

When the Spirit of the Lord Speaks

International Bible Lesson

2 Samuel 23:1-7; 1 Chronicles 18:14

Sunday, July 8, 2012

“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:2—KJV).

“The spirit of the LORD speaks through me; his message is on my lips” (2 Samuel 23:2—GNB).

“The Spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:2—NRSV).

The final words of a dying person seem significant to many. Perhaps their words will reveal their first glimpse of eternity, make a prophecy, or give wise advice. In 2 Samuel 23, the Bible recorded the last words of King David, who became Israel's most important king because of the promises God made to him regarding the world's future. Because the Messiah would be a descendant of King David, he also served as the example that many expected the Messiah to follow when God sent Him into the world.

When the writer of Second Samuel reported King David's words, he called them an oracle, because David's words were divinely inspired and authoritative. Prophets and priests sometimes spoke oracles and predicted the future. King David's most important oracles can be found in the Psalms. Jesus, the Apostle Peter, and other New Testament writers quoted some of King David's oracles to confirm through his prophecies that Jesus came into the world as the long-expected Messiah. In Luke 20:41-44, Jesus quoted Psalm 110 as a psalm that King David wrote about Him. In Acts 2:32-36, Peter quoted Psalm 110 on the Day of Pentecost and applied it to Jesus.

For more than 3,000 years (King David's reign began in 1060 BC), devout Jews and Christians have memorized the Psalms. Important verses from the Psalms have comforted, encouraged, and inspired millions of believers. When Christians find hope in the Twenty-third Psalm, they think of Jesus as their Shepherd. The experience of millions who love the Psalms of David demonstrates the truth that the Spirit of the LORD spoke through him and the word of God was upon his tongue. — © Copyright 2012 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. What is more important, people's deeds or their relationship with God? Give reasons for your answer.

2. What would you think or say to someone if they said to you, “God told me to say this to you . . .”? Or, “God told me that He wants you to . . .”?

3. What difference does a godly leader make to godly people? What difference might a godly leader make to ungodly people?

4. What difference might an ungodly leader make to godly people? How should Christians treat the godless?

5. Give some reasons why leaders in businesses, churches, families, and governments should lead justly and treat all people fairly?

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.