

## 2 Samuel 23-24

New King James Version (NKJV)

### 2 Samuel 23

#### David's Last Words

- <sup>1</sup> Now these *are* the last words of David.  
*Thus* says David the son of Jesse;  
*Thus* says the man raised up on high,  
The anointed of the God of Jacob,  
And the sweet psalmist of Israel:
- <sup>2</sup> “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,  
And His word *was* on my tongue.
- <sup>3</sup> The God of Israel said,  
The Rock of Israel spoke to me:  
  
‘He who rules over men *must be* just,  
Ruling in the fear of God.
- <sup>4</sup> And *he shall be* like the light of the morning *when* the sun rises,  
A morning without clouds,  
*Like* the tender grass *springing* out of the earth,  
By clear shining after rain.’
- <sup>5</sup> “ Although my house *is* not so with God,  
Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant,  
Ordered in all *things* and secure.  
For *this is* all my salvation and all *my* desire;  
Will He not make *it* increase?
- <sup>6</sup> But *the sons* of rebellion *shall* all *be* as thorns thrust away,  
Because they cannot be taken with hands.
- <sup>7</sup> But the man *who* touches them  
Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear,  
And they shall be utterly burned with fire in *their* place.”

#### David's Mighty Men

- <sup>8</sup> These *are* the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth<sup>[a]</sup> the Tachmonite, chief among the captains.<sup>[b]</sup> He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed

eight hundred men at one time.<sup>9</sup> And after him *was* Eleazar the son of Dodo,<sup>[c]</sup> the Ahohite, *one* of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines *who* were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated.<sup>10</sup> He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.<sup>11</sup> And after him *was* Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines.<sup>12</sup> But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

<sup>13</sup> Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.<sup>14</sup> David *was* then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines *was* then *in* Bethlehem.<sup>15</sup> And David said with longing, “Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which *is* by the gate!”<sup>16</sup> So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that *was* by the gate, and took it and brought *it* to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.<sup>17</sup> And he said, “Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is *this not* the blood of the men who went in *jeopardy* of their lives?” Therefore he would not drink it.

These things were done by the three mighty men.

<sup>18</sup> Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief of *another* three.<sup>[d]</sup> He lifted his spear against three hundred *men*, killed *them*, and won a name among *these* three.<sup>19</sup> Was he not the most honored of three? Therefore he became their captain. However, he did not attain to the *first* three.

<sup>20</sup> Benaiah *was* the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.<sup>21</sup> And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian *had* a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian’s hand, and killed him with his own spear.<sup>22</sup> These *things* Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.<sup>23</sup> He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the *first* three. And David appointed him over his guard.

<sup>24</sup> Asahel the brother of Joab *was* one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,<sup>25</sup> Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,<sup>26</sup> Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,<sup>27</sup> Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,<sup>28</sup> Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,<sup>29</sup> Heleb the son of Baanah (the Netophathite), Ittai the son of Ribai from Gibeath of the children of Benjamin,<sup>30</sup> Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai from the brooks of Gaash,<sup>31</sup> Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,<sup>32</sup> Eliahba the Shaalbonite (of the sons of Jashen), Jonathan,<sup>33</sup> Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,<sup>34</sup> Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,<sup>35</sup> Hezrai<sup>[c]</sup> the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,<sup>36</sup> Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,<sup>37</sup> Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite (armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruah),<sup>38</sup> Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,<sup>39</sup> *and* Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

## 2 Samuel 24

### David’s Census of Israel and Judah

<sup>1</sup> Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”

<sup>2</sup> So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who *was* with him, “Now go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people.”

<sup>3</sup> And Joab said to the king, “Now may the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see *it*. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?” <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless the king’s word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> And they crossed over the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the town which *is* in the midst of the ravine of Gad, and toward Jazer. <sup>6</sup> Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon; <sup>7</sup> and they came to the stronghold of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites. Then they went out to South Judah *as far as* Beersheba. <sup>8</sup> So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. <sup>9</sup> Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

#### **The Judgment on David’s Sin**

<sup>10</sup> And David’s heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly.”

<sup>11</sup> Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David’s seer, saying, <sup>12</sup> “Go and tell David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “I offer you three *things*; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do *it* to you.’”” <sup>13</sup> So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, “Shall seven<sup>[f]</sup> years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days’ plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me.”

<sup>14</sup> And David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies *are* great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.”

<sup>15</sup> So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. <sup>16</sup> And when the angel<sup>[g]</sup> stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “It is enough; now restrain your hand.” And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah<sup>[h]</sup> the Jebusite.

<sup>17</sup> Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, “Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father’s house.”

#### **The Altar on the Threshing Floor**

<sup>18</sup> And Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the

threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”<sup>19</sup> So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.<sup>20</sup> Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground.

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And David said, “To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.”

<sup>22</sup> Now Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever *seems* good to him. Look, *here are* oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood.”<sup>23</sup> All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king.”

And Araunah said to the king, “May the LORD your God accept you.”

<sup>24</sup> Then the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.<sup>25</sup> And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

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### **Footnotes:**

- a. [2 Samuel 23:8](#) Literally *One Who Sits in the Seat* (compare 1 Chronicles 11:11)
- b. [2 Samuel 23:8](#) Following Masoretic Text and Targum; Septuagint and Vulgate read *the three*.
- c. [2 Samuel 23:9](#) Spelled *Dodai* in 1 Chronicles 27:4
- d. [2 Samuel 23:18](#) Following Masoretic Text, Septuagint, and Vulgate; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac read *thirty*; Targum reads *the mighty men*.
- e. [2 Samuel 23:35](#) Spelled *Hezro* in 1 Chronicles 11:37
- f. [2 Samuel 24:13](#) Following Masoretic Text, Syriac, Targum, and Vulgate; Septuagint reads *three* (compare 1 Chronicles 21:12).

- g. [2 Samuel 24:16](#) Or *Angel*
- h. [2 Samuel 24:16](#) Spelled *Ornan* in 1 Chronicles 21:15

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## Luke 19:1-27

New King James Version (NKJV)

### Luke 19

#### Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus' House

<sup>1</sup> Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup> Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he sought to see who *Jesus* was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*. <sup>5</sup> And when *Jesus* came to the place, He looked up and saw him,<sup>[a]</sup> and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” <sup>6</sup> So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

<sup>9</sup> And *Jesus* said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

## The Parable of the Minas

<sup>11</sup> Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. <sup>12</sup> Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. <sup>13</sup> So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas,<sup>[b]</sup> and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ <sup>14</sup> But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this *man* to reign over us.’

<sup>15</sup> “And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. <sup>16</sup> Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, ‘Well *done*, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ <sup>19</sup> Likewise he said to him, ‘You also be over five cities.’

<sup>20</sup> “Then another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. <sup>21</sup> For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ <sup>22</sup> And he said to him, ‘Out of your own mouth I will judge you, *you* wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow. <sup>23</sup> Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’

<sup>24</sup> “And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give *it* to him who has ten minas.’ <sup>25</sup> (But they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas.’) <sup>26</sup> ‘For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. <sup>27</sup> But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay *them* before me.’”