

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL  
THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID  
2 SAMUEL 23:1-7

Introduction

“**LAST WORDS**”...think about it! We’ve seen the importance of last words portrayed sometimes in books and/or drama productions—The scene of someone on their deathbed or maybe lying out in the street with their life about to come to an end and someone leans down to hear their last words!

**Sometimes the last words someone speaks might be profound.**

Joseph Addison was a writer who died in 1719. He ended his life with this statement, “*See in what peace a Christian can die.*” He wanted his death to show the peace that faith can bring.

**Sometimes the last words someone speaks might be complete and utter nonsense, or even ironic.** J. M. Barrie, the author of *Peter Pan* ended his life with the statement, “*I can’t sleep*” and then he crossed over in the sleep of death!

John Adams, the second President of our land, said “*Thomas Jefferson...still survives.*” (But he did not know that Thomas Jefferson had died earlier that same day!) John Adams died at 6:20 pm on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia was tolling, marking the deaths of both men, when it cracked.

**Sometimes there is humor found in last words.** Lady Nancy Astor awoke during her last illness and found her family around her bedside and asked, “*Am I dying or is this my birthday?*”

My own paternal grandfather died just after having sung “*Happy Birthday*” to himself along with his family.

Oscar Wilde said very clearly that “*Either that wallpaper goes or I do.*” The wallpaper is still there.

Some worry about what history will think. Pancho Villa, the Mexican revolutionary told those with him to “*Tell them I said something.*”

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And Henry Ward Beecher, an evangelist in the 1800s, as he looked to what was to come, said, “*Now comes the great mystery.*”

**Verse 1** of our text this evening tells us that **King David had some last words to share with those around him and those who came after him, including us!**

**These last words of David make up part of the inspired Scripture, and so they are something that we should listen to and learn from.**

**And so we fast forward here to the end of David’s life here to read David’s last words.** And then we’ll hit rewind when we get to **verse 8** and see some other things in David’s life in these last two chapters and the first two Chapters of the book of **1 Kings** before he actually dies in **1 Kings 2:10-11.**)

David’s life wasn’t an easy life. He spent the first part of it shepherding the sheep of his father, Jesse. He then spent time running from King Saul. He spent the middle of it at war with the Philistines, his neighbors. And he spent the end of his life dealing with his own sons who were warring with each other and one who even went to war against him in order to become the next king.

So, David faced difficulty throughout his life, spent much of it on the run and constantly had to rely on the Lord because he knew he couldn’t handle everything that was happening to him on his own.

David persevered, but his last words here **ARE NOT ABOUT WHAT HE HAD DONE** or his own personal greatness, but rather they are about **WHAT GOD HAD DONE** and **WHAT GOD WOULD DO!** (It looks forward beyond his life and his death and even beyond our days!)

David’s last words are about **THE ONE WHO WAS WITH HIM THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE!** They are about **WHO IT WAS THAT ALLOWED HIM TO DO THE THINGS HE DID AND GAVE HIM HIS KINGDOM!** David looked back on ALL of his life and saw **THE WORK OF GOD** throughout it and even beyond it!

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**I. WE SEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DAVID’S KINGDOM BY GOD’S DECREE! (Vs 1-2)**

From the beginning of this chapter, David puts the glory in God’s hands and not his own! It might sound like he is bragging on himself, but a closer examination shows that he is actually lifting up the LORD!

*“David the son of Jesse...”* – It was God Who looked on his heart and found him in his father’s sheepfold tending sheep!

*“...the man who was raised up on high...”* – God chose him out of obscurity to make him Israel’s king and to establish his kingdom for ever through his future Seed! (The coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ!) It was God Who chose to fulfill His promises through David!

*“...the anointed of the God of Jacob...”* – God was the One Who anointed David as King first!

**The anointing by Samuel** was just a picture of the real anointing! (Like baptism is to the believer!)  
*(1 Samuel 16:12-13)* David was the LORD’s anointed even as he was on the run!

**The anointing by the men of Judah** in *2 Samuel 2:4* was because the anointing by Samuel was only before his brethren! The men of Judah were acknowledging the true anointing as he served as king over Judah!

**The anointing by the elders of Israel** in *2 Samuel 5:3* was when he at last became the king of Israel. None in Israel had seen the first two anointings other than his brethren (first) and the men of Judah (second).

But **FIRST AND FOREMOST DAVID WAS ANOINTED BY GOD!**

*“...the sweet Psalmist of Israel...”* – Even this points to God Who inspired David to write most of the Psalms in the Book of Psalms!

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In fact, David acknowledges God’s part in *verse 2!*

God’s part in the kingdom was that HE established David’s Kingdom by decree! (The Davidic Covenant!) **(Vs 3-5)**

*Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25*

*WE SEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DAVID’S KINGDOM BY GOD’S DECREE!*

**II. WE SEE DAVID’S KINGDOM IS TO BE MARKED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD! (Vs 3-5)**

**A. Righteousness Will Be The Rule Or Work Of This King!**  
(The word *“just”* in *verse 3* means *“just, lawful, righteous”*)

**B. Righteousness Will Be The Mark Of This King!**  
*(Verse 3—“He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God”)*

- C. This King Is The Source Of Life! (Vs 4, Cf Psalm 72)**
1. *“And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth...”*  
It will be the dawning of a new day!  
Characterized by beauty, warmth, light, liveliness!
  2. *“...even a morning without clouds...”*
  3. *“...as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.”*

**III. WE SEE DAVID’S KINGDOM IS SECURED BY GOD’S COVENANT! (Vs 5)**

David knew that he failed the things just mentioned. But then he points to God’s Covenant with him regarding his Seed!

He calls it an *“Everlasting Covenant”!*

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*Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.*

**Everything that has to do with...**

our personal and eternal happiness...  
our pardon from sin...  
our avoiding final judgment...  
our personal peace...  
our eternal life...

**IS BASED ON THE DAVIDIC COVENANT!**

**IV. WE SEE THIS KINGDOM OF GOD WILL BE THE END OF GOD'S ENEMIES! (Vs 6-7)**

*1 Corinthians 15:25-26 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

*Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

**Conclusion**

All praise be to God for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will yet do!

God Has Established David's Kingdom By His Decree!

A Kingdom That Will Be Marked By Righteousness And The Fear Of The LORD!

A Kingdom That Is Assured And Secured By God's Covenant!

A Kingdom That Will Be The End Of God's Enemies!