



BIBLE READING

2 SAMUEL 23: 1-7

These are the last words of David:

"The oracle of David son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
Israel's singer of songs:

² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me;
his Word was on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel spoke,
the Rock of Israel said to me:

'When one rules over men in righteousness,
when he rules in the fear of God,

⁴ he is like the light of morning at sunrise
on a cloudless morning,

like the brightness after rain
that brings the grass from the earth.'

⁵ "Is not my house right with God?

Has he not made with me an everlasting covenant,
arranged and secured in every part?

Will he not bring to fruition my salvation
and grant me my every desire?

⁶ But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,
which are not gathered with the hand.

⁷ Whoever touches thorns
uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;
they are burned up where they lie."



Who's Who: David; Jesse
Words: Eternity; Covenant; Oracle; Salvation



Boot Camp 001/Getting started with the Old Testament
Boot Camp 002/Getting started with David
Boot Camp 005/Getting Started with Jesus Christ



THINK ABOUT IT DAY 1 WHERE IT ALL STARTED

Where is your life going? We all have dreams and ambitions: deep desires that our lives will be long and happy. But what kind of people do we want to be at the end of life?

David knows that he is right with God and that makes the closing scene a good one. Three things in particular make it good. First, it's because of God's everlasting covenant of love and God's good work that David has confidence. David has ruled well, but beneath the surface it's all been because of God. We reach a good end when we acknowledge him and give him the credit. Second, God is described as the Rock: a sure, stable and steady foundation. You can trust him when everyone else seems to abandon you. You can trust him when life seems to be falling apart; when you are falling apart. Third, there's a choice. The good end is not inevitable – it depends on how you live. You can live the evil life and if you do, you'll be cast aside for all eternity. Or you can trust in what God has done for you through Jesus and be assured of eternal security. Even though we all hope that your closing scene is a long way off, you can choose what it will be like now!



READ THIS THEN PRAY: Our hope is certain. It is something for the soul to hold on to. It is strong and secure (Hebrews 6: 19).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, the eternal security of those who trust in you was bought at a cost – your blood was shed, your life was given, you took the punishment. Teach me to realise the consequences of my sin and my need to be saved through your death on the cross. Amen.



BIBLE READING

1 SAMUEL 16: 1-13

God said to Samuel ... "Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

² But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵ Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

¹² So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.



THINK ABOUT IT DAY 2

THE CLOSING SCENE

The greatest king in Israel's history appears on the scene secretly and surprisingly. God rejected Saul as king because his heart was not in tune with God. He could not rule in God's way because he refused to obey God's Word. Another king, a good king, was to replace him. Bravely but hesitantly Samuel did what God said and went to Bethlehem; for David's rise to the throne started with God's will, by God's command.

Samuel discovered that appearances are no guide to true character. We are easily fooled by the image that people put on to look good. But what if someone who looks cool is actually mean and rebellious against God? What if his heart is far from God? God sees the heart and values virtue far more highly than he values outward appearances. So even though David looked good that wasn't important: God cared about what was on the inside.

God is full of surprises. David was the last person that anyone, even his Dad, would have thought of. He was the youngest son in the family and was sent away out to the fields with the sheep. But even though no one in the family thought of him, God had special work for him to do. It was by the will and the Word of God that David was chosen and anointed.

It is God who has chosen you and who has appointed you to go and bear fruit – and it will be a fruit that will last (John 15: 16). So don't worry. Even if no one else thinks you matter or that you don't look cool, your heavenly Father has a purpose for your life. He's much more interested in what's in your heart. Make sure that it's a good heart, quick to do God's will.



READ THIS THEN PRAY: Jesus said to the disciples, 'You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last' (John 15: 16).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to trust you with my future for this life and the next. May I see how much I need you, always. Amen.



Who's Who: Abinadab; David; Eliab; Jesse; Samuel; Saul; Shammah

Words: Anointed; Consecrate; Sacrifice

Maps and Place Names: Bethlehem; Ramah