

(2 Samuel 23:1-2) - These are the last words of David. It begins with DAVID'S IDENTITY as described by the Lord. David was "*the son of Jesse.*" This connects him with the royal line of Judah that reaches back to the promise God made to Abraham (*Gen. 17:6*), ultimately fulfilled in Christ (*Isa. 11:10; Rom. 15:12; Rev. 22:16*). Christ, the Godman and mediator between God and men, reigns upon the throne of grace with the sceptre of righteousness indicating that He conquered all enemies by redeeming His people from their sins (*Acts 2:36; Php. 2:5-11*). He "*was raised up on high,*" brought from being a lowly shepherd to being, as "*the anointed of the God of Jacob,*" the king of Israel. David was a picture of Christ Who in His humanity had a lowly and ignominious beginning. As described in *Isaiah 53:2-3* - "*a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground.*" He had "*no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*" He was "*despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.*" As the Good Shepherd He gave His life for His sheep, bearing our griefs, carrying our sorrows, "*yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted*" (*Isa. 53:4*).

Just as David was raised up on high by the Lord God, every sinner saved by grace is raised up out of the dust of sin, death, and depravity, and lifted up from the dunghill of dead works and idolatry to be set by God's grace among princes and heirs of the throne of glory (*1 Sam. 2:8; cf. Eph. 2:1-7*). This pictures salvation by God's grace based on the blood and righteousness of Christ. David was also "*the sweet psalmist of Israel.*" The Lord used him to write many of the psalms that include real confessions of sins in light of the glory of God in Christ. Christ is every believer's sweet psalmist. His Word comforts, teaches, and feeds us so that we can worship and serve Him. David was a prophet of God by whom "*the Spirit of the LORD*" spoke. All of the psalms that were written by David were by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, meaning they were God-breathed and Divinely inspired (*2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21*). These are David's final words, and they are the Word of God revealed and written for our learning and benefit.

(2 Samuel 23:3-4) - These verses show THE IDENTITY OF DAVID'S GOD, the one living and true God. It is true that these words apply to David personally as the anointed king of Israel. But we must remember that Israel's human king was to reign as a type of the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, what applies to David personally in a limited and imperfect way, applies to Christ in an eternal and perfect way. The king must be "*just, ruling in the fear of God.*" The human kings of Israel were to rule in justice towards all people and with a reverent respect and regard for the God of Israel. They were to rule in light of God as the supreme just Judge of all Who judges "*according to truth*" (*Rom. 2:2*) and "*in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead*" (*Acts 17:31*).

Christ Himself is the just Person Who established righteousness for His people by His obedience unto death on the cross (*Jer. 23:5-6; Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:17-21*). His kingdom is founded upon justice, and His people are justified and sanctified based on His righteousness imputed and received by God-given faith. But if Christ IS God, how can it be said that He would rule in the fear of God? As God in human flesh, the one and only Mediator between God and men, and in fulfilling His duties as the Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, and Preserver of His people, Christ had in mind the honor and glory of His heavenly Father - "*For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*" (*Col. 2:9; cf. John 17:4*).

"*And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds*" - Again, this applies to David in a limited and imperfect sense, but it applies

to Christ and His kingdom in an eternal and perfect sense. Such a ruler that rules in righteousness and in the fear of God is the light and glory of His people who are safe and secure because of His rule and power. His is a kingdom of light, for Christ is the “*Sun of righteousness*” (*Mal. 4:2*), the “*bright and morning Star*” (*Rev. 22:16*). In His spiritual and eternal kingdom there are no dark clouds to obscure His light and glory. “*As the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain*” - As the Shepherd-King of His people, He makes them to lie down in the lush green pastures of His Word and grace (*Psa. 23*).

(2 Samuel 23:5) - The foundation of true faith as stated above brought David to this confession. “*Although my house be not so with God*” - David’s “*house*” refers to his kingdom and his family. As successful as David’s reign was, for himself it ended in disaster. He suffered from a dark scandal of his own making during his reign. He also suffered under repeated family crises, under an attempted insurrection from his own son, under another civil war, and from three years of famine. This is David’s confession of his own sin, but his confession does not stop at admission of his sin and weakness. He goes on to confess his firm and sure hope of eternal salvation and final glory grounded upon the sovereignty of God and the suretyship of Christ, the promised Messiah. This is what God’s Word defines as “*the sure mercies of David*” (*Isa. 55:3*) which is fulfilled in and by the Lord Jesus Christ.

“*Yet He hath made with me an everlasting covenant*” - This covenant by which the kingdom was settled on David and his seed, Jesus Christ, forever (*Luke 1:31-33*), is in line with the eternal covenant of grace made with Christ from the beginning, in which Christ is Surety, Savior, Sanctifier, and Mediator of all persons given to Him by the Father (*John 6:37-39; John 17:2-3; Heb. 13:20-21; Heb. 7:22*). All whom the Father chose, adopted, justified, and sanctified, the Son redeemed, and the Spirit regenerates and calls (*Eph. 1:3-14*). David knew that this everlasting covenant from God was not based on David’s perfection as a ruler, a husband, or a father. David himself was far from perfect. It was based on God’s gracious commitment to His everlasting covenant in the Lord Jesus Christ and based on the perfection of righteousness found only in Christ and His perfect work of redemption.

“*Ordered in all things, and sure*” - The covenant of salvation was set in order by God before the world began. It was made sure as Christ was appointed to be Surety of the covenant for His people (*Heb. 7:22; 2 Tim. 1:9*). The mercies and grace of God to save His people from sin are not left to chance, nor determined by the wills of sinful men, nor obtained by the works of men. They are predestined, decreed, determined, and purposed by God Himself based on the merit of the obedience unto death of the Lord Jesus Christ as Surety of the covenant (*Isa 46:9-13*). The fulfillment of all the conditions of God’s covenant accomplishing redemption and a perfect righteousness is not in the hands or the wills of men but given to Christ to accomplish (*Isa. 9:6-7; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Tim. 1:15*). This is why they are called the sure mercies of David (*John 10:14-18, 27-30*). Christ shall not fail nor be discouraged (*Isa. 42:1-4*).

“*For this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although He make it not to grow*” - This, in essence, is the testimony of every sinner saved by the grace of God - “God alone is the source and power of my salvation; Christ alone is the assurance and joy of my salvation. God’s love for me in Christ, God’s choice of me in Christ, God’s righteousness fulfilled for me by Christ, and God’s acceptance of me in Christ is all my salvation. It is all of God’s grace in Christ (*Eph. 2:8-10*).” It is “*all my desire*” because I find comfort and peace in God’s covenant of grace in Christ, and my desire is that God’s purpose in Christ be fulfilled, and that Christ have the preeminence (*Col. 1:18; Php. 2:9-11*). “*Although He make it not to grow*” - Though David’s earthly kingdom and family were in shambles, no matter what transpires here on earth, whether times are good or bad, his and our salvation and eternal glory is sure because all the promises of God IN CHRIST are sure (*2 Cor. 1:20*).