



RETURN TO THE KING

THE BOOKS OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL





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Samuel, so far

- Judges was a march to the bottom
- God used Samuel to start the journey back to the top!
- Saul was a failure
- David is now king in Israel
- David sins and repents, consequences follow
- 2 of David's sons are dead and Joab has called David to return to work

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

1 Now **these are the last words of David**: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel: 2 “The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

3 The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: **When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, 4 he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.**

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

5 “For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? 6 But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand; 7 but the man who touches them arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they are utterly consumed with fire.”

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

8 These are the names of **the mighty men whom David had**: Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. **He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.** 9 And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

He was with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew.¹⁰ **He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword.** And the LORD brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

11 And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines. 12 But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD worked a great victory.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

13 And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 14 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. 15 And David said longingly, “Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!”

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

16 Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. **He poured it out to the LORD** 17 and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

These things the three mighty men did.¹⁸ Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against three hundred men and killed them and won a name beside the three. ¹⁹ He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

20 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two ariels of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

21 And he struck down an Egyptian, a handsome man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

22 These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and won a name beside the three mighty men. 23 He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

24 Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, 25 Shammah of Harod, Elikah of Harod, 26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh of Tekoa, 27 Abiezer of Anathoth, Mebunnai the Hushathite, 28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai of Netophah,

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

29 Heleb the son of Baanah of Netophah,
Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the people
of Benjamin, 30 Benaiah of Pirathon, Hiddai
of the brooks of Gaash, 31 Abi-albon the
Arbathite, Azmaveth of Bahurim, 32 Eliahba
the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen,
Jonathan, 33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam
the son of Sharar the Hararite,

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai of Maacah,
Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,³⁵
Hezro of Carmel, Paarai the Arbite,³⁶ Igal the
son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,³⁷
Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the
armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,³⁸ Ira
the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,³⁹ Uriah the
Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

1 Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and **he** incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah." 2 So the king said to Joab, the commander of the army, who was with him, "Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and number the people, that I may know the number of the people."

1 Chronicles 21:1-3

21 Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel. 2 So David said to Joab and the commanders of the army, "Go, number Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, and bring me a report, that I may know their number." 3 But Joab said, "May the Lord add to his people a hundred times as many as they are! Are they not, my lord the king, all of them my lord's servants?"

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

3 But Joab said to the king, “May the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see it, but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?” 4 But the king's word prevailed against Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to number the people of Israel.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

5 They crossed the Jordan and began from Aroer, and from the city that is in the middle of the valley, toward Gad and on to Jazer. 6 Then they came to Gilead, and to Kadesh in the land of the Hittites; and they came to Dan, and from Dan they went around to Sidon, 7 and came to the fortress of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites; and they went out to the Negeb of Judah at Beersheba.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. 9 And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king: in Israel there were 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000. 10 But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

And David said to the LORD, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly.” 11 And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 “Go and say to David,

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

‘Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.’”

13 So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, “**Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land?** Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me.”

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

14 Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man.” 15 So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

16 And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, **the LORD relented** from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, “It is enough; now stay your hand.” And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, “Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house.” 18 And Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go up, raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

19 So David went up at Gad's word, as the LORD commanded. 20 And when Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. And Araunah went out and paid homage to the king with his face to the ground. 21 And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?"

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

David said, “To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be averted from the people.”²² Then Araunah said to David, “**Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him.** Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood.

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

23 All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.” And Araunah said to the king, “May the LORD your God accept you.” 24 But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.”

2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. **So the LORD responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.**

So What?

- A good leader inspires his people to be on mission
- A good leader chooses his people before himself
- There is no good human leader
- There are only submitted
- Make the worthy one King!

TIME OF GIVING

Online giving is also available on our church website,
www.westmiddlebury.org, and on our Tithely app.

Offering boxes are
available at both entrances.

2 Corinthians 9:7

