

David's Last Voice – 2 Samuel 22 and 23

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Notes from Last Week: 2 Samuel 21:9

“They were put to death during the harvest time – during the first days of the barley harvest.” I have only heard the phrase *first days of the barley harvest* – which is the beginning of Passover – twice, Ruth 1 and here. This leaves me thinking that the author of Ruth and, at least this section of Samuel are the same person. It makes these four chapters either poignant or ironic for me. The first mention was in the context of love, devotion and the beginning of the story of David. This second mention takes place at a horrible reckoning and before “the last words of David”.

Names of God; knowing them affects our understanding of what is going on.

The Lord: Yahweh, the covenant God. The personal Being with whom we have a relational contract.

God: Elohim – often denotes majesty or power. Lohim – was also used by surrounding nations for their gods.

The Most High - El Elyon E

In one reading of these Psalms you might want to take a look at the names of God being used and how that affects your understanding of what David is trying to say here.

1. In verses 2,3 David uses both names of God. What do you think is the nuance he is trying to say?
2. Same in verse 7. Why both aspects of God here?
3. The Most High – vs. 14 El Elyon – one of the first mentions of this name is in Genesis 14:18-20 – the God whose priest was Melchizedek, king of Salem

Thoughts on the Reading

4. 2 Samuel 22; 4-7 remind me of Jonah's song from when he was trapped in the large fish. What do you make of that?
5. 2 Samuel 22:14 El Eylon is mentioned as shooting arrows and scattering. Why would David use this term for these actions?
6. 2 Samuel 22: 19,20,21 – what does David's use of Yahweh say about his state of mind.
7. 2 Samuel 22:29 – Is there a corporate memory or memories David is trying to invoke here? Why do you think so?
8. 2 Samuel 22: 32, 33 David may be taking a jab at his non-Hebrew enemies. Why do you think he would use this Elohim in this spot for that point.
9. 2 Samuel 22:42 The word Protector in the NET is rocky cliff. Why do you think David would use that word?
10. 2 Samuel 22: 50 – Why would David use that particular name for God at the end of this psalm?

David's Final Words

11. 2 Samuel 23:1 – Why do you think David would use the terms “the Lord (1st part of the question) and anointed (2nd part of the question) is this opening phrase?
12. 2 Samuel 23:2 – What picture might David have been trying to invoke when he used the term Yahweh's breath. To where in the origin stories might he have been alluding?
13. 2 Samuel 23:3 – Then he uses terms that can be translated “the majesty of Israel, the rocky fortress of Israel. Why there.
14. 2 Samuel 23:5 – My dynasty is approved of my Elohim – Majesty and power...what might he have been saying to anyone reading this? – to Israel and to other nations?

David's Warriors

15. 2 Samuel 23:8-12 Tachemonite – the word means *wise, intelligent, knowing, judicious, acute judgement, sagacious, learned reverent, pious*. Why would the author use these descriptors at this point?

16. 2 Samuel 23:9 – Why this historical descriptor for one of the mighty warriors at this mentioned at this point?
17. 2 Samuel 23:11,12 – My goodness what a fighter/leader...why would you have wanted him at your side? Haraiite means mountaineer or inhabitant of the hills of Judah....
18. 2 Samuel 23: 13-17 – what do you think it says about leadership that David refused to drink the water?
19. 2 Samuel 23:18,19 – what is it about Abishai that would lead these three amazing people to let him lead them?
20. 2 Samuel 23: 20 – 23 Benaiah – what do you think it says about David as a leader that led him to make the decision he did about Benaiah’s position in the military.
21. 2 Samuel 23: 24-39 – depending on the 37 different perspectives that could be held by the nine to eleven us in our decorative boxes on the zoom screen, this could be an older account stuck on by some errant editor in a dark closet or it could be a final accounting to give a sense of him at his strongest. Either way when I read Uriah’s name at the bottom of the list...I found myself sucking in a breath. What did it mean to you?

The Us Question.

1. What would we like our last formal words to be?
2. Who would we honor?

As always, I look forward to our animated and kind opinions. I wish for you, in these chaotic times, unexpected gentle blessings.

See you soon

Catherine