

**\* The Heights Baptist Church \* Series: The Psalms \***  
**\* Topic: Introduction: David's Life Part 2 \* 2 Samuel 23:1-7 \* 3/16/25 \***

MAIN POINT

At least half of the 150 Psalms were written by David, who is described in the Bible as “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22). And yet we see David was a man who was far from perfect (just like us) and whose life was far from perfect as well. As we prepare for the sermon series on the Psalms, we are investing the first two weeks by looking at David’s life. Understanding the major events in his life can help us better understand what he was going through as he penned these Psalms.

INTRODUCTION

**What are some famous “last words” that you can think of? Why do you think those statements are so unforgettable?**

Some that come to mind are “You too Brutus?”, “I regret that I have but one life to give for my country.”, and, “You’ve given away everything; I know where the poison is!”

**Why are a person’s last words important? What do they communicate?**

2 Samuel 23:1-7 is identified as David’s “last words.” David used his last words to glorify God by testifying to the greatness of God. We, too, should aim to use our words and our lives for God’s glory.

*Note to study leader: Last week, we looked at David’s life before becoming king. In this week’s lesson, we will be reviewing some of the major events that occurred in David’s life after becoming king.*

*Note to study leader: This week’s lesson looks at several events from David’s life, and then looks at how David summarized his life through his last words in 2 Samuel 23:1-7. You won’t have time to do a deep-dive into each of the scripture passages. Work to help the class summarize the lessons from the various events, allowing adequate time to discuss David’s last words at the end of the lesson.*

UNDERSTANDING

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 SAMUEL 7:1-17: GOD’S COVENANT WITH DAVID

**Based on verses 1-2, where would you say David was placing his hope?**

**What lessons can we learn from David’s plans to build a temple, and then being redirected by God?**

David felt bad that he lived in luxury, but God’s dwelling was still a tent. He understood the irony in that and wanted to build God a more proper dwelling place. Even Nathan, the prophet initially agreed it was a good idea. However, this was not God’s plan. God hadn’t asked David to build him a house. It was God who had destroyed their enemies and made the name of Israel great, and it wasn’t because He resided in an earthly palace. In fact, the moveable tent He had instructed Israel to construct had moved with them and represented the glory of God to the nations they encountered along the way. God would build David’s house, not the other way around.

**Through whom would David’s house and kingdom be “established forever”?**

God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. Because God kept His covenant with Noah, the earth was again inhabited after the flood. Because God kept His covenant with Abraham, his descendants became the nation of Israel. Because God kept His covenant with Moses, the nation of Israel settled in the promised land. David was that king. God established a covenant with David, promising that David’s lineage included the future King of Kings, Jesus Christ who will reign on David’s throne forever.

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ 2 SAMUEL 11:1-15 AND PSALM 51:1-3 AND 8-12: DAVID COMMITS ADULTERY WITH BATHSHEBA AND MURDERS URIAH

**What issues tempted David in verses 1-13? How could he have acted in the face of each temptation?**

David was tempted by at least three issues in this passage:

- 1) the desire for excessive leisure time (verses 1-2)
- 2) a beautiful woman, and
- 3) the desire to keep their encounter secret.

We, like David, face many temptations, yet we always have the choice to remain in temptation and give in to it, or to resist and flee from it.

**What do we learn about David from his prayer in Psalm 51?**

He had a relationship with God that allowed him to pour out his heart to God. And he understood that rather than trying to earn righteousness before God, we need His forgiveness.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 SAMUEL 13:1-2, 11-16, AND 28-33: AMNON, TAMAR, AND ABSALOM

**What do you imagine all the news of this family strife would have had on David?**

Very little is more devastating for a parent than watching one of their children destroy their life. And here we see one of David's sons molesting one of his daughters, and one of his other sons exacting revenge on that son by murdering him.

**What are some key takeaways for us from this picture of David's home life?**

Whatever our circumstances, we need to trust God and submit to His will.

*"When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer." Corrie Ten Boom*

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 SAMUEL 15:10-17 AND 30-31: ABSALOM'S TREASON

**What does David's response to the messenger reveal about his feelings toward Absalom (vv. 13-14)?**

David received news that must have shook him to the core. He learned that his son, Absalom, was committing treason and had declared war against him. David was forced to acknowledge that he would not be reconciled to his son and his kingdom had splintered.

This experience forced David to acknowledge his helplessness and depend on the Lord. God's plans for David were different than the plan David had for himself. Even if God led him through this difficult path, he would still make himself available to the Lord to do as He pleased.

*"We trust God for what we can do whether He shows up or not, which means we are not really trusting Him for much." Pastor Randy Hahn, Sermon at The Heights Baptist Church, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**How do you explain David's reaction in verses 30-31 as he is forced to flee Jerusalem?**

David's reign in Israel was far from a time of peace and tranquility. Betrayal is bad enough, but it's especially difficult when it comes from within your own family.

ASK A VOLUNTEER READ 2 SAMUEL 23:1-7: THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

**How did David view his life and his work (v. 1)? What phrases from these verses stand out to you? What is their general theme?**

**In verse 2, David noted that God's Spirit spoke through him. While none of us are writing Psalms that qualify as the inspired word of God, God can still speak through us. In what ways does God speak through us today?**

God still guides people's lives today and is working in all of our lives. Think about the occasions through which God has worked through you to bless others. Consider ways you might point other people to God.

**According to verses 3-4, what two qualities in a leader would make him be like the light of morning at sunrise and like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth?**

Lead the people in righteousness, and in the fear of God.

**How important are these two qualities in our lives as we serve in our families and serve in the church?**

**Looking at verses 5-7, how does David contrast how God worked in his life with the results that would have happened if he hadn't chosen to walk righteously in the fear of God?**

God would not have made a secure, everlasting covenant with David, and his life would have been useless. He would have ended up being cast aside like thorns that are burned up.

**Contrast the analogies of the sunshine, rain, and growing grass with the thorns being burned up.**

**In what ways are David's last words a great representation of his life?**

APPLICATION

**Think of some examples of where God worked in your life. Who can you share this with as a way of encouraging them, or as a way to get that person to reflect on their own need for Jesus?**

*"Much of my prayer life may be asking God to keep me from the place He is trying to get me." Pastor Randy Hahn, Sermon at The Heights Baptist Church, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**What would you like your last words to be? Is there something in your life that you need to change to better align with this goal?**

PRAYER

God, we praise you that you are our strength, our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. Help us choose by faith to take refuge in you and walk in righteousness and in awe of you our whole life long. Thank you for how You watched over David and worked in his life, and for how You watch over us now, and work in our lives.

## COMMENTARY

### 2 Samuel 23:1-7

23:1. The heading for this chapter, These are the last words of David, is not intended chronologically; other words of David appear after this section and even in 1 Kings (1Ki 1:28-35; 2:1-9). Perhaps the section contains David's last recorded public statement or testimony to God's work through his life. Anointed emphasizes David's dedication to God's service. God of Jacob ties David to the history of the patriarchs; God's work in David was the continuation of a work that began with Abraham (Gen 12:1-3).

23:2. David's words should be understood not as boastful, but as portraying a sense of wonder that God would use him to convey His words.

23:3. Fear of God denotes a healthy reverence for His power and majesty; the book of Proverbs associates such an attitude with wisdom and knowledge (Pr 1:7; 9:10).

23:5. My house denotes David's family. God's everlasting covenant with David's house was ordered and secured in every detail. David was confident the Lord would bring its every aspect to fruition.

23:6-7. David's experience had taught him that the wicked had no future in God's plan. Since they were neither useful nor usable, the day of their judgment would surely come.