

Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 23:1-7
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2 Samuel 23:1-7

(2 Samuel 21:1-24:25 forms an appendix to the book of 2 Samuel. It records episodes which happened during the years about which the book speaks but which were not put in chronological order in the book of Samuel. However, this section has always been part of the Biblical book of Samuel and we have no idea why they were not included in the chronological telling of the story.)

Verse 1

*¹ These are the last words of David:
The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
the hero of Israel's songs:*

- A man's last words are the words he speaks as he is about to die. What follows are the last words which King David spoke before his death. These are words of praise to YHWH.
- David described himself as "the son of Jesse," not Israel's king. These are humble words.
- He described himself as a man "exalted by the Most High." He is about to tell how God worked through him.
- He described himself as "the man anointed by God." He was the one picked by God and through whom God chose to work. This was not of David's doing, but of God's.
- He was "the hero of Israel's songs." The people of Israel sang songs about what God had done through His servant, David.
- It is interesting to note that David's last words are written in poetic form. These words are a song, a poem, which David sang to God as he was about to die.

Verse 2

**² “The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me;
his word was on my tongue.**

- David confirmed that the Holy Spirit of God, the third person of the Trinity, rested on him and caused him to speak. This is evident in the great many psalms and songs that David wrote in his lifetime. He was constantly praising God.

Verses 3-4

**³ The God of Israel spoke,
the Rock of Israel said to me:
'When one rules over people in righteousness,
when he rules in the fear of God,
⁴ he is like the light of morning at sunrise
on a cloudless morning,
like the brightness after rain
that brings grass from the earth.'**

- God, YHWH, Israel's rock, had told him that a righteous ruler is a blessing to any nation. The government of a righteous ruler is like the beauty of dawn on a clear morning, or the brightness of the sun after a thunderstorm, or like new grass. It is a lovely thing. It is a gift from God.

Verse 5

**⁵ "If my house were not right with God,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation
and grant me my every desire.**

- As we have seen through our study of 2 Samuel, David's house had not always been in order. David had violated the word of God in many severe ways. His actions had brought God's judgment upon David and his family.
- But as he lay dying, he confesses that he learned the effect his bad behavior had had. Now, at the end, David understood, and his house was in order. God had made a promise to him that a descendant of King David would sit on David's throne forever. We know that that descendant of David who sits on David's throne, even today, is Jesus Christ whose earthly descendants are

through the line of King David. The promise made to David is “secure and unbroken.”

- If God had not showered his blessing on David this would not be so. It is of God and not of David. But it shows God’s blessing on David and his house.

Verses 6-7

***6 But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,
which are not gathered with the hand.***

7 Whoever touches thorns

***uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;
they are burned up where they lie.”***

- In contrast to David who was blessed by God, evil men, those who do not turn to God or seek His blessing, are cast away like thorns.
- Such men are touched carefully and gathered into piles and burned. They are cast aside by God.
- Though David did not live a perfect life, he sought to follow God and God had chosen him and blessed him. On his deathbed, David praises God for His blessing.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 2 Samuel 23:1-7. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)