

1st Kings Chapter 2

V: 1 Drawing to the end of an era, David passing from the scene.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

- Apart from the rapture, everyone will one day face death – it is inevitable, the issue is; are we prepared?
- David was prepared, David was at peace with God and no doubt looking forward to being in His presence.

2 Corinthians 5:2 “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:”

2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

- On his death bed David “charged” or “commanded” his son, not a casual request but specific appointment or commission.

V: 2-3 “*I go the way of all the earth...*” Moses, Joshua, and now David all use the same phrase: 2nd law of thermodynamics (entropy) – everything is in a state of decay, moving towards death – from organization to disorganization.

- David knows he’s about to die, his last words are therefore poignant and important. David is more than just encouraging his son to be strong in the faith, he is commanding it!
- We can walk in our own ways, or we can walk in the ways of the Lord. The natural man walks after flesh. Those who have been born again, seek to walk after the Spirit. But there is a conflict between my spirit and my flesh. Though I have chosen to walk after the Spirit, I still have to fight against the desires of my flesh. As long as I am living in this body, I am going to be faced with the desire of the physical body, those drives that are built in, that desire to master me. The Spirit of God also desires to master me, I have to choose which, or who will be my master. It’s either going to be myself or God.
- David is exhorting and commanding Solomon to be strong in the faith, strong in the spirit, be a man!
- David & Solomon: study in contrast: David was a shepherd, a man of the field from his youth, a warrior, a fugitive, then a king with a long history of leadership.
- Solomon had lived a protected life, surrounded by women, he was inexperienced and young, probably around 16-17 years old.

- It takes real strength to walk in the way of the Lord, because it means to walk contrary to the world, the whole world is wrapped up in the ways of darkness. If we walk in the way of the Lord, the world will belittle and ridicule us.

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:11 “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.”

- David was a man after God’s own heart, and a “man’s man”, here he gives the criteria to manhood or manliness.
1. Keep the charge of the Lord: commission, or appointment. To be anointed of the Lord = appointed of the Lord, and there is an expectation that comes with that.

Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

1 Timothy 1:12 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

2. Walk in his ways: Walk in the ways of the Lord.

Psalms 15:1-2 “¹Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ²He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.”

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

3. Keep His statutes, commandments, judgments. (Keep His Word)

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

- Statutes: having to do with the temple worship, those rules of conduct as we come to worship God. The type of sacrifices that they were to bring, and how they were to be offered.
- Commandments: Keeping His commandments – a reference to the 10 commandments.
- Judgments: In the Law of Moses there are several chapters devoted to “rulers” those that would judge over Israel; in this situation you do this or that and so on.

Psalms 119:4-5 “⁴Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. ⁵O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Psalm 119:11 “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

4. Keep His testimonies, His witness. Keeping our witness of Him, representing Him well, being a good ambassador. Just as God testified of His blessings upon those who would keep His Law.

Psalm 119:46 “I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.”

Psalm 145:5 “I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.”

- His testimony / our witness.

2 Corinthians 3:3 “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

- Our lives may be the only Bible the people around us will ever read.

That you may prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: (this is conditional upon obedience.)

- David loved the Word of God, he honored and respected the scriptures, and wanting the best for his son, encourages him to walk in the ways of the Lord.
- The path to a blessed life is through the scriptures, which is why David is exhorting Solomon this way.

Psalm 1:1-3 “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

- V: 4 Solomon’s obedience to these things, as well as ours will enable God, or free God to keep His promises to David and to his generations after him. It is implied that if Solomon or ourselves don’t do these things it prohibits or keeps God from blessing us in the ways that He wants to.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 The blessings of God if we / they would “**hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and do all his commandments**”, simply to be obedient to the Word

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 The curses that result from disobedience, “**if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God...**”

Joshua 23:14 “And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.”

- Sadly, as we’ll study; David’s children, and descendants did not walk with the Lord all the days of their lives – it is a tragic and painful history, and they suffered tremendously for it.
- How can we ensure that our children will take heed to the ways of the Lord and walk before Him in truth, loving God with all their heart and soul?
- Seemingly there are no real guarantees: But by faith, we take God at His word.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 “⁵And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. ⁷And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

- Not just “telling” them, but leading by example, living it, demonstrating the truth of it!
- People often times have a false concept of the Law of God, thinking that it is somehow restrictive – when in fact it is liberating.
- We at times incorrectly assume that God is trying to restrain us or keep us from some pleasurable experiences, or from a fulfilling or satisfying life.
- The opposite is true; God has given us the rules to live by that will lead to a happy, successful, and prosperous life in Him.
- There are those times when we don’t agree, we balk at God’s Word, the rules or boundaries that He’s set – sometimes we’ll say or think that “that rule doesn’t apply to me, my situation is unique or special” and we want God to make an exception for us.
- We mistakenly think that we can go against the law of God, and find success and happiness – which is not so. It’s a lie from the enemy!
- The long term effect will be misery and death.
- The stories and testimonies of people that thought they could violate the law of God and get away with it, the tales of woe.

- Thinking they could choose their own path and find happiness.

Jeremiah 10:23 “Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

- Those that think they can find happiness and contentment violating God’s word simply find themselves in the place of misery and suffering, what they thought would bring pleasure, joy, and fulfillment actually led them to a horrible emptiness and to misery, to a hell of their own making here on earth.

Psalms 19:7-11 “⁷The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the Testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The Statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the Judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

Acts 13:36 “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers.”

- David had served his own generation but he was also concerned about Solomon and the next generation.
- To summarize David’s exhortation to Solomon in the first 4 verses it would be something like: Put the Lord first, be obedient to the Word of God.
- David had already commissioned Solomon regarding building the temple, a task that would take 7 years. Now David adds to the list of things that Solomon needs to do.
- Next on the list is “protect the kingdom”.

V: 5-9 Dealing with loose ends, making sure that Solomon didn’t inherit old problems.

- David was about 50 years old when he committed adultery with Bathsheba, it may have been two or three years after that when Solomon was born, meaning that Solomon is probably a teenager 16-18 years old when he assumes the throne.
- David was feared, David was respected, and honored. But Solomon may have seemed like easy pickings for guys like Adonijah, Joab, and Abiathar – hence their removal.
- David has just exhorted Solomon to keep the Law when he probably realized that he hadn’t kept it, particularly with regard to Joab and Shimei.

- 1st on the list is Joab: Joab had murdered in cold blood; the Law mandated that he be put to death, David hadn't done that. Shimei was a blasphemer who also should have been put to death, but hadn't been. David instructs Solomon to make these corrections, which he does.

V: 5-6 Joab had gone against David on several occasions – and David sees that Joab could be a threat or problem for Solomon. Joab has shed innocent blood.

Proverbs 6:16-17 “¹⁶These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,”

- Joab had killed both Abner and Amasa; having “shed the blood of war in peace...”
- David commands his son Solomon not to let Joab's “hoar head” meaning “grey hairs” go to his grave in peace but to take care of this immediately.

V: 7 On the contrary; show kindness to one who had been a faithful servant, a friend and a help in a time of need.

- Barzillai; who helped David when he was fleeing from Absalom, David says; take care of his sons, let them eat at the kings table, a place of honor.

V: 8-9 Shimei the man who had cursed David, in so doing cursing “the anointed of the Lord” when he was fleeing from Absalom.

- At the time David stopped Abishai from killing Shimei because perhaps it was God inspiring Shimei, using him to chasten David.

Psalms 105:15 “Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.”

- David has had time to consider this prospect and seemingly came to the conclusion that God wasn't in it after all – that Shimei was simply a bitter, disrespectful, blasphemous man who needed to be dealt with.
- Shimei was of the tribe of Benjamin, the northern tribes seemed to always have an inclination towards the house of Saul, and this critical, disrespectful Benjamite might stir up trouble for Solomon's reign, he was a threat to the kingdom of Israel.
- Some might think of all of this as somehow settling a personal vendetta, I don't. I think David was gripped in his heart as he was charging Solomon, and the Spirit brought conviction – and David realized that he hadn't kept the Lord's statutes, commandments, and judgments concerning the murder of the innocent, meaning Abner and Amasa, and also dealing with a blasphemer.

- Remember when the famine and drought came upon Israel because Saul had murdered the Gibeonites (**2nd Samuel 21:1-14**), and a famine came upon the nation as a result, and the ensuing judgment upon the house of Saul, 7 of his descendants that were killed in atonement for this sin.
- David didn't want the blood of these two men to be upon his house or that of his son – so it needed to be dealt with.

V: 10-11 The inevitable happens, David dies, he has lived a full and rich life, used mightily of God, but now he passes from the scene.

1 Chronicles 29:28 “And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.”

- David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, a man after God's own heart – all of which gives us some interesting insights to the heart of God – what kind of man is God looking for?
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- Apparently not a perfect man – otherwise none of us would qualify, but one who's heart is right towards the Lord.

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the Lord run to and from throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...”

- David reigned in Hebron 7 years, 33 years over both Judah and Israel, 40 years in all.

V: 12 Solomon sits on the throne of his father; a partial fulfillment of God's promise to David:

2 Samuel 7:12 “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.”

- This is a partial fulfillment because there is more to come in the future ultimately through the Messiah – we're still waiting for the fulfillment when Jesus comes back to rule and reign in righteousness on the throne of David.

V: 13-24 Solomon has his agenda all prepared: Deal with Joab, Shemei, reward the sons of Barzillai, and build the temple.

- But his first crisis comes from his ½ brother Adonijah, and another attempt at the throne.

V: 13-14 Adonijah, David's eldest surviving son and already an attempted usurper of the throne approaches Bathsheba, David's widow and mother of king Solomon.

- She asks "do you come peaceably?" because there is a good chance that he doesn't – and in fact he does mean harm through his subtlety.
- He could have asked to pass the butter at the table and there would have been suspicion of some sort or another.

V: 15 Adonijah admits that Solomon being anointed as king of Israel was the will of God, it was his from the Lord.

V: 16-17 Adonijah's request of king Solomon through Bathsheba to have Abishag as his wife.

- Abishag was no doubt a pretty girl but her real value to Adonijah was her status as David's concubine.
- Possession of a king's wife or concubine was evidence of possession of the kingdom.
- That is why Absalom had publicly taken David's concubines (**2 Samuel 16**), it was an announcement to the people that he was now king.
- Abishag was more than likely set aside and guarded, never having another husband or children for the rest of her life – she's never mentioned again.

V: 18-21 "Well" – "alright." Bathsheba seems to just ignorantly go along with Adonijah's request not seeing the significance of it – but I think that she was smarter than that. She's probably way ahead of Adonijah, hearing his request with a wry smile, her thoughts may well have been sure I'll tell the king – knowing full and well what the outcome would be.

- As Bathsheba enters the room, Solomon stands up to receive her, giving her honor and deference.

Exodus 20:12 "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

- It is always very becoming for children of any age to show honor and respect for their father and mother.

V: 22-24 Solomon immediately sees through Adonijah's request and or his attempt once again of usurping the throne. He also sees both Joab and Abiathar are probably involved in this 2nd attempt to usurp the throne. They must not have thought that Solomon was very smart to have attempted this. (V:6)

- Adonijah had just signed his own death warrant.

V: 25 Adonijah had initially been spared. Solomon has been merciful to Adonijah making it a point not to just kill him outright, but allowing him to determine his own fate. When he is killed, it is because of his disobedience – something that he brings upon himself.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- Solomon sends Benaiah to execute Adonijah.
- David wasn't there to feel the pain of another son's death; but this was the final installment of the 4 fold price that he had incurred or pronounced upon himself for his having taken the one ewe lamb from Uriah the Hittite.

2 Samuel 12:5-6 “⁵And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, as the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: ⁶And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

- 1st his infant child with Bathsheba, then Ammon killed by Absalom, then Absalom killed by Joab, and now Adonijah executed by Benaiah. David paid for his sin fourfold.

V: 26-27 Abiathar, another co-conspirator with Adonijah, disloyal to David after so many years.

- Solomon deals with Abiathar as “God's anointed” – deserving of death but not willing to do him any harm unless absolutely required.
- Abiathar is sent into early retirement, to the priestly city of Anathoth – about 3 miles from Jerusalem.
- Abiathar being set aside is the final fulfillment of the prophecy of Judgment to Eli concerning his evil sons and their descendants of which Abiathar is one:

1 Samuel 2:31 “Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.”

- Solomon was God's instrument to accomplish His will.

V: 28 Joab hears the news, that Adonijah has been killed, and that Abiathar has been removed from the priesthood being worthy of death – Joab correctly figures that his number is up as well and flees to the Tabernacle taking hold of the horns of the altar, which had worked temporarily for Adonijah.

- A person guilty of “manslaughter” – accidentally killing someone could do this, but not one guilty of murder.

V: 29 “Benaiah” – “Yahweh has Built” – son of a priest, warrior, leader of David’s personal body guard (Pelethites & Cherethites) – fiercely loyal to David, helped to anoint Solomon as king.

- As a priest, Benaiah is legally able or qualified to enter into the Tabernacle and deal with Joab whereas others might not have been, he ends up not only being Solomon’s executioner eliminating any threats to the throne, but he also becomes head over the army.

V: 30-34 After a little bit of back and forth drama Joab is killed and buried in the “wilderness”.

- Being buried in the “wilderness” is a contrast to David who was buried in the city of David, within the walls – Joab being buried in the “wilderness” is outside the city walls – less honor, less secure, less the enduring legacy.
- It’s important to remember that Solomon was not simply taking revenge for his father. As Solomon explained, the death of Joab took away the stain of the innocent blood that Joab had shed when he killed Abner and Amasa.

The shedding of innocent blood would pollute the land:

Numbers 35:33 “So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defiled the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.” (52 million aborted babies!)

Genesis 4:10 “... the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto Me from the ground.”

- Solomon remembers the drought that came upon Israel because of Saul’s murder of the Gibeonites – God doesn’t forget His word – and here Solomon is being obedient to it.

V: 35 Solomon appoints Benaiah to be captain over the host of Israel, and Zadok to be the high priest – filling the most recent vacancies.

V: 36-46 Shimei, the man who cursed David, “the Lord’s anointed” as he fled from Absalom; Solomon commands him to take up residence in Jerusalem and that he is not to leave upon pain of death.

- Instead of killing this man outright, Solomon extends mercy, allows him a chance to live – based on his obedience to the command of the king – essentially placing his fate in his own hands.
- When he is eventually executed, it is not because of Solomon’s malice, but because of his own rebellion and disobedience – he brings it upon himself.

John 3:17-18 “¹⁷For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is

condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- Solomon was to be a “man of peace” (**1 Chronicles 22:6-10**) yet he began his reign with 3 executions. True peace must be based on righteousness, not on sentiment.

James 3:17 “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

- The land had been polluted by the innocent blood that Joab had shed, much like Saul and the Gibeonites – which could only be cleansed by the blood of the murderer.
- Solomon was indeed a man of peace in that he brought righteousness to the land.

Psalms 71:15-16 “¹⁵My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day: for I know not the numbers thereof. ¹⁶I will go in the strength of the Lord God, I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.”

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”