

2 Samuel 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

Analysis

Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said,

This verse contributes to the narrative of Last Words and Mighty Men, emphasizing legacy, faithful servants. David's last words emphasize the eternal covenant God established (v. 5) and declare principles of righteous rule. The accounts of David's mighty men demonstrate extraordinary courage and devotion. The water-drawing incident reveals David's unwillingness to value his comfort above his soldiers' lives. Theological themes include the importance of final testimonies, the eternal nature of God's covenant, the value of faithful servants, and the necessity of sacrificial leadership.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 23 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding legacy, faithful servants provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant

relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of legacy, faithful servants?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּה	דְּבָרַי	דָּוִד	הָאֲחֵרִים	וְנָא	דָּוִד	בֶּן	יֵשׁׁוּ
H428	words	David	Now these be the last	said	David	the son	of Jesse
	H1697	H1732	H314	H5002	H1732	H1121	H3448

וְנָא	הַגִּבּוֹר	הַקָּמ	עַל	מָשִׁיחַ	אֱלֹהֵי
said	and the man	who was raised up	on high	the anointed	of the God
H5002	H1397	H6965	H5920	H4899	H430

יַעֲקֹב	וְנֹעַם	זִמְרָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל
of Jacob	and the sweet	psalmist	of Israel
H3290	H5273	H2158	H3478

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 89:20 (References David): I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

Colossians 3:16 (Word): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Luke 24:44 (Word): And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Psalms 2:6 (Parallel theme): Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Psalms 72:20 (References David): The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

1 Chronicles 16:9 (Parallel theme): Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

1 Chronicles 16:7 (References David): Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph and his brethren.

Amos 6:5 (References David): That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

1 Samuel 2:10 (Parallel theme): The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.