

Psalm 30

**“I will exalt you, O Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths,
And did not let my enemies gloat over me.
O Lord my God,
I called you for help, and you healed me.
O Lord, you brought me up from the grave;
You spared me from going down into the pit.
Sing to the Lord, you saints of his.
Praise his holy name.
For his anger lasts only a moment,
But his favor lasts a lifetime;
Weeping may remain for a night,
But rejoicing comes in the morning.”**

Lessons Learned in the Life of David

PART III

STUDY NUMBER TWENTY-THREE - 2 Samuel 23:1-24:25

23:v. 1 These are the last words of David: "The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High,

and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the Lord.

v.17 "Far be it from me, O Lord, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" And David would not drink it. Such were the exploits of the three mighty men.

v.18 Abishai the brother of Joab son of Zeruiah was chief of the Three. He raised his spear against three hundred men, whom he killed, and so he became as famous as the Three.

v.19 Was he not held in greater honor than the Three? He became their commander, even though he was not included among them.

v.20 Benaiah son of Jehoiada was a valiant fighter from Kabzeel, who performed great exploits. He struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

v.21 And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

v.22 Such were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he too was as famous as the three mighty men.

v.23 He was held in greater honor than any of the Thirty, but he was not included among the Three. And David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

v.24 Among the Thirty were: Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan son of Dodo from Bethlehem,

v.25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,

v.26 Helez the Paltite, Ira son of Ikkesh from Tekoa,

v.27 Abiezer from Anathoth, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

v.28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

v.29 Heled son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah in Benjamin,

v.30 Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai from the ravines of Gaash,

v.31 Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

v.32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan

v.33 son of Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam son of Sharar the Hararite,

v.34 Eliphelet son of Ahasbai the Maacathite, Eliam son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

v.35 Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

v.36 Igal son of Nathan from Zobah, the son of Hagri,

v.37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer of Joab son of Zeruiah,

v.38 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite

v.39 and Uriah the Hittite. There were thirty-seven in all.

24:v.1 Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."

v.2 So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are."

v.3 But Joab replied to the king, "May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of

my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?"

v. 4 The king's word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to enroll the fighting men of Israel.

v. 5 After crossing the Jordan, they camped near Aroer, south of the town in the gorge, and then went through Gad and on to Jazer.

v. 6 They went to Gilead and the region of Tahtim Hodshi, and on to Dan Jaan and around toward Sidon.

v. 7 Then they went toward the fortress of Tyre and all the towns of the Hivites and Canaanites. Finally, they went on to Beersheba in the Negev of Judah.

v. 8 After they had gone through the entire land, they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

v. 9 Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.

v.10 David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

v.11 Before David got up the next morning, the word of the Lord had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer:

v.12 "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

v.13 So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

v.14 David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men."

v.15 So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died.

v.16 When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

v.17 When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, "I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family."

v.18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

v.19 So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad.

v.20 When Araunah looked and saw the king and his men coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

v.21 Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped."

v.22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever pleases him and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood."

v.23 O king, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you."

v.24 But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them.

v.25 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 2 Samuel 23:1-24:25 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.**
- 2. How is David described in chapter 23:1?**
- 3. What is David focusing upon in his last words, according to verse 5?**
- 4. Who was Eleazar and what did he do, according to verses 9 & 10?**
- 5. Who was Shammah and what did he do, according to verses 11 & 12?**

6. **What did David do with the water that was brought to him from the well of Bethlehem by three of his courageous men, according to verse 16?**
7. **What did David do wrong, according to chapter 24?**
8. **What judgment did David choose, according to verse 14?**
9. **Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**
10. **What lesson have you learned from this study?**

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Jesus Christ is your guarantee of salvation and the assurance of granting your every desire.

LESSON #2: God has a list of all of those in the Lamb's Book of Life who have received Jesus Christ as Savior.

LESSON #3: Take your stand and fight, and God will grant the victory.

LESSON #4: To live an unaccountable life is to flirt with danger.

LESSON #5: To ignore sin's consequences is to ignore God's truth.

LESSON #6: Sin brings tremendous devastation upon innocent bystanders.

LESSON #7: God always has a plan to escape or end the judgment.

LESSON #8: David has a conscience sensitive toward God.