

1 Kings 2

King James Version (KJV)

2 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

²I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; (Solomon is 19 or 20 years old at this time)

³And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: Deuteronomy-17:14-20 (When people want a man king to rule over them)

(This is great advice from David. Unfortunately, Solomon did fall away from God's Word in his later years. He married heathen women. He brought their false gods into Jerusalem and he worshipped them. Absolute power corrupts good men and women. Solomon was no different. His idolatry brought the division of Israel. It remains divided until Jesus Christ will return to reunite us as one country again)

⁴That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel. (Although David's descendants all failed, one didn't fail. That was Jesus Christ – God with us; God in the flesh. HE lived a perfect life)

⁵Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. (what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me - Joab killed Absalom, the rebellious son of David, against David's orders. David was wrong. Joab was right. Killing Absalom ended a bloody civil war in Israel and spared many Israelite lives. God said – "Vengeance is mine" – David should have listened. Now, as David's last deeds in the flesh, he had Solomon committing murders in his name)

⁶Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace. (Joab was popular with the military –

don't start another civil war, so kill Joab slyly so it looks legal; hoar head = gray hair – don't let him live long enough to get old)

⁷ But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.

⁸ And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. (He was of the same house as Saul)

⁹ Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood. (kill him in his old age – another murder at David's request. If Shimei deserved to die for what he said to David, then David should have seen to it himself)

¹⁰ So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. (David, unlike all the other kings of Israel, never turned away from God to idolatry. He was a great king, but like us, he wasn't perfect)

¹¹ And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

¹² Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly. (David left a strong and peaceful Israel for Solomon to rule)

¹³ And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably. (She is suspicious because he already tried to take the throne but failed)

¹⁴ He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.

¹⁵ And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD. (He was still convinced that he should have been king)

¹⁶ And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.

¹⁷ And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife. (She was the virgin that ministered to David in his old age. This would have been seen as a power grab by Adonijah. Taking a king's women was tantamount to naming yourself king in those days)

¹⁸ And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

¹⁹ Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand. (To sit on the king's right hand was a place of honor)

(Jesus <God in the flesh> sits at the right hand of God. There is only one God. HE has many offices. The office of Jesus <God with us> is honored for all time)

²⁰ Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.

²¹ And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife. (She thinks that she is only doing Adonijah a small favor)

²² And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he is mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah. (Joab and Abiathar attended the false coronation of Adonijah, at the rock of the serpent. This was treason against David)

²³ Then king Solomon sware by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life. (By taking David's concubine, Abishag, Adoniah is making another move on the throne, since he was older than Solomon. Solomon wasn't fooled for a minute)

²⁴ Now therefore, as the LORD liveth, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David my father, and who hath made me an

house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.
(Rehoboam is about 1 year old, so Solomon has an heir)

²⁵ And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died. (Adonijah caused this by attempting another shot at the throne)

²⁶ And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the LORD God before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted. (Abiathar's family, under Abimelech, was killed by Saul < through Doeg > for helping David. Abiathar was the only survivor. He also helped David greatly when David was hunted by Saul)

(What he tried to do with Adonijah was treason. Solomon said he won't kill him today; no promises for the future)

(Anathoth was a priest city and a city of refuge) see Joshua-21:18

²⁷ So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfill the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh. (Solomon is returning the priest line back to the descendants of Eleazar. Zadok will be the only high priest going forward. Abiathar was from the house of Ithamar, not of Eleazar. His house took over as priest because of the corrupt sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, who were put to death) 1Samuel-4

²⁸ Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. (He heard what happened to Adonijah and Abiathar. He knew that he was next)

²⁹ And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and, behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him. (Kill him)

³⁰ And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me. Exodus-21:14

Deuteronomy-19, Numbers-35 (Murder was punishable by death. Joab murdered Abner and Amasa)

³¹ And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father. **Genesis-4:10 (The innocent blood of Abel cried out to God from the earth) (Abner and Amasa's blood is crying up to the Lord)**

³² And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah. **(Apparently, David didn't know about these murders when Joab committed them)**

³³ Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

2Samuel-7:14 (The promise of God would have come true, but Solomon didn't do as God had commanded. His son, Rehoboam, would lose the 10 northern tribes to Jeroboam. The king line of David would only rule over Judah. When Jesus returns, He will reunite the House of Judah and the House of Israel forever)

³⁴ So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. **(Probably in the countryside, close to Bethlehem; David's family was from there, as was Joab)**

³⁵ And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar. **(Zadok was descended from Eleazar. The priest line is restored)**

³⁶ And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.

³⁷ For it shall be, that on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head. **(Shimei is now a prisoner in his own house. He cannot ever leave Jerusalem)**

³⁸ And Shimei said unto the king, The saying is good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days. (Shimei agreed to Solomon's terms. I doubt that he had a choice. This is another example of why men cannot be kings. Only God can rule justly, without prejudice)

³⁹ And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants be in Gath.

⁴⁰ And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath. (He broke his oath to Solomon)

⁴¹ And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again. (That's the excuse that Solomon was looking for. Now he can kill Shimei)

⁴² And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word that I have heard is good.

⁴³ Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

⁴⁴ The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

⁴⁵ And king Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever. (We later see how that turns out. Solomon goes on to become one of the biggest idolators in the king line. Maybe the murder of Shimei didn't accomplish what Solomon had hoped for)

⁴⁶ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.