

**A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART**  
**A study in I and II Samuel and the Psalms of David**  
AMEN Bible Study 2014-2015

**David's Last Words: An Oracle from God**

II Samuel 23:1-7

April 23, 2015

1:-3b **I. These words are weighty.**

A. They are "last words." (1a)  
*"Now these are the last words of David:"*

Cf. Gen. 49; 50; Deut. 31-33; Mt. 28:16-20; II Timothy

B. They are David's words (1b).  
*"The oracle of David..."*

1. Common man  
*"the son of Jesse"*
2. Exalted man  
*"the oracle of the man who was raised on high"*
3. Anointed man  
*"the anointed of the God of Jacob,"*
4. Gifted man  
*"the sweet psalmist of Israel:"*

2, 3a C. They are God's words  
*"The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me;  
his word is on my tongue.  
<sup>3</sup>The God of Israel has spoken;  
the Rock of Israel has said to me:"*

Cf. Mt. 22:43; Acts 1:16; 2:30; 4:25; Heb. 4:7

3c-7 **II. These words are wise**

A. Godly leadership blesses the people (3c, 4).  
*"When one rules justly over men,  
ruling in the fear of God,  
<sup>4</sup>he dawns on them like the morning light,  
like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning,  
like rain<sup>[b]</sup> that makes grass to sprout from the earth."*

Cf. Ps. 72

5 B. Godly leadership will come from David's house

*"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?"*

Cf. II Sam. 7:8-19; Ps. 89:29; 132:11, 12

6,7 C. Ungodly leadership curses the people

1. They are worthless (6)

*"But worthless men<sup>[6]</sup> are all like thorns that are thrown away,  
for they cannot be taken with the hand;"*

Cf. Mt. 13:7

2. They will be destroyed (7)

*"but the man who touches them  
arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear,  
and they are utterly consumed with fire."*

Cf. Is. 9:18; 10:17; 33:12; 66:24; Mt. 13:41, 42; Heb. 6:8; Rev. 21:8; 22:15

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why do we take seriously a man's last words? Where else in the Bible do we have last words recorded?

(cf. v.1)

2. Why do we believe the Bible to be true? How does it differ from other religious books? (cf. vv. 2,3)

3. What does it mean to "rule justly?" What does it mean to "rule in the fear of God?"

(cf. v.3c)

4. Describe the blessings that come from godly leadership alluded to in v. 4.

5. Why was David confident in his dynasty in v. 5, especially after the disasters he had experienced with his sons?
6. Who are these “worthless men” in v. 6? Why does David even mention them?

### **Going Deeper**

1. What causes you to doubt the truth or authority of God’s Word? How can you bolster your faith in the Scriptures?
2. In what ways can your leadership be godlier?