

The Lamp of Israel

1 Kings 2:1-12

2 Samuel 21:15-17

2 Samuel 23:1-7

1 Chronicles 29:26-30

Psalms 9 and 10

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Once during battle a Philistine warrior cornered David and was about to kill him. But Abishai came to David's rescue and killed the Philistine. Then David's men swore to him, "You will never go out to battle with us again! The Lamp of Israel must not be extinguished."

Years later, when David knew death was approaching, he told Solomon, "I'm going to die soon. So be strong. Be a man of God. A wicked man says, 'God isn't watching me! I will never be brought to account.' But the Lord reigns and will judge with justice. The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Follow the Law of Moses; serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul; and you will be successful in everything you do. The one who rules in the fear of God, is like the morning sunrise on a cloudless day.

"Now do a few things for me. Joab served me well for many years as the head of my army, but he also killed two of my finest commanders during a time of peace trying to make it look like an act of war. Do with him what you think best, but don't let him go to his grave in peace. Be kind to those who took care of me when I fled from your brother Absalom. And remember Shimei who cursed me as I was fleeing. I rashly swore by the Lord not to kill him. But you have great wisdom; you'll know what to do; give him a bloody death."

Then David, the son of Jesse, the anointed of God, the leader of men, the king of Israel, the singer of psalms died. The Lamp of Israel was extinguished.