS AND SINS ARE CLEAR THROUGHOUT OUR JOURNEY THROUGH 2 SAMUEL. WE KNOW WHAT HE DID AND HOW HE RESPONDED AND THE RAMIFICATIONS UPON HIS LIFE AND HIS KINGDOM, IN SPITE OF THE FORGIVENESS HE RECEIVED FROM THE LORD. CHAPTER 22 CELEBRATES HOW GOD WORKED IN DAVID'S LIFE. WE BEGAN CHAPTER 23 WITH THE "BAD" DAVID IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR IN SOME SENSE, AS WE ARE REMINDED OF THE COVENANT AND CELEBRATE THE GREAT MEN WHO HELPED DAVID HAVE VICTORY.

BUT THEN WE END WITH URIAH THE HITTITE.

I THINK WE DO SO FOR TWO REASONS. (1) WE LOOK AT THE GREATNESS OF DAVID AND ARE REMINDED OF THE GRACE OF GOD UPON HIS LIFE. LOOK AT ALL THAT DAVID DID AND BECAME. AND IN THE MIDST OF THAT HE SINNED GREATLY AGAINST THE LORD (AND AGAINST URIAH THE HITTITE). BUT GOD'S GRACE IS AMAZING. URIAH'S NAME ISN'T BROUGHT UP TO RUB IT IN DAVID'S FACE, TO NEVER LET HIM ESCAPE THE SHAME OF HIS SIN. BUT AS A REMINDER TO US THAT GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO DAVID.

AND (2), URIAH THE HITTITE HAS LONG CEASED BEING A SIGNIFICANT CHARACTER IN THIS STORY. IN FACT HE WAS KILLED IN CHAPTER 11. BUT, LEST WE BE TEMPTED TO THINK THAT HE IS JUST A MINOR FOOTNOTE, LOST IN THE STORY OF THE GREAT KING DAVID, HE IS LISTED LAST IN THE LIST OF DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN. WE MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT URIAH, BUT GOD HAS NOT. NOR WILL HE. FOR GOD DOES NOT FORGET HIS FAITHFUL ONES. EVEN WHEN GREAT INJUSTICE IS DONE AGAINST THEM, HE WILL RAISE AND REWARD THEM. GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN URIAH THE HITTITE, AND NEITHER SHOULD WE.