

- I) V1 INTRO: Now these are the last words of David Thus says David the son of Jesse
 - a) These are the last words of David: these are the words that are of most importance
 - 1) It is not that he never said anything again, but that these are words that should be heard

- II) NOTICE: David never forgot *who he was*
 - a) He was the son of Jesse, a peasant farmer in the small city of Bethlehem
 - 1) He recognized that his origins were not great, but on the contrary very humble
 - 2) In spite of this, he became the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob
 - 3) He is the sweet psalmist because he wrote most of the psalms

- III) KEY: This is how God normally works
 - a) He takes the most unlikely people whose hearts are His, and uses them for His glory
 - 1) 1 Co 1:26-29 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence

- IV) V2 THE SPIRIT: Of the LORD spoke by me and His word was on my tongue
 - a) God's Spirit was the One who inspired him as he wrote the words of his songs
 - 1) Some psalms were Messianic: Ps 2; 8; 16; 22; 34; 35; 40; 41; 45; 68; 69; 89; 102; 109; 110; 118
 - 2) Ps 16:10 You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption (Ac 2:27; 13:35) Quoted by both Peter and Paul

- V) V2 NOTICE: The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me
 - a) INTERESTINGLY: David was aware that God had inspired him to write these psalms
 - 1) 2 Pe 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit

- VI) V3-4 THE GOD OF ISRAEL SAID: The Rock of Israel spoke to me He who rules over men must be just
 - a) POINT: A person who governs justly is as glorious as the sun rising, dispelling the darkness
 - 1) They are as refreshing as rain that waters the dry ground and results in the beauty of flowers

- VII) HE SHOULD GOVERN: Not just according to the law of the land, but according to the law of God
 - a) His genuine fear of the Lord is not a liability, but would be his greatest asset
 - 1) He would govern with a fear of God, and not with the desire to please man alone
 - 2) His fear of God, love of God's word, and righteousness would influence a nation for its good

- VIII) AT THIS TIME: I would like to remind us all of the foundations of our Nation
 - a) WE NEED TO REMEMBER: That our foundations are distinctly religious
 - 1) In 1620, the Pilgrims who founded the U. S. arrived seeking religious freedom
 - 2) In 1646, Harvard, our first college was founded for the training of Christian ministers
 - 3) Interestingly, the founding of Princeton, like Brown, Rutgers, and Dartmouth, was one of the consequences of The Great Awakening, the series of religious revivals that swept the English colonies in America in the mid 1700's
 - 4) The first 126 colleges were established by either a religious group or Christian denomination
 - 5) Of the 55 men who signed the U.S. Constitution all but 3 were orthodox Christians

I) FACT: The First act of Congress authorized the printing of 20,000 Bibles, to be used for the evangelization of Native Americans

II) The Northwest Ordinance, drafted in 1787, the same year as the drafting of the Constitution, included the words "Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall *forever* be encouraged." This was approved by the United States Congress

III) SEPT 17, 1796: George Washington's farewell address included: Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to *political prosperity, religion and morality* are indispensable supports...Let us *with caution* indulge the *supposition* that morality can be maintained without religion...*Reason and experience* both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

IV) George Washington's Daily Prayers: I have sinned and done very wickedly, be merciful to me O God and pardon me for Jesus Christ's sake; instruct me in the particulars of my duty, and suffer me not to be tempted above what thou givest me strength to bear. Take care I pray thee, of my affairs; and more, direct me in thy truth, defend me from my enemies, especially my spiritual ones. Suffer me not to be drawn from thee by the blandishments of the world, carnal desires, the cunning of the devil, or deceitfulness of sin. Work in me thy good will and pleasure, and discharge my mind from all things that are displeasing to thee: of all ill will and discontent, wrath and bitterness, pride and vain conceit of myself, and render me charitable, pure, holy, patient and heavenly minded...

V) French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests--and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning--and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution--and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

VI) NATIONAL ANTHEM: Francis Scott Key 1814, Ft McHenry, Baltimore Maryland
Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us
a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

VII) REMEMBER: Ps. 11:3 When *the foundations* are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

a) J. Vernon McGee: We need men who will rule in the fear of God and, until we get them, we are going to have corruption in high places

VIII) IN THESE LAST DAYS: The church must remember our purpose in this world

a) Mt 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

b) Pr 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

I) V5 ALTHOUGH MY HOUSE: Is not so with God yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant

- a) SAD: He is saying my family has been ungodly, but God has by His mercy saved me
 - 1) Just because a parent is saved does not guarantee salvation and blessing for the children

- ii) V6-7 BUT: The sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away because they cannot be taken
 - a) These sons of worthlessness oppose all that the just king desires to do
 - 1) These who oppose righteous government should be dug up like weeds and discarded
 - 2) They are harmful and injurious, and will end up in the fire

- III) V8-39 CONTAINS: The list of David's mighty men, a group of incredible warriors
 - a) They were made up of those in debt, distress, and discontent
 - 1) Over time the group grew, but these were men who were intensely loyal to David
 - 2) Obviously I won't go through each one of these men, one by one but will highlight a few

- IV) V8 THESE: Are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb Basshebeth the Tachmonite
 - a) Briefly, he was *the bravest* of all of David's men: Tachmonite speaks of a family name
 - 1) He was responsible for the death of 800 men in one battle: Exceptional courage
 - 2) He may have killed them himself, or led men who did:

- V) V9-10 AND: After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite (Benjamite)
 - a) This was a warrior who *would not quit*: he held on till his hand was cramping
 - 1) He did not stop fighting till the enemy was vanquished: he held on to the end

- VI) V11-12 AND: After him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered
 - a) This soldier showed uncommon concern for the welfare of others
 - 1) Philistines would come during the time of harvest, and plunder the crops
 - 2) Shammah held his ground, took his sword, planted his feet, and defended the crop

- VII) V13-17 THEN: Three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David
 - a) These men were loyal to the point of endangering their own lives
 - 1) David *mentioned his thirst* and desire for water fro Bethlehem, and to them *it was an order*
 - 2) Three men made their way to the well under dangerous conditions to get it for him
 - 3) He would not drink it, but poured it out before the Lord as an offering to Him

- VIII) V18-23 CONTAIN THE NAMES: Of two men, Abishai and Benaiah
 - a) David's nephew Abishai was a great warrior, slaying many of David's enemies
 - b) Benaiah was the commander of David's bodyguard: killed two Moabites, a lion in a pit on a snowy day, and an Egyptian warrior

- IX) V24-39 FINISHES OFF THE LIST:
 - a) It is interesting that the last name mentioned is Uriah the Hittite
 - 1) This is a simple reminder to the reader of David's great sin
 - 2) FACT: Though forgotten by David, Uriah was not forgotten by God
 - 3) Heb 6:10 God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.