

## “The Last Words of David”

2 Samuel 23:1-7

### **BIBLICAL & HISTORICAL SETTING OF 2 SAMUEL 23. v.1**

- Recorded Israel’s history from the time of the Judges to David’s last years.
  - Israel demanded a king, *like the other nations*. 1 Sam 8:5-7, 19-22
  - Saul was anointed first, but failed to follow the LORD. David anointed next & also failed. 2 Sam. 11-12
- Theme: *Israel should hope in the Davidic line, despite the troubles caused by David’s shortcomings.*

### **THE FOUNDATION OF GODLY LEADERSHIP. v.2-3**

1. **These are the words of the LORD (not David) about godly leadership. v.2-3a**
2. **Godly leadership is ruling justly over men. v.3b**
3. **Godly leadership is ruling in the fear of God. v.3b** Ref. Exodus 18:21; Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9
4. **Godly leadership applies to the realms of self, family, church, and civil government.**
  - You have been given authority—over self (mind, body, conscience), household, property.
  - Ruling over self justly, in the fear of God.
  - Ruling over family/household justly, in the fear of God...church, community, and nation...

### **THE BLESSING OF GODLY LEADERSHIP. v.4**

1. **Three images of blessing...**
  - “like the morning light” - Godly leadership is compared to the first light of day.
  - “like the sun shining” – Godly leadership is compared to bright sunshine, without clouds.
  - “like rain that makes grass to sprout” – Godly leadership is compared to fruitfulness and refreshment.
2. **There is a flourishing of life that accompanies godly leadership.**
  - A flourishing of individuals... God’s principle of individuality. Charles “Snowflake” Bentley (1865-1931)
  - Ungodly leadership is the deadening of individuals & individuality. (As a nation we are in this season now.)
  - Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920): “Modernism, which denies and abolishes every difference, cannot rest until it has made woman man and man woman, and, putting every distinction on a common level, kills life by placing it under the ban of uniformity.... God has assigned each person to a specific role and task and it is only in the presence of God that these roles can be fully understood. This means that only a supernatural life system can explain the true and real difference between men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children, etc. A life system based on naturalism collapses everything into single blob of matter.” – *Lectures on Calvinism*, p.27 (given at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1898)

### **THE HOPE OF GODLY LEADERSHIP. v.5-7**

1. **David appeals to a covenant made on his behalf.**
  - “...an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure”
2. **God made a covenant with David recorded in 2 Samuel 7.**
  - v.12: When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
  - v.16: And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.
3. **One will be born from the house and lineage of David who will rule in righteousness without sin.**
  - Isaiah 9:6-7: to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

→ This is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God who was given...

  - Revelation 22:16: “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

"Today much concern is expressed about 'property rights' and the infringement upon individual or private enterprise. But the first invasion of property rights occurs internally when the individual consents to the disposal or use or misuse of his opinions, his religious convictions, and his faculties. Often this consent is tacit consent. The word 'tacit' means silent, implied, but not expressed. Tacit consent is consent by silence, or not interposing an objection....Consent is one's title to the property of conscience." -Rosalie Slater, *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History*, 229

"Should I keep back my opinions at such a time, through fear of giving offense, I should consider myself as guilty of treason toward my country, and an act of disloyalty toward the Majesty of Heaven, which I revere above all things."  
-Patrick Henry, March 1775

"I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual silent encroachments by those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations." -James Madison

Abraham Kuyper: "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'"