

2 Samuel 23 - 24
Epilogue
Lesson 18

The final two chapters of 2 Samuel continue with David's reflections on his 40 years as king of Israel.

David's Last Words - 23:1-7

1. The last words of David were spoken as a prophet. How was David described in verse 1?
 - Son of _____
 - Exalted by the _____
 - Anointed by the _____ of _____
 - Israel's _____ of _____
2. What did David recognize about these "last words"? (vs. 2)
3. Who did he say spoke? (vs. 2-3a)
 - The _____ of the Lord
 - The _____ of Israel
 - The _____ of Israel
4. How can a man rule in righteousness? (vs. 3b)
5. What word pictures did David use to describe a righteous ruler? (vs. 4)
 - He is like:
 - He is like:
6. David's house was right with God - - because of what God had done. (vs. 5)
 - God made an _____ with David, arranged and _____ in every part.

- David also knew that God would bring to fruition _____

7. What happens to those who do not fear the Lord, those evil men? (vs. 6, 7)

- Are all to be _____
- They are _____ where they lie

David's Mighty Men - 23:8-39

As David reflected on the men who had served him faithfully all of his life, he began to record their names.

8. His top three mighty men began with the chief or first being Josheb-Basshebeth. What did David recall about him? (vs. 8)

9. What was mentioned about Eleazar? (vs. 9-10)

10. Third was Shammah. What was the event that stood out in David's mind about his fighting? (vs. 11, 12)

11. David recalled the time these three showed their loyalty to him while he was running from King Saul. They were hiding in the cave of Adullam when David said that he had a longing. What did he wish for? (vs. 15)

12. What did these three mighty men do? (vs. 16a)

13. This was a defining moment in David's life as a military leader. What did he do and why? (vs. 16b-17)

14. Abishai was "as famous as the three." In one encounter he killed _____ men. Although he was not one of the three he became their _____. (vs. 18-19)
15. Benaiah struck down _____ of Moab's _____. He also went into a pit on a snowy day and _____ a _____. (vs. 20)
16. David also remembered that he struck down a _____ and killed him with his _____. (vs. 21.)
17. Although Benaiah was not one of the three, he was held in high honor. How did David show his faith in Benaiah? (vs. 23b)

Read over the list of David's mighty men in verses 24 - 39 and try to imagine what life was like on a daily basis for these warriors. The last name on the list was Uriah the Hittite. How difficult it must have been for David to record his name and remember his faithfulness to him! (His story is found in 2 Samuel 11.)

The Census - 24:1-9

18. Chapter 24 begins, "Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel," but does not give any reason for the anger other than it was against the nation. God incited David (meaning put the idea in his mind) to take a census. Whom did David command Joab to enroll (count)? (vs. 2)

- What was his reason for the census?

19. How did Joab respond to this command? (vs. 3)

- Did David listen to Joab's advice? (vs. 4)

20. How long did the census take? (vs. 8)

21. What was Joab's report to David? (vs. 9)

In Israel _____

In Judah _____

Total fighting men _____

22. As soon as David heard the number what happened? (vs. 10)

- David was _____ - _____
- He said to the Lord, _____
- Lord, I _____ you, _____
- I have _____ a _____

23. The next day David received a visit from the prophet Gad with a message from the Lord. Because of his sin, David was given three options to be carried out against him. What were the options? (vs. 13)

- Option 1: 3 years of _____
- Option 2: 3 months of _____
- Option 3: 3 days of _____

24. What was David's emotional state when he heard this? (vs. 14)

- Why did David say that he chose option 3?

25. What was the death toll? (vs. 15)

26. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, what was the Lord's reaction? (vs. 16a)

- What did the Lord say to the angel? (vs. 16b)
- Where did this take place? (vs. 16c)

27. The Lord opened David's eyes so he could see the angel. What did David say to the Lord? (vs. 24:17)

- I am the _____
- These are _____
- Let your hand _____ and _____

The Altar to the Lord - 24:18-25

28. What did the prophet Gad tell David to do? (vs. 18)

29. What was Araunah's reaction when he saw David and his men? (vs. 20-21a)

30. What was David's request and why? (vs. 21b)

31. In Middle Eastern style, Araunah offered to give it to the king. What was Araunah's hope? (vs. 23)

32. What was David's answer to Araunah? (vs. 24a)

33. David bought the land and the oxen and then built an altar to the Lord. What two offerings did David sacrifice to the Lord? (vs. 25)
34. These offerings were for reconciliation and to restore the broken covenant. What was the Lord's answer to David's prayer? (vs. 25)

Think about it!

David's sin began with pride and came at a high cost not only to himself but to the whole nation. When Saul disobeyed the Lord, Samuel told him what the Lord required. David, and we, would do well to remember his words.

"Does the Lord delight in burnt
offering and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the voice of
the Lord?
To obey is better than sacrifice."
1 Samuel 15:22