

1 Kings 2

Verses 1 - 4

As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, ²“I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. ³Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, ⁴so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, ²“I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. ³Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn

David explains what it means to be strong and to be a man. One must keep the Law of the Lord.

⁴so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If** your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’**

The promise that David's descendants would rule over Israel was **conditional**. The condition was that they **walk before The Lord in truth with all their heart and with all their soul**.

We know that in 40 years after the death of David the kingdom of Israel divided and only the southern kingdom were ruled by the descendants of David.

When it comes to the kings of Judah we know that only 8 of the 19 kings were good (meaning they followed the Lord) but God allowed David's line to continue in the south for about 400 years (until 586 BC).

Some people believe that David's line stayed on the throne until Christ appeared.

See Genesis 49:10.

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”

However, this verse does not specifically mention David, but rather Judah, as the tribe from which the scepter (tribal identity & authority) will not depart until **Shiloh comes**.

Verses 5 - 9

Now you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner, and to Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed; he also shed the blood of war in peace. And he put the blood of war on his belt about his waist, and on his sandals on his feet. ⁶ So act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace. ⁷ But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for they assisted me when I fled from Absalom your brother. ⁸ Behold, there is with you Shimei the son of Gera the Benjamite, of Bahurim; now it was he who cursed me with a violent curse on the day I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’ ⁹ Now therefore, do not let him go unpunished, for you are a wise man; and you will know what you ought to do to him, and you will bring his gray hair down to Sheol with blood.”

Now you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner, and to Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed; he also shed the blood of war in peace. And he put the blood of war on his belt about his waist, and on his sandals on his feet.

Joab was a great leader for the army of David but his aggression was not tempered in situations that required some finesse.

1. Joab killed David's son Absalom.
2. Joab took revenge by murdering Abner in an ambush

See 2 Sam 2:18 - 23

3. Joab killed Amasa because David appointed Amasa as commander over the army, replacing Joab

See 2 Samuel 19:13

¹³ And say to Amasa, ‘Are you not my bone and my flesh? May God do so to me, and more so, if you will not be commander of the army for me continually, in place of Joab.’”

⁷ But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for they assisted me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

Barzillai was one of several people who provided for the needs of David and his men during Absalom’s rebellion.

See 2 Samuel 17:27–29

²⁷ Now when David had come to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim, ²⁸ brought beds, basins, pottery, wheat, barley, flour, roasted *grain*, beans, lentils, roasted seeds, ²⁹ honey, curds, sheep, and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who *were* with him, to eat. For they said, “The people are hungry and exhausted and thirsty in the wilderness.”

⁸ Behold, there is with you Shimei the son of Gera the Benjamite, of Bahurim; now it was he who cursed me with a violent curse on the day I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’

David did not say “I will not put you to death”.

See 2 Samuel 19:23

²³ So the king said to Shimei, “You shall not die.” The king also swore to him.

It seems David changed the promise to mean **he personally** would not execute him but that does not appear to be the case.

Revenge often causes people to forget certain details that don’t favor their recollection of what took place in the past.

⁹ Now therefore, do not let him go unpunished, for you are a wise man; and you will know what you ought to do to him, and you will bring his gray hair down to Sheol with blood.”

David tells Solomon he will know what to do because he is a wise man but then he tells him what to do.

Verses 10 - 12

Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹ The days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years he reigned in Hebron and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem. ¹² And Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter mentioned the tomb of David as being still with us

See Acts 2:29

²⁹ “Brothers, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

See Video 205

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.41.html>

Verses 13 - 18

Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, “Do you come peacefully?” And he said, “Peacefully.” ¹⁴ Then he said, “I have something to say to you.” And she said, “Speak.” ¹⁵ So he said, “You know that the kingdom was mine and that all Israel expected me to be king; however, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother’s, for it was his from the Lord. ¹⁶ Now I am making one request of you; do not refuse me.” And she said to him, “Speak.” ¹⁷ Then he said, “Please speak to Solomon the king, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife.” ¹⁸ Bathsheba said, “Very well; I will speak to the king for you.”

Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon

Adonijah was the 4th son of David.

¹⁵ So he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine and that all Israel expected me to be king; however, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the Lord.

Adonijah made two statements that were not true which demonstrated that he had not fully accepted the obvious fact that Solomon was the rightful king.

¹⁷ Then he said, "Please speak to Solomon the king, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife."

Abishag was the Shunammite woman who became a nurse to King David.

See 1 Kings 1:3 – 4

³ So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴ The girl was very beautiful; and she became the king's nurse and served him, but the king did not become intimate with her.

So David's 4th son was asking for David's nurse. The question that has to be answered is was this nurse considered part of David's harem? If she was, then she becomes part of Solomon's harem. Therefore, this action by Abishag is part of a conspiracy because taking any woman that was part of the king's harem was the equivalent of demanding his throne.

See 2 Samuel 16:20-23

²⁰ Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your advice. What should we do?" ²¹ Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Have relations with your father's concubines, whom he has left behind to take care of the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself repulsive to your father. The hands of all who are with you will also be strengthened." ²² So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom had relations with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

Or was Adonijah simply looking for a beautiful woman to be his wife. The answer to that question was not difficult for Solomon to figure out.

Verses 19 - 25

¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king arose to meet her, bowed before her, and sat on his throne; then he had a throne set for the king's mother, and she sat on his right. ²⁰ Then she said, "I am making one small request of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Ask, my mother, for I will not refuse you." ²¹ So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as a wife." ²² King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "And why are you asking Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him also the kingdom—for he is my older brother—even for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah!" ²³ Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, "May God do so to me and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life. ²⁴ Now therefore, as the Lord lives, who has established me and set me on the throne of David my father and who has made me a house as He promised, surely Adonijah shall be put to death today." ²⁵ So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him so that he died. King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "And why are you asking Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him also the kingdom—for he is my older brother—even for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah

²² King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "And why are you asking Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him also the kingdom—for he is my older brother—even for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah!"

Solomon interpreted this to be a conspiracy and understood that Joab and Abiathar were his co-conspirators.

²⁵ So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him so that he died.

Benaiah was one of King David's mighty men and the commander of 24,000 men.

See 1 Chronicles 27:14

¹⁴ The eleventh, for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim; and in his division were twenty-four thousand.

Verses 26 - 27

²⁶ Then to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth to your own field, for you deserve to die; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted in everything with which my father was afflicted.” ²⁷ So Solomon dismissed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord, which He had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

²⁶ Then to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth to your own field, for you deserve to die; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted in everything with which my father was afflicted.”

Anathoth was a village of priests which became the residence of Jeremiah at a later time.

It was not very far from Nob and only about three miles northeast of Jerusalem.

See Map 210



So Solomon dismissed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord, which He had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

Solomon's action fulfilled the prophecy against the house of Eli.

See 1 Samuel 2:27-36

Abiathar was the last descendant of the house of Ithamar to serve as a high priest.

During the reign of David there were two High Priests, Abiathar in Jerusalem looking after the Ark and Zadok in Gibeon overseeing the sacrifices at the Tabernacle. But now there would be only one High Priest in Israel as it had been in the past.

However the Tabernacle and the Ark had been separated for over 110 years.

See chart 215

| Location of the Tabernacle after Israel crossed the Jordan River? | | | | | Location of the Ark after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------|-------|-------|---|--------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Scripture | Place | Began | Ended | Years | Scripture | Place | Began | Ended | Years |
| Joshua 5:10 | Gilgal | 1406 | 1396 | 10 | I Sam 4:3 | Shiloh | 1396 | 1070 | 326 |
| Joshua 18:1 | Shiloh | 1396 | 1070 | 326 | I Sam 4:5 | Battle at Ebenezer | 1070 | 1070 | Days |
| Jeremiah 7:14 | Shiloh destroyed | 1070 | | | I Sam 4:11 | Ark Captured | 1070 | 1070 | |
| | | | | | I Sam 5:1 | Ashdod | 1070 | 1070 | 7 months |
| | | | | | I Sam 5:8 | Gath | 1070 | 1070 | in |
| | | | | | I Sam 5:10 | Ekron | 1070 | 1070 | Philistia |
| | | | | | I Sam 6:12 | Beth Shemesh | 1070 | 1070 | |
| | | | | | I Sam 7:2 | Kiriath Jearim | 1070 | 1050 | 20 |
| | Not sure | 1070 | 1020 | 50 | | Not sure | 1050 | 1000 | 50 |
| I Sam 21 | Nob | 1020 | 1000 | 20 | I Chron. 13:13 | Obed Edom | 1000 | 1000 | 3 months |
| I Chron. 16:39-40 | Gibeon | 1000 | 959 | 40 | I Chron. 16:1 | City of Jerusalem | 1000 | 959 | 40 |
| I Kings 8:3-4 | Temple | 959 | | | I Kings 8:3-4 | In the Temple | 959 | | |

Ark separated from the Tabernacle for 110 years

Verses 28 - 35

²⁸ Now the news came to Joab, for Joab had followed Adonijah, although he had not followed Absalom. And Joab fled to the tent of the Lord and took hold of the horns of the altar. ²⁹ It was told King Solomon that Joab had fled to the tent of the Lord, and behold, he is beside the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, fall upon him.” ³⁰ So Benaiah came to the tent of the Lord and said to him, “Thus the king has said, ‘Come out.’” But he said, “No, for I will die here.” And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, “Thus spoke Joab, and thus he answered me.” ³¹ The king said to him, “Do as he has spoken and fall upon him and bury him, that you may remove from me and from my father’s house the blood which Joab shed without cause. ³² The Lord will return his blood on his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he and killed them with the sword, while my father David did not know *it*: Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. ³³ So shall their blood return on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever; but to David and his descendants and his house and his throne, may there be peace from the Lord forever.” ³⁴ Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and fell upon him and put him to death, and he was buried at his own house in the wilderness. ³⁵ The king appointed Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in his place, and the king appointed Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

²⁸ Now the news came to Joab, for Joab had followed Adonijah, although he had not followed Absalom. And Joab fled to the tent of the Lord and took hold of the horns of the altar.

Having heard about the death of Adonijah, Joab knew that he would suffer the penalty of being an insurrectionist. However, he may have hoped that his death would be delayed by a trial and he could somehow escape to safety during that process.

²⁹ It was told King Solomon that Joab had fled to the tent of the Lord, and behold, he is beside the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, fall upon him.”

Once again Solomon called on his trusted general Benaiah to kill Joab.

³⁰ So Benaiah came to the tent of the Lord and said to him, “Thus the king has said, ‘Come out.’” But he said, “No, for I will die here.” And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, “Thus spoke Joab, and thus he answered me.”

But Joab would not come out of the tent so Benaiah goes back to the king for further instructions. Solomon gave him the same order; kill Joab.

³¹ The king said to him, “Do as he has spoken and fall upon him and bury him, that you may remove from me and from my father’s house the blood which Joab shed without cause.

If there was blood on the house of David then this problem should have been addressed by David rather than his son Solomon. Despite his great faith, David often did what was pragmatic (practical for the moment) rather than addressing the issue at hand. Why was the Tabernacle in Gibeon and the Ark in Jerusalem? This issue didn’t begin during his reign but he didn’t try to correct the problem. Why were there two High Priests during his reign? One has to believe that these were political decisions.

³² The Lord will return his blood on his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he and killed them with the sword, while my father David did not know *it*: Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah.

Solomon's accusation that Joab's murder of Amasa was a crime against two men more righteous and better than him was not totally accurate.

1. Abner was the commander of Ishbosheth’s army and his selfish ambition plunged the north into a needless war with the south. It’s true that Joab sought to kill Abner to retaliate for his brother’s death but Abner stood in the way of David becoming king of the northern tribes.

2. Amasa had led Absalom's army against David in order to kill him. It is true that Joab was self-serving and killed Abner to protect his own position but he never tried to overthrow or kill David.

³⁴ Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and fell upon him and put him to death, and he was buried at his own house in the wilderness.

Joab was loyal to David but his reign of power had come to an end.

The king appointed Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in his place, and the king appointed Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

Benaiah was rewarded for his service to Solomon and became the leader of the army.

Zadok was already a High Priest serving at Gibeon but now he would serve as the lone High priest of Israel.

Verses 36 - 38

³⁶ Now the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Build for yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, and do not go out from there to any place.

³⁷ For on the day you go out and cross over the brook Kidron, you will know for certain that you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head.” ³⁸ Shimei then said to the king, “The word is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

³⁶ Now the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Build for yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, and do not go out from there to any place.

Shimei was a Benjamite of the house of Saul. He was the one who threw stones and cursed David and his men in their flight from Jerusalem during the rebellion of Absalom.

See 2 Samuel 16:5-13

⁵ When King David came to Bahurim, behold, a man was coming out from there from the family of the house of Saul, and his name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he was coming out, cursing as he came. ⁶ He also threw stones at David and all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the warriors were on his right and on his left.

For a man of his power and means this was a fairly severe restriction because at that time Jerusalem was a city of less than thirty-five acres.

³⁷ For on the day you go out and cross over the brook Kidron, you will know for certain that you shall surely die.

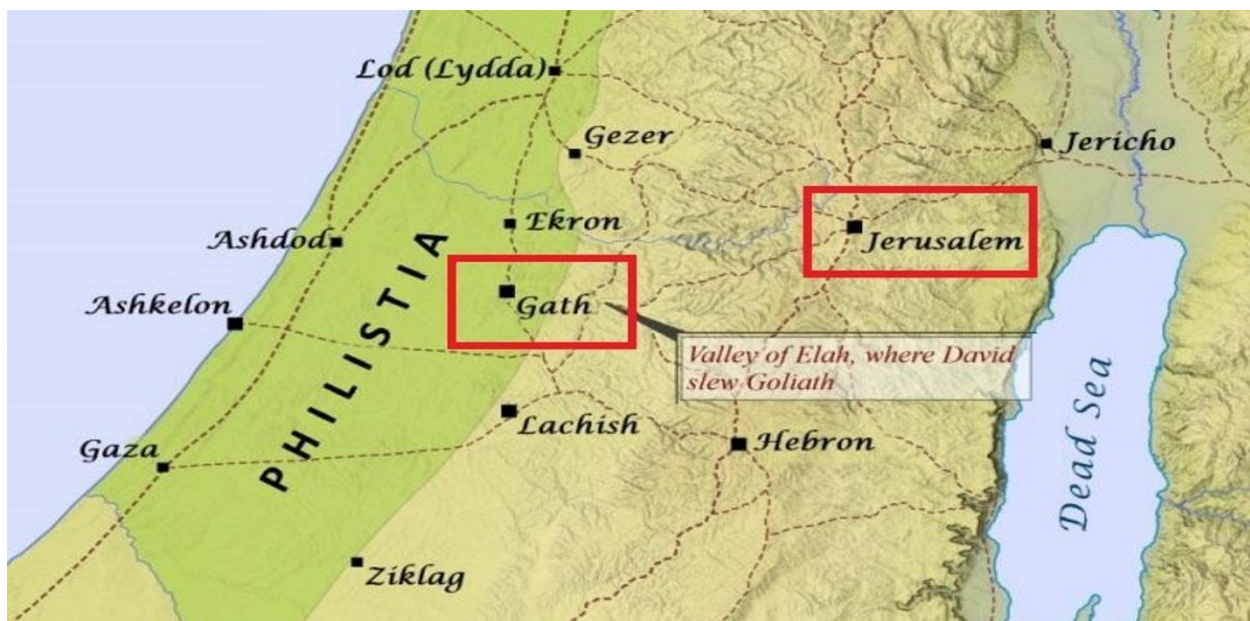
Solomon followed the old adage, “keep your friends close and your enemies closer”. He probably also knew that Shimei would break this command at some point.

Verses 39 - 46

³⁹ But it came about at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, “Behold, your servants are in Gath.” ⁴⁰ Then Shimei arose and saddled his donkey, and went to Gath to Achish to look for his servants. And Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath. ⁴¹ It was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and had returned. ⁴² So the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you swear by the Lord and solemnly warn you, saying, ‘You will know for certain that on the day you depart and go anywhere, you shall surely die’? And you said to me, ‘The word which I have heard is good.’ ⁴³ Why then have you not kept the oath of the Lord, and the command which I have laid on you?” ⁴⁴ The king also said to Shimei, “You know all the evil which you acknowledge in your heart, which you did to my father David; therefore the Lord shall return your evil on your own head. ⁴⁵ But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever.” ⁴⁶ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and fell upon him so that he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon.

³⁹ But it came about at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, “Behold, your servants are in Gath.”

See Map 220 Gath



⁴⁶ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and fell upon him so that he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon.

This is the 3rd person that Benaiah has killed at the king's direction. The three include Adonijah, Joab and Shimei.

These three men were killed because they had done some harm to David during his reign but also because they were a threat to the rule of Solomon. Abiathar was also a threat but Solomon decided to remove him from his office as High Priest rather than having him put to death. Without his position as High Priest he lacked the ability to be a threat.