



1829 Carondelet Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

FIRST EMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
REV. CHARLES J. SOUTHALL, III, PASTOR



1933 Wooddale Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

# BOOK SIX

## November 1-6, 2017



*Well of Bethlehem*  
*“Well of the Place or House of Bread”*  
**2 Samuel 23:15**

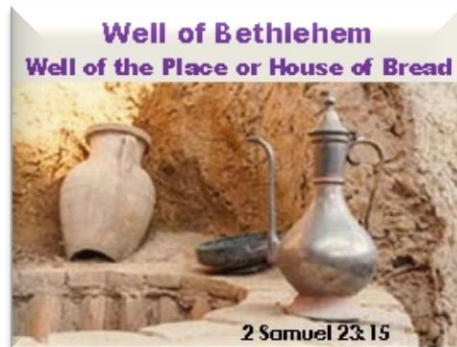
# *Books of Wells*



<b>BOOK TWO</b>	<i>Well of Beerlahairoi</i>	<b>October 8-13</b>
<b>BOOK THREE</b>	<i>Well of Esek</i>	<b>October 14-19</b>
<b>BOOK FOUR</b>	<i>Well of Sitnah</i>	<b>October 20-25</b>
<b>BOOK FIVE</b>	<i>Well of Increase</i>	<b>October 26-31</b>
<b>BOOK SIX</b>	<i>Well of Bethlehem</i>	<b>November 1-6</b>
<b>BOOK SEVEN</b>	<i>Jacob's Well</i>	<b>November 7-12</b>

*Table of Contents:*

*Book Six*

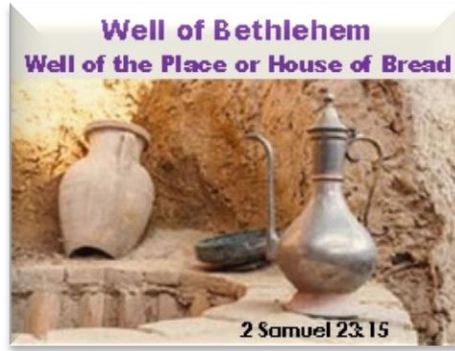


*Well of Bethlehem*

*“Well of the Place or House of Bread”*

**2 Samuel 23:15**

<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>DAY 29</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b>	Wednesday, November 1, 2017 2 Samuel 23:15; 1 Samuel 22:1	1
<b>DAY 30</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b>	Thursday, November 2, 2017 1 Samuel 22:1-2	2
<b>DAY 31</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b>	Friday, November 3, 2017	3
<b>DAY 32</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b>	Saturday, November 4, 2017 2 Samuel 13:21-22; 28-29; 18:5, 12-15; 1 Samuel 18:10-11; 19:9-11; 1 Samuel 5:9-10	4
<b>DAY 33</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b>	Sunday, November 5, 2017 Psalm 38:5-8; Psalm 38:5-8	5
<b>DAY 34</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b>	Monday, November 6, 2017 2 Samuel 23:15	6



## Day 29

*“O that someone would give me water to drink from the Well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!”(2 Samuel 23:15 NRSV)*

Our mentor for this well is King David. Visitation to this well will take some strategic planning. David was born and shepherded his father’s flock in this City called a “House of Bread” and now David is prevented from going home to receive water from the **Well of Bethlehem.** The enemy is present and has captured David’s hometown. The Philistines are lying in wait in Bethlehem. (2 Samuel 23:13) The enemy is blocking David’s travel to his home. David will mentor us on surviving an attack of the enemy.

We find King David in a cave in this portion of scripture. After all the hell, pain and victories in David’s life, David is back in “the cave.” This is the exact cave David retreated to shortly after God anointed him King and his victory over Goliath. (*1 Samuel 22:1*)

David retreated to a familiar place for refuge from the enemy. David returned to a place where he previously experienced God’s protection from the enemy. This cave was David’s “stronghold” (2 Samuel 23:14 NRSV).

God has protected us from the enemy since birth. God will always cover and protect us. Psalm 144:1-2 describes God as our protector: *Blessed be the Lord, my rock ... and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield he in whom I take refuge...*

Do you have a physical place of “stronghold?” \_\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, describe your “stronghold.”

---



---



---

If you do not have a place of “stronghold,” and you desire a “stronghold,” create one. Describe it.

---



---



---

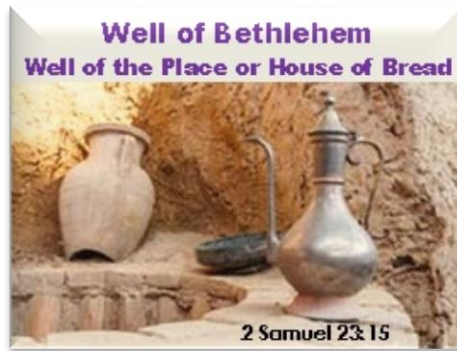
**Prayer:** Lord, my God, you are my strength. Thank you for shielding me from dangers that I did not even know existed. I thank you for your covering. I thank you for ...

**Complete your Prayer:**

---



---



### **Day 30**

#### **You are not Exempt!**

God does not exempt us from our calling or his divine plan of our life. David had a hit out on his life and God still required David to pastor the loss and to guide and give hope to the oppressed. After David fled from Saul, and found his “stronghold,” this is what God allowed to happen: *David left there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; when his brothers and all his father’s house heard of it, they went down there to him. Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Those who were with him numbered about four hundred. (1 Samuel 22:1-2).*

Look at the people that flocked to David’s congregation/cave. 400 people with major issues in their lives, joined church on the same day. Our mentor (David) did not dismiss the people. David embraced the call to lead.

Have you ever felt like this and asked God these questions?

- God how do you expect me to minister and help encourage someone, when I can’t encourage myself?
- God can I just have a weekend off from everybody’s problems?
- God just let me catch my breath; I promise I will respond to the next call.

It is okay to ask these questions. What is not okay is to allow the enemy to take advantage of your weakened and vulnerable state of being and entice you to walk away from ministry or the call on your life. David was constantly before God begging forgiveness and asking God to keep him from the enemy. The attacks on David’s life were severe. Through all of David’s missteps and battles, God kept David and used David in the fulfillment of the promise of a risen Saviour.

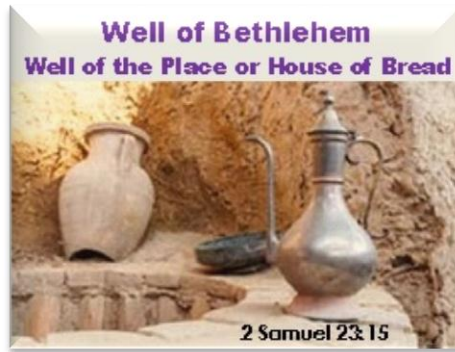
Are you overwhelmed by others bringing their problems to you? \_\_\_\_ Yes; \_\_\_\_ No.

Ask God to teach you how to take care of your emotional, mental, and spiritual being so that you can fulfill the call on your life?

---

---

**Prayer:** Lord, God have mercy on me. I am open to your will for my life. **Amen**



### *Day 31*

We have ten days before our journey ends. We have overcome many temptations and given in to a few. It is not by coincidence that God has us at the Well of Bethlehem in our last 12 days on this journey. Bethlehem is translated as *house of bread*. Our legacy is found in Bethlehem. Bethlehem was the birth place of the shepherd boy David. David was anointed King in Bethlehem. The tribe of Judah settled in Bethlehem. Out of the tribe of Judah is born our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in Bethlehem.

The anointing is in Bethlehem. The bread of life is in Bethlehem. That is why the enemy is blocking the gate to the city of the anointing and the bread of life.

Is there anything blocking you from walking in God's anointing?

---

---

Is there anything prohibiting you from receiving the bread of life?

---

---

**Choose one** of the following as your prayer focus today:

Obstacles you believe are hindering your spiritual growth

---

---

Thanksgiving for your spiritual development and growth

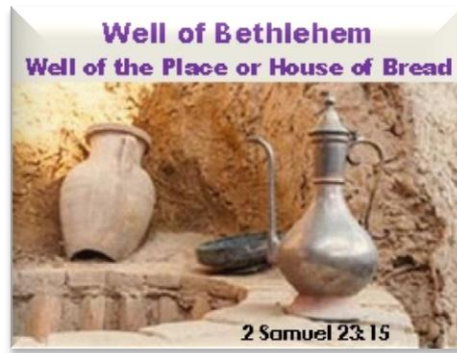
---

---

Acceptance of God's calling on your life

---

---



*Day 32*  
**DAVID'S HISTORY WITH GOD**

David has history with God. David experienced great victories and suffered the infliction of deep wounds. David has survived personal family tragedies (2 Samuel 13:21-22; 28-29; 18:5, 12-15). God has delivered David from the executioner's spears, (1 Samuel 18:10-11; 19:9-11). David has conquered territory after territory in the name of the Lord (1 Samuel 5:9-10). God continued to fulfill the promise in the midst of all of David's wounds. David continues, in the midst of his wounds, to be the obedient servant and maintain God's divine plan for his life.

When you examine David's tragedies, one cannot help but wonder how David maintained not just his sanity, but his intimate relationship with God. Here is a run-down of **only** a few episodes in David's life:

- David endured his son, Amnon, raping his daughter, Tamar.
- David survived his son, Absalom, murdering his brother, Amnon, for raping Tamar.
- David lived through Absalom plotting with David's enemy to usurp his authority as King.
- David had to bear the grief of his military leaders murdering his son Absalom.

David's mental, emotional, and spiritual stress had to be almost unbearable; yet David continued to follow the voice of God and God continued to bless and use David.

**Prayer:** Father, I want my relationship with you to be one where I do not allow myself to get so distracted by life that I stray from the divine plan you have for my life ...

**Complete Your Prayer:**

---

---

---

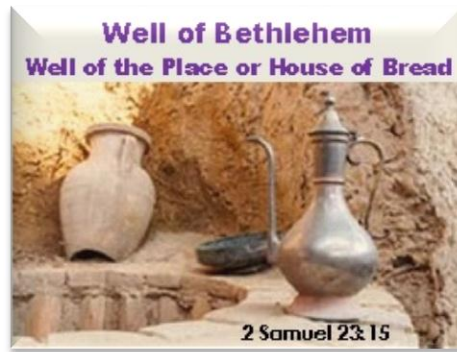
---

---

---

---

---



### Day 33

## OUR HISTORY WITH GOD

On yesterday, we studied David’s triumphs over his tragedies. We too have triumphs over our tragedies. We have experienced great victories and suffered the infliction of deep wounds. In our victories it is easy to invoke the presence of God through prayers of thanksgiving and praise. However, grief and pain often mask our awareness of God’s presence. It is not that God is not with us; it is that the spirit of grief and pain is overwhelming us. We have to fight hard to overcome the pain and allow the healing power of God to overtake us. Do you have wounds in your life that have not healed 100%? Open wounds are an invitation to infection. Wounds untreated can result in amputation of the infected part or death of the entire body. Surrender to God’s wound care unit. When David was wounded, David surrendered to God. Surrender today! You will not be in position to experience your healing unless you surrender to God. David teaches us how to surrender.

First, David was honest with God and acknowledged to God his present state of being: *“My wounds grow foul and fester because of my foolishness; I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all day long I go around mourning. For my loins are filled with burning. And there is no soundness in my flesh. I am utterly spent and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.” (Psalm 38:5-8 NRSV)*

God is aware of our emotional and mental state before we confess it. We, however, are in denial at times about our emotional and mental state. In Psalm 38, David opens up to God about his state of being. Can you acknowledge to yourself your present state of mind and your emotional well-being? Once you are open and transparent with yourself; acknowledge to God where you are in life right now.

God I am -

---



---

Second, David confessed sin: *“I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.” (Psalm 38:18 NRSV)*

When we were taught to pray, we were taught that we had to ask God to forgive us of our sins. What was not emphasized for many of us was to say “God, I am sorry for my sin.” To say **“God I am sorry”** is a sincere and complete act of surrender.

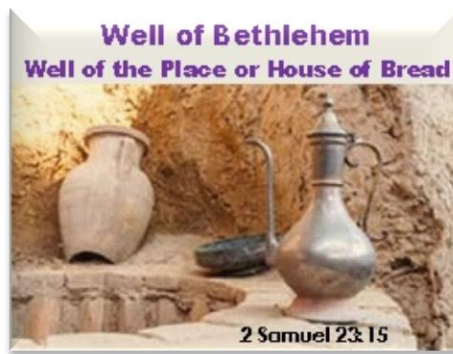
God I am sorry for \_\_\_\_\_ God I am sorry for \_\_\_\_\_

God I am sorry for \_\_\_\_\_ God I am sorry for \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer:** Create in me a clean heart. Purge me Lord of my sinful thoughts. I thank you for your grace.

**Amen**





## *Day 34* **Home**

Today you are invited to travel down “memory lane.” Reminisce about times of innocence, times of fearlessness and times of security. This is where David’s mind is. He has thoughts of home: “*O that someone would give me water to drink from the Well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!*” (2 Samuel 23:15 NRSV). The Bible describes David’s emotions when he “thinks out loud” about the **Well at Bethlehem** as “longingly.” David strongly craves that which is familiar to him. David is careful to describe the exact well from which he wants his drink of water; the well that is by the gate of the *House of Bread*.

The enemy stands between David and his desire to experience “home.” The enemy can never keep us from drinking from the well of the bread of life. Where ever God is, there is bread of life; and where ever the bread of life is, we are home.

What stands between you experiencing home? Take time today to truly think about what “home” is for you. Remember, “home” is not the physical structure. Consider David’s simple desire just to drink from the **Well of Bethlehem**. What is your desire for home?

---

### *Memory Lane*

If you could reach back and recapture a memory in your life, what would it be? This question is not what you would change; but what moments in your life you would like to experience again.

Elementary School

---

High School

---

College

---

When Our Child(ren) were babies

---

**Prayer:** Lord I thank you that I can always drink from the well of the bread of life. I may not be able to go back home; but I am comforted that home is wherever you are. **Amen.**

**BOOK SIX**  
**NOVEMBER 1-6, 2017**

*Giving God 40 Days*



*Wells of Life*

*For Books One, Two, Three, Four and Five, please visit our church website at [www.firstmanuelbaptistchurch.org](http://www.firstmanuelbaptistchurch.org).*