

THE LAST WORDS OF DAVID

Introduction:

1. Soon after appointing Solomon to the throne of Israel, David's life came to an end.
2. Before he died, David imparted wisdom in his final words to Solomon and to all who would reign as king.
3. This final lesson will consider the last words of David...

I. Instructions to Solomon

(1 Kings 2:1-9)

- A. David acknowledged his approaching death and prepared for it.
- B. He instructed Solomon:
 1. To be courageous
 2. To show strength and maturity
 3. To obey God
- C. This would allow God to keep His promise of prosperity and peace for Israel.
 1. David believed in the inspiration of the Bible.
 2. David believed in Bible study.
 3. David believed in God's faithfulness to His Word.
- D. He warned Solomon about Joab and instructed him to use wisdom in punishing the rebellious captain.
- E. He reminded Solomon to show gratitude to the children of Barzillai who had helped David when he fled from Absalom.
- F. Finally, he instructed Solomon to punish Shimei for his cursing of the Lord's anointed.

II. Instructions to All Kings

(2 Samuel 23:1-7)

- A. These words seem to have been David's final address to the nation.
- B. He reminded the people that he had spoken by the inspiration of God.
- C. Thus, God had given standards that were to be followed by one who would reign as King over Israel.
- D. A King must be just and rule with fear and reverence toward God.
- E. One who ruled in this manner would be a blessing to the people and a channel for God's goodness.
- F. He reminded them of the certainty of God's promise through the house of David – ultimately resulting in the coming of the Messiah.
- G. Those who oppose God and His will are worthless individuals and must be excluded from the kingdom and burned with fire.

III. The Ideal Monarch

(Psalm 101)

IV. The Death of David

(1 Kings 2:10-11)

- A. As is the lot of all men, David's time upon the earth finally came to an end.
- B. David died and was buried in the city of David.
- C. He had reigned over Israel for a period of 40 years.
- D. "He died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor" (1 Chron. 29:28).

1 Kings 2; 2 Samuel 23:1-7

- E. Someone wrote: *“David was a true believer, a zealous adorer of God, teacher of His law and worship, and inspirer of His praise; a glorious example, a perpetual and inexhaustible fountain of true piety; a consummate and unrivalled hero; a skillful and successful captain; a steady patriot; a wise ruler; a faithful, generous, and magnanimous friend; and what is yet rarer, a no less generous and magnanimous enemy; a true penitent, a divine musician, a sublime poet, and an inspired prophet. By birth a peasant, by merit a prince! In youth a hero, in manhood a monarch, and in age a saint”* (Dr. Delaney, quoted in Treasure of Scriptural Knowledge).