**2 Samuel 23** (https://www.esv.org/2+Samuel+23/)

Peter B. Luh, 7/21, 22, 8/14/2018

**The Last Words of David**

23 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.

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.

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.”

**David's Mighty Men**

8 These are the names of the mighty men

 whom David had:

 Josheb-basshebetha 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.

 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.

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.

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 some one would give me water

 to drink from the well of Bethlehem

 that is by the gate!”

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.

 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.

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.

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.

24 Asahel the brother of Joab

 was one of the thirty;

 Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

25 Shammah of Harod,

 Elika 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,

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,

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.