

I Kings Lesson 2

I Kings Chapter 2

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 16:5 The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.*

Introduction: At the end of chapter one, we found Solomon taking the throne of his father David. King David gave the instructions for him to take the throne and blessed Solomon. His brother Adonijah comes and grabs the horns of the altar and seeks forgiveness for trying to take the throne. This week in chapter 2, this chapter reveals a lot about sin and its consequences. It should be a warning to all readers. We all need to be like David who prayed to be kept from sin.

Psalm 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

I. THE LAST DAYS OF DAVID

1Ki 2:1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

1Ki 2:2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

In the first part of chapter 2, we find David's charge to his son Solomon. He begins by exhorting him to obey the truth. We was to obey the truth by being a strong man. Fathers should instruct their sons carefully in the word of God. Whether David had done this in the earlier years of Solomon may be doubtful. Nevertheless, it was timely at this time.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And 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.

1Ki 2:3 And 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:

1Ki 2:4 That 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.

David tells Solomon that the commands of God are to be obeyed. God will not bless those who disregard His Word and will. David tells him to keep the statutes, commandments, judgments, testimonies, and every thing written in the law of Moses. If he did this, God would be with him and bless him on the throne of Israel.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

Obedience was the key to prosperity and perpetuity. Note these other scriptures on obedience besides those we just read in the book of John and I John.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

1Ki 2:5 Moreover 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.

1Ki 2:6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.

1Ki 2:7 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.

1Ki 2:8 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.

1Ki 2:9 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.

David continues his exhortation to execute justice in several specific instances.

Justice should be done in regards to Joab the Murderer,

2Sa 3:27 And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

Solomon should show justice to the sons of his loyal servant Barzillai mentioned there in verse 7. And lastly, he was to bring justice for Shimei the blasphemer.

2Sa 16:5 And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

2Sa 16:7 And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

2Sa 16:9 Then said Abishai the son of Zeruiah unto the king, Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.

2Sa 16:12 It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

2Sa 16:13 And as David and his men went by the way, Shimei went along on the hill's side over against him, and cursed as he went, and threw stones at him, and cast dust.

1Ki 2:10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

1Ki 2:11 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.

After his exhortation to King Solomon, King David dies.

1Ch 29:23 Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

1Ch 29:24 And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.

1Ch 29:25 And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

Thus we find that God's mighty warrior and poet had to die. Many have lived, and after that they die.

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

I read a really good quote by Steve Jobs this week. He was the big computer

giant who led Apple to great heights.

"We're born, we live for a brief instant, and we die. It's been happening for a long time. Technology is not changing it much - if at all."

II. THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF SOLOMON

1Ki 2:12 Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

1Ki 2:13 And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.

1Ki 2:14 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.

1Ki 2:15 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.

1Ki 2:16 And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.

1Ki 2:17 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.

1Ki 2:18 And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

Verse 12 says that Solomon was established and blessed of God. Besides Christ himself, I don't know of a man who was endued with such wisdom in his years as was King Solomon. Adonijah comes to Bathsheba and asks that she talk with Solomon and see if would give him Abishag the Shunammite to be his wife.

It appears Adonijah has come up with a new scheme for gaining the throne. He would use Solomon's mother to do his dirty work. His request was contrary to the law. Abishag was considered to be David's wife, even though he had never known her as wife. It was against the law of God for him to do this.

Leviticus 18:8 The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

If he had succeeded, this would have appeared that he had some claim on the throne, and that is what he really wanted. Solomon wisely saw through the scheme. If he had failed to act, then a civil war would soon have erupted.

1Ki 2:19 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.

1Ki 2:20 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.

1Ki 2:21 And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife.

1Ki 2:22 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.

1Ki 2:23 Then king Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

1Ki 2:24 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.

1Ki 2:25 And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

The secondary plot did not work out and Adonijah was commanded to be executed. This was done by Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. In our modern world this would be judged to be cruel, but truthfully this is what the traitor deserved.

1Ki 2:26 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.

Solomon show mercy to the man who bare the ark of the Lord before David his father. Abiathar the priest was demoted but spared from death.

1Ki 2:27 So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

1Ki 2:28 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.

Abiathar spared from death because of loyal service. This was a city in the tribe of Benjamin that was given to the priests.

Joshua 21:18-19 Anathoth with her suburbs, and Almon with her suburbs; four cities. All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their suburbs.

Abiathar was removed because of rebellion. Abiathar was removed from the priesthood because of his unfaithfulness. The same thing happened to the house of Eli. (1 Samuel 2:30-35)

1Ki 2:29 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.

1Ki 2:30 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.

1Ki 2:31 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.

1Ki 2:32 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.

As requested by his father, Joab the murderer was executed. He is fearful and Joab flees to the altar. The altar was a place of sacrifice and safety, but not for Joab. He was only using this altar as a crutch to try to make up for his awful sins. Joab could not lawfully claim the altar as a refuge.

Exodus 21:14 But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.

Deuteronomy 19:11-13 But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities: Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee.

1Ki 2:33 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.

1Ki 2:34 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.

1Ki 2:35 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.

1Ki 2:36 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.

Solomon's loyal servants Benaiah and Zadok are promoted. Those who are loyal and faithful to the Lord in this life, will be promoted in the kingdom age.

Verse 36 records judgment upon Shimei. The bible recorded the sins of Shimei where he cursed King David.

2 Samuel 16:5 And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

To curse the king was a very serious matter.

Ecclesiastes 10:20 Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

If it was a serious matter to curse the king, how much more serious to curse

God and take His name in vain.

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

1Ki 2:37 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.

1Ki 2:38 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.

1Ki 2:39 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.

1Ki 2:40 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.

Some of Shimei's servants disobeyed Solomon's royal decree and head to Achish. Being of the tribe of Benjamin (Saul's tribe) Shimei was a menace to the throne. Solomon offers Shimei some reasonable terms for parole in verses 37-38. Even this evil man was given a chance to repent and obey. We see typification to the long suffering of God here by Solomon. He could live in Jerusalem without leaving. In Jerusalem he could be watched for any treachery.

Solomon clearly stated the penalty for leaving the town in verse 37. The terms were good, and Shimei agrees in verse 38. But it did not take long for him to disobey. He was more interested in financial gain than he was in obedience. Many today pursue their own pleasure and financial gain, and exclude God from their lives. They will find out that they made a mistake, but it will be too late.

Jas 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Jas 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

1Ki 2:41 And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again.

1Ki 2:42 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.

1Ki 2:43 Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

1Ki 2:44 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;

Shimei is called before the judge. We know a day of judgment is coming one day

to all. Christians will stand at the Judgment seat of Christ and will be judged, not to see if they will go to heaven, but to reward them for their works.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Unfortunately the great white throne judgment awaits those who reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The lost people will be judged, but not to see if they will go to heaven. That is forever settled in this life. They will be judged determine the amount of punishment they will receive in the lake of fire and brimstone.

Revelations 20:12-15 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

1Ki 2:45 And king Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever.

1Ki 2:46 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.

For doing the right things, King Solomon is blessed of God. Justice ruled. In this chapter we find that the punishment for sin may take a long time to arrive, but it will inevitably come. The only refuge for the sinner is to repent and turn to God's remedy for sin. Those who do not will find that justice will do her work.

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Sept. 2013.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.