

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Jan.15

MONDAY

As David begins his final speech (thankfully, someone wrote it down!) he describes himself.

READ: II Sam.23:1-2

David sees himself as an ordinary man (*the son of Jesse*) whom God raised up and put on the throne (*anointed of God*). He describes the words he spoke and the psalms he wrote as being God's words. He is telling us that he knew that what he wrote was more than just the writings of a man - that *the Spirit of the Lord spoke by him*. David was "carried along" by God's Spirit so the words he wrote are truly "God-breathed" words.

TUESDAY

God impressed upon David the type of king he has to be in order to lead Israel and lead her well.

READ: II Sam.23:3-4

Great imagery here: the people of the kingdom will be like the grass that gets both sunshine and rain. God ordained human government, and this is the kind He ordained: a moral and just government that would wash away wrongs (rain) and bring the good things (sunshine) out into the light. Knowing this may help us to evaluate well the kind of leaders we should chose.

WEDNESDAY

David knows that his own forty-year reign as King was not as moral or as good as it should have been.

READ: II Sam.23:5

Even though David failed to be the kind of King he should have been, God kept his promises anyway. The everlasting covenant God made with, first Abraham, and then with his descendants up to and including David himself, will stand. For us, the covenant-promise regards our salvation. And regardless of how severely we fail God, God will not fail us. The covenant that He's made with us is the New Covenant of Jesus' Blood. His promise is that He will accept the death of Jesus in our place and then forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake. That is God's everlasting covenant to you and me!

THURSDAY

David describes those who oppose a godly king (indirectly

opposing God) as being dangerous to deal with.

READ: II Sam.23:6-7

Those in opposition to God and to the king whom God puts upon the throne are compared to thorns which are dangerous to the touch. But, David writes, in the end, they shall be destroyed. (*burnt to nothingness*, the Hebrew says) Jesus taught that as well - that there is a day when God separates the wheat from the tares and throws the tares into the fire. Our response is to rejoice in our salvation! (that we are wheat!)

FRIDAY

David's speech ended with verse 7. In today's text, some of David's famous "Mighty Men" are listed, with some comments about each.

READ: II Sam.23:8-11

Adino the Eznite was the head captain. He lifted up his spear against eight hundred Philistines whom he slew at one time. A colleague of his, Eleazar, son of Dodo (who should seriously consider changing his name), seems to have been left by a retreating army to fight the Philistines alone. He won the battle, but fought so long and so intensively, that his hand was more-or-less stuck to his sword. Upon achieving the victory, the rest of the army returned for the spoils. Eleazar's story says to us, "Don't quit! Keep going! Keep pressing on, dear friend. You may be weary... the battle may be severe... the dangers may be all around... but keep on keeping on! God will see to it that the victory is yours!"

SATURDAY

One of David's mighty men was Shammah. His story - told ever so briefly - is recorded here in the Scriptures.

READ: II Sam.23:11-12

Shammah met some of the enemy who were stealing some sort of bean (maybe lentils) from the fields. He routed them, killing some in the process. But notice, the story of his exploits concludes with these words: *The Lord wrought a great victory*. However great the bravery of this man or that, the praise for the victory must be given to God. These men may have fought the battles, but God wrought the victory. *Let not the strong man then glory in his strength, but let him that glories, glory in the Lord.*