

In our last lesson, we examined David's awesome song, or psalm, of deliverance. It was another version of that which is recorded as Psalm 18. As we examined this psalm, we saw many truths about what a strong Savior, Supporter, Shield, Subduer, and strong Salvation we have in our God.

This helped us understand how God will be our security in tough times, our light when darkness seems to be creeping in around us, our strength when we are weak and struggling, and our hope no matter what. It is through examining this psalm that we saw that, despite his failures, David was truly a man after God's own heart.

This week, we will examine another interesting chapter. This is not recorded in chronological order but is additional information about David that the author of the books of Samuel wanted to include. We will first examine David's last prophetic words (not his final words, we'll see this in our last lessons), then learn more about the valiant men who supported him, and finally, what we can learn from this.

DAY 1

David's Last Prophecy 2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

Please read 2 Samuel 23:1-7 and answer the following questions.

[1] This passage doesn't mean these are the last things David ever said. Rather, it was his last literary legacy to Israel,¹ written toward the end of his life to celebrate his calling and the covenant God made with him.²

What was the first thing that David pointed out (verse 1)?

[2] What had God put on David's heart, or tongue rather, about godly leadership (verses 2-4)?

[3] Although David's house was not perfect before God, what confidence did David have in the Lord's promises (verses 5-7)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] Because of how the beginning of this prophecy is worded, there is a possibility of this actually being a prophecy of the coming reign of the Messiah.³ In fact, the term *anointed* is one of the most important of Old Testament words. The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Bible) translated is as *Christos* or *Christ*. This word referred to a special title reflecting a unique relationship with God.⁴

What are some things we know about Jesus that are reflected in David's prophetic statement?

Matthew 13:30, 40

Luke 13:30–32; John 8:12; 9:5

Philippians 2:9–11; Revelation 19:16

[2] There is also some vital information about serving in a place of leadership in this passage. David said that any leader over God's people must be just (honest, right, lawful, like God is by nature) and do it in the fear and reverence for God in all facets.⁵ God must call and empower leaders; the Holy Spirit must teach them; and they must be people who will lead in the fear of God and for His glory, not for themselves.⁶

What does having a reverent attitude toward the Lord produce in us, as believers and leaders (Proverbs 1:7; 2:1–9)?

Daily Life Point: Another important fact that this passage brings out is the confidence that David had in the promises of God. Even though his family had fallen short of their end of the covenant, and despite the opposition of wicked, foolish men, David had absolute confidence that God would fulfill His promises. In fact, the *New Living Translation* translates verse 5 as, "His agreement is eternal, final, sealed. He will constantly look after my safety and success."

Do you have the same confidence in the Lord to fulfill His promises to you? What are some ways He has faithfully done so in your life, and how can that give you renewed confidence that God will keep His Word in circumstances you face today? If you are serving in some place of spiritual authority, what have you gleaned about your leadership from David's prophetic word?

MEMORY PASSAGE

This week we will memorize 2 Samuel 23:10a. Review the passage several times throughout each day. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized.

The Lord brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after Him only to plunder. (2 Samuel 23:10a NKJV)

DAY 2

David's Victorious Men **2 SAMUEL 23:8-10**

Please Read 2 Samuel 23:8-10 and answer the following questions.

[1] We now come to a listing of David's mighty men. Some other ways to translate the word *mighty* could be "powerful," "warrior," "champion," and "valiant."⁷ You can also find the list of their valiant adventures can be found also with slight differences in 1 Chronicles 11.

What were some of the amazing victories verses 8-10 record about the first two mighty men?

Note: There are some slight variations between this account and 1 Chronicles 11. For example, in verse 8, the "800 men" is "300 men" in 1 Chronicles 11:11, still a pretty amazing feat for this mighty man.⁸

[2] What amazing victory does verses 11-12 record about the third mighty man?

[3] What was the real reason for these men being able to be so overwhelmingly victorious (verses 10b, 12b)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] It is one thing to be valiant, but the real secret was that the Lord Himself brought about the victory; all the people had to do was to go and clean up the spoils afterwards! A "great victory" (or as *The Message* put it, "a big win for God that day") means "help," "assistance," "deliverance," "salvation," and "rescue."⁹ Experiencing overwhelming victory over the enemy requires utter dependence on the Lord and His ability to deal with the enemy for us.

How do the following passages reflect that dependence we must have on Him to fight for and through us? What will the results be?

Exodus 14:13–14, 31

2 Chronicles 20:3–4, 12, 15–17

Psalm 46:10–11

[2] What is the ultimate victory God has won for us that we could never accomplish, which helps us press on with Him in confidence (Romans 8:1–4; 1 Corinthians 15:57–58)?

Daily Life Point: Yesterday we saw that an important facet of victorious Christian living and service is a confident trust in the Word of God, despite what circumstances and opposition may say. Today we read how seemingly impossible victories are accomplished: utter trust and reliance in the power of God to go before us, fight our battles, and enable us to share in the tremendous victory He has won! These men would have no victory if they didn't first trust and then obey, stepping out by faith to face that enemy in God's might. Alan Redpath well said, "The triumph of the church as a whole depends on the personal victory of every Christian."¹⁰ This is true from the leader down to the newest member of the body of Christ.

How has today's passage and the examples of these victorious men encouraged you in the obstacle you face in your daily battles? Share this with your group, especially if you need their support in walking in personal victory to strengthen the body of Christ.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**The Lord brought about a great _____ that day; and the
people returned after him only to _____.**

(2 Samuel 23:10a NKJV).

DAY 3

David's Valiant Warriors
2 SAMUEL 23:13-19

Please Read 2 Samuel 23:13-19 and answer the following questions.

[1] The timing of the events of today's passage was when David had fled from Saul, gone to the Philistines, but then acted as a manman before them and escaped to hide in the cave of Adullam (1 Samuel 22).

What circumstances did David and his men face during this time, and what wishful thought did that stir up in David (verses 14-15)?

[2] What did three of David's valiant warriors do in view of his desires, and how did David react to this (verses 16-17)?

[3] What else do verses 18-19 record about Abishai's victories?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] David's men exhibited tremendous valiance and courage in what they did to try to meet David's desires, to please and encourage him in the midst of his struggles and trials. Their action was one of great sacrifice. It sets an example for us as we seek to serve and honor God and others.

How did Paul write about how we should live sacrificially and in self denial:

Toward God, Romans 12:1-2

Toward Others, Philippians 2:1-4

[2] David poured out this water that his brave men brought him as a drink offering to the Lord, viewing it as no less than symbolic of their very blood they had risked for him.

What are some things we read in the following passages about the symbolic nature of another drink offering made sacrificially?

Psalms 22:14-15

Isaiah 53:10–12

Daily Life Point: Warren Wiersbe well said of today's passage, "David's hands accomplished many things as he held a sword, a spear, and a harp. The finest thing he ever did was with a cup of water, for in making it a drink offering to the Lord, he revealed his true character. 'We can do no great things,' said Mother Tereasa, 'only small things with great love.'"¹¹

Jesus was poured out for us freely as a drink offering. We in turn are to deny ourselves and live for Him and to seek the needs of others. Their needs are as important as our own.

Living that out daily isn't easy, but how has today's study helped you gain renewed encouragement to do so? Please share some thoughts here as to how you might need to better practice these things on a daily basis.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

The Lord brought about a great _____ that day; and the people

_____ after him only to _____. (2 Samuel

23:10a NKJV)

DAY 4

David's Roll of Honor
2 SAMUEL 23:20–39

Please Read 2 Samuel 23:20–39 and answer the following questions.

[1] What other incidents are recorded about these other valiant men (verses 20–23)?

[2] The rest of chapter 23 is David's roll of honor, chronicling for us a total of some 37 brave men. Now, if you tabulate those mentioned here in the NKJV, you'll only come up with 36, but don't let this bend you out of shape; number 37 was no doubt Joab, who was not mentioned directly but was referred to in a couple of places.¹²

With whom does this listing ironically end (verse 39)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

God saw fit to have His Word record the exploits of David’s valiant men. As Warren Wiersbe well pointed out, “True leaders are not afraid to surround themselves with people of great ability and give them opportunities for greatness.”¹³ We too should seek to prepare others to be successful in their walk and service for the Lord; in fact, every good spiritual leader should be training up someone who can take their place some day or be able to serve effectively elsewhere. This is what is referred to as discipleship.

What are some things that the following passages tell us about this process of discipleship?

Matthew 28:18–20

Romans 5:14

Colossians 1:27–29; 3:16

2 Timothy 2:1–2

Hebrews 10:24–25

Daily Life Point: Think about this quote for a moment:

What is the practical value of having this list in Scripture? It demonstrates David’s willingness to reward those under his command when they performed tasks with excellence. Thus it reflects David’s great skill in relationships and suggests a model to be emulated by godly leaders of all generations.¹⁴

Now think about and answer this: How well are you personally following the example of those in spiritual leadership over you? Or if you are in a place of leadership, what kind of example are you setting for those that your life influences? Putting it in a more straightforward way, what would it look like if your actions were recorded for all to see in the pages of Scripture? What are some changes you would want to make if your actions were available for all to see?

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

The Lord _____ about a great _____ that
_____; and the people _____ after him only
to _____. (2 Samuel 23:10a NKJV)

DAY 5

Becoming a Person of Valor

Please read and answer the following questions. There will be no separate Expanded Questions today.

[1] We look at the stories of the exploits of David and these men, and think that these must have been super heroes or something, fighting insurmountable enemies, killing lions, giants, or beating hundreds of people by themselves. Yet they weren't.

How does the author of 1 Samuel 22:2 describe these people who joined up to follow David?

[2] We have seen in our studies of Genesis and here in David's life that many of the people recorded in Scripture have feet of clay, are human, and prone to failing.

What does James 5:17 remind us about even the greatest of Bible heroes?

[3] There was a difference with these men, however, that enabled them to serve effectively and become people of valor. Read 1 Chronicles 12:18, 22.

What made the difference?

[4] God's Spirit can empower us in the same way. We too can effectively serve God and become people who mightily impact the world.

What do the following passages tell us about this empowering and how we receive it?

Zechariah 4:6

Luke 11:13

Ephesians 5:17–18

[5] God equipped David for the task He called him to fulfill (Psalm 78:70–72). Being a person of valor comes not from one’s own bravery or skill, but in the power of God through the person’s surrendered life. God also has given us spiritual weaponry to help us in this spiritual warfare we face in our lives.

Read Ephesians 6:10–18 and list some of the spiritual resources He has provided for you to become a person of valor.

Daily Life Point: In putting this together, we discover that a person of valor is not a super human. They are no different than the average person walking down the street, except in this: their whole being is completely surrendered to God and empowered by His Holy Spirit; they make effective use of their spiritual armor and weaponry in the cause of Christ. It isn’t a super faith in faith; it’s a simple faith in an omnipotent God!

What spoke to you personally today about your need to become more of a person of spiritual valor? Is there some of your spiritual armor and weaponry you are forgetting to take with you daily? Are you being more of a mighty wimp rather than a mighty person of valor for the Lord? What changes would you like to entrust over to the Lord in the power of His might to be more of what He desires you to be?

MEMORY PASSAGE

Write out this week’s passage by memory. Then review the passage throughout the week.

2 Samuel 23:10a:

DAY 5

Pursuing God's Heart

[1] It is amazing how much practical application we can draw from a seemingly straightforward list of things in Scripture.

First, we examined David's last prophetic words. We need to be people who live justly and rightly in all of our dealings, out of the fear and reverence for God, doing all things as an act of worship for Him. It is then that our lives will have clarity, enabling us to truly refresh ourselves and others around us.

We also saw that David realized how important trust in the promises of God is. What was the most important thing that personally spoke to your heart from these topics from Day One? How can this have a lasting impact on how you live from day to day? Please share some of your thoughts about what God has been showing you in these things.

[2] Secondly, in Day Two through Four, we studied David's victorious, valiant men. The importance of walking in faith and abedience, and taking practical steps after trusting in God cannot be overstated. In these times we live, it is important for us to demonstrate this to the nonbelievers around us.

Alan Redpath so well put it, "Wherever we may be placed in the will of God, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, each Christian is a fort of resistance in the name of heaven against all the forces of evil in the world today."¹⁵

How did the examples we read of this week further encourage you to stand up and be such a "fort of resistance" for the sake of God's Kingdom?

[3] Becoming a person a valor is not just for the super saint. Thank God that He saw fit to record the names and exploits of these men whom we would never read of anywhere else, because our lives and exploits will no doubt be recorded in the annals of heaven.

Read the following quote from Ivor Powell and record some thoughts about what ministered to you personally toward becoming more of a person of valor for the Lord:

The greatest exploits for God are not performed exclusively by the publicized leaders of God's people. Picturesque mountains often have their foundations in inauspicious plains. Great rivers have small tributaires contribute to the magnificence of the waterway...The strength of the church and every other movement is always found in the grass-roots of the organizations, where ordinary volunteers faithfully perform their unsung ministry.¹⁶

Please use this space to record anything else that the Lord has specifically showed you this week. Feel free to share it with your group.

MEMORY PASSAGE

From memory, write out this week's passage below. Then review the passage throughout the day. Be prepared to share the verse with your group.

2 Samuel 23:10a NKJV:

PARTING THOUGHTS

Let's close off our studies today by looking at two psalms. David wrote one of the psalms and the sons of Korah wrote the other.

Psalms 20 and 42 were actually intended to be a prayer by the people for David and his men as they went into battle.¹⁷ It calls to mind the concept of David as the anointed and of our trust being in God—not human strength.

Psalms 20 and 42 address our need for the Lord alone to satisfy our thirsts. May God bless you as you contemplate these two psalms.

Psalm 20

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble;
May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
May He send you help from the sanctuary,
And strengthen you out of Zion;
May He remember all your offerings,
And accept your burnt sacrifice.

Selah

May He grant you according to your heart's desire,
And fulfill all your purpose.
We will rejoice in your salvation,
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.
Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed;
He will answer him from His holy heaven
With the saving strength of His right hand.

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.
They have bowed down and fallen;
But we have risen and stand upright.

Save, Lord!
May the King answer us when we call.

Psalm 42

To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah.

As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So pants my soul for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
While they continually say to me,
“Where is your God?”

When I remember these things,
I pour out my soul within me.
For I used to go with the multitude;
I went with them to the house of God,
With the voice of joy and praise,
With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him
For the help of His countenance.

O my God, my soul is cast down within me;
Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan,
And from the heights of Hermon,
From the Hill Mizar.
Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls;
All Your waves and billows have gone over me.
The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,
And in the night His song shall be with me—
A prayer to the God of my life.
I will say to God my Rock,
“Why have You forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”
As with a breaking of my bones,
My enemies reproach me,
While they say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God;
For I shall yet praise Him,
The help of my countenance and my God.

NOTES

- 1 *The MacArthur Study Bible*, ed. John MacArthur (Nashville: Word Bibles, 1997), p. 462.
- 2 Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Restored* (Colorado Springs: Victor Books, 2002), p. 147.
- 3 Robert D. Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, Publishers, 1996), p. 464.
- 4 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2336.
- 5 *Ibid.*, pp. 2323, 2357.
- 6 Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993), p. 416.
- 7 James Strong, "A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible with Their Renderings in the Authorized English Version," in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1890 Reprint), p. 25.
- 8 *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 463.
- 9 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2382.
- 10 Alan Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1962), p. 232.
- 11 Wiersbe, *With the Word*, p. 416.
- 12 Joe O. Lewis, *Layman's Bible Book Commentary*, vol. 5 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980), p. 121.
- 13 Wiersbe, *With the Word*, p. 417.
- 14 Bergen, *1, 2 Samuel*, p. 472.
- 15 Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God*, p. 231.
- 16 Ivor Powell, *David, His Life and Times* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1990), p. 338.
- 17 James M. Boice, *Psalms*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1994), p. 177.

