

The Last Words of a Righteous Life

2 Samuel 22 - 23

Key Verse: 23:5

1. When did David sing this song? (22:1) Where did David go next? (22:1a; see map) Who came to him and what kind of people were they? (1b-2) Read 22:2–3. In what ways did he describe God, and what do these have in common? (Note how he repeats the word “my.”) How had he learned these things about God through his real-life experiences? (1Sa18:11; 20:3; 23: 14,26–29) In spite of his own desperate situation, how did David take care of them? What can we learn from David here? How have you experienced God’s help personally? Where did David go next and what was his purpose of going there? (3-4; Ru 4:5,21-22) What direction did the prophet Gad give him, and what did David do? (5)
2. How did David describe his distress, and what did he do to escape it? (4–7) In the meantime, what was Saul’s preoccupation? (6-8) How did he kill the priests? (9-19) What kind of person was Doeg? (Ps 52:1-4) Who escaped and how did David protect him? (20-23) What can we learn about God from David’s vivid description? (8–16) How did God help him (17–20a), and for what reasons? (20b–25,42; Ps66:16–20) What principles of God’s way of working can we find here? (26–28) What was David’s conclusion? (29–30)
3. Through God’s ways and his words, what confidence did David have in God? (31–32) How did God arm David (33–37), how did David crush his enemies (38–43) and how did God exalt him among the nations? (44–46) Read verse 47. In light of all that the LORD had done for him, what did David exclaim? (cf. Ge49:24; Dt32:4,31) Why is God worthy to be praised? (48–51) After experiencing God’s deliverance and victory, what should we learn about God, and why is it important to praise him?
4. Read 23:1–4. What does it mean to rule “in righteousness” and “in the fear of God”? What effect does such a ruler have? (4) How did David foreshadow Jesus? (Mt4:15–16; Mk10:45; Jn10:11) What does God’s everlasting covenant reveal about his faithfulness and way of working? (23:5a; 7:12–13) What was David’s assurance? (23:5b–7)
5. What does the incident of the water from the well of Bethlehem show us about David? (23:13–17) What can we learn about leadership from David who raised and co-worked with the mighty men and included Gentiles among them in establishing his kingdom? (23:18–39)