

1st Kings Ch 2

We read in Prov 25, *“Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to the silversmith for jewelry. Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness.”* Prov 25:4-5 and Ch 2 of the book of 1st Kings deals with just that, wicked, or men of ill means being “taken away” as it were from before King Solomon, and his throne being established in righteousness. David has successfully sat Solomon upon his throne; has deterred the coup of Adonijah along with Joab and Abiathar, and is now preparing to breath his last as we enter into the scene here in Ch 2.

Vs1-2

And so we have before us the dying words of David, and the 1st thing we want to notice is just that, the 1st recorded words out of David’s mouth here is an acknowledgment of the mortality of man. He says, “I go the way of all the earth.” Which is to say, “It’s time for me to die.” The bible says, *“What man can live and not see death?”* Ps 89:48 and Again, *“...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”* Heb 9:27 The point being that we’re all going to meet our maker face to face one day, and those who’ve received Jesus Christ will enter into His presence, and those who’ve rejected Jesus Christ will be eternally separated from Him. But it doesn’t matter who you are, what your occupation may be, how rich you are, how poor you are, if you’ve lived righteously or wickedly, death is no respecter of persons and (if the Lord tarries) will sooner or later visit us all. It visits the young as well as the old and everyone in between, that’s why it’s so critical that we redeem the time we have rather than waste the time that we have, because there are no guarantees that we’re going to live a good long life. And God help us to be sober regarding the frailty of life. As the Psalmist has said, *“LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor.”* Ps 39:4-5 and Again, *“...teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.”* Ps 90:12 David was a man who slew giants, who leaped over walls, subdued nations, and was after God’s heart, yet he would go the way of all the earth. You know it’s so easy to let little things that mean nothing become such monumental issues in our lives, and we let things sever relationships, and distract us from the purpose of Jesus Christ in our lives all the while people are slipping off the planet to spend eternity in hell. And we have such a limited opportunity whereby God can use our lives for His glory and then we to will go the way of all the earth, don’t let minor things become major stumbling blocks in your life. Remember hard skin and soft heart is where it’s at, not soft skinned and hard hearted, quick to forgive, not easily offended, rather than easily offended and slow to forgive. David reminds us here of the frailty of life, and the importance of keeping our priorities right before God.

And he says, “Be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.” Solomon was a young person here, his exact age is up for speculation, I’ve read anywhere from 12 to 20, probably somewhere in His mid teens would be a good gestimate.

And here's David, he's lived a rugged life, has torn lions and bears with his bare hands, has lived in caves, been on the run as a fugitive, was a military man, had crept by stealth into the heart of an encampment of thousands of whom they all had one agenda, to kill him. He'd been through the school of hard knocks as God was preparing him to be the King of the nation. And then there's Solomon his boy, he'd grown up in the palace, had always worn soft clothes, had never seen a day of military adversity in his life in that he'd never been on a battlefield, he'd never known what it was like to step face to face with giants, had never wanted a meal or lacked a cool drink of water. And David says here, "Son, don't wimp out, this is a huge task that's being entrusted to you, be strong, and prove yourself a man."

And I love these next couple of vs because in them we glean the biblical insight of the measure of a man. The world would say you prove yourself a man by how hard you're able to party, or by being with as many gals as possible, or by seeing how colorfully you can enhance your sentences by a few choice words. But the fact is that any bozo can cuss, and any idiot can get drunk, and all immorality proves is one's lack of self-control. But those things are the things that constitute the broad path, the go with the flow easy way. But it takes discipline, and conviction to press on in a manner that's upright and godly. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, the crucifying of the flesh, the reckoning of ourselves to be dead indeed to sin but alive to God in Christ. David says to Solomon, be strong, and prove yourself a man.

Vs3

So the true man, the true woman is one who would keep the charge, or preserve the Word of the Lord your God. One who would walk in His ways, what does that mean? It means you keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies. You say, "Now wait a minute Jeff, that's sounding pretty legal." Hey, let's be careful not to confuse legalism with obedience to the clear-cut principals and precepts of the Word of God. "But this is OT," Jesus said it like this, "*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*" John 14:15 We're to walk in *His* ways, as opposed to the standards and ways of the world, or even our own ways, and the natural inclinations of our flesh in how we react and respond in a certain situation. We're to keep His statutes, that which He has appointed us to observe and take part in, keep His commandments be they positive (things we should do) or negative (things we shouldn't do). His judgments (being those things He's deemed beneficial or harmful) and His testimonies, whatever He bares witness to, we bare witness to. And in some ways David is sort of dancing on semantics here, saying the same thing in different ways, the point being that he's being careful to include each aspect and every nuance of the Word of God, the whole counsel, from cover to cover we're to observe and be obedient to the principals and precepts of God's Word. Just because we're NT believers doesn't mean that the principals and precepts of the OT are irrelevant to us. Do you realize that every one of the 10 commandments is repeated in the NT for the church to uphold (minus one)? The only one that's not repeated is that we should keep the Sabbath Day, because Jesus Christ is our perpetual Sabbath in whom we find our rest everyday. That's why Jesus said, "*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" Matt 11:28

The Sabbath was simply pointing the rest that we would find in Christ for our heavy laden souls, but the rest of the commandments are all there and we're to keep them, and to walk in them.

And as we've noted before God's blessing follows obedience, God honors obedience to His Word. David says here if you keep the word of God, you'll prosper in *all* that you do and *wherever* you turn. Now this word "Prosper" really doesn't have anything to do with monetary prosperity in that sense of the word. It's speaking of being able to make the right decision, of having wisdom and discernment, the fact that if you know God's Word and give priority to it, your going to make the right decisions in life. In the Psalms David put it like this, "*Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*" Ps 1:1-3 and In Ps 119 we read, "*Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*" Ps 119:97-105

And even in this his final charge to Solomon it's obvious that David was very well versed in the Word of God, the kings were charged by the Word of God to write a copy of God's Word for themselves and study it everyday that they might exercise wisdom and justice according to the heart of God. And this charge of David's is similar to that of Moses when he handed the reigns over to Joshua, and told *him* to be strong and of good courage and how he was to lead the people. And perhaps David felt as though there was a similarity in what was happening here between him and Solomon because it had been since Moses and Joshua that there had been an individual leader over the nation to that degree and the reigns being officially passed on. But he's exhorting his son unto godliness, and parents that's what we're to be doing with our children, exhorting them to know the word of God, and the God of the word, to cultivate godly habits and disciplines that they might be used *of* God and blessed *by* God all of the days of their lives. And for David there was a 2nd fold to that promise.

Vs4

We won't linger here but I would have you notice these few things #1 that you and I take heed to our way. That is, be circumspect or cautious, choose wisely in regards to the decisions that lie before you, and be careful that you honor God in them, safeguard your relationship with the Lord. And #2 That we walk before the Lord in truth, don't try and keep in skeletons in the closet before the Lord. God knows your heart and we're only doing damage to ourselves when we try to hide the reality of the position of our hearts before Him.

But, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* 1 John 1:9 The Proverbs tell us, *“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”* Prov 28:13 You see what constitutes walking before God in truth is to walk before Him with *all* your heart, and *all* your soul. And such is the life that God has called us to lead, to honor Him, and love on Him from the very core of our being. (Now David goes on here)

Vs5-6

Joab had done some wicked things in his life. He'd murdered Absalom David's son (though it was probably a good thing that Absalom was out of the way) he killed him in direct disobedience to David's orders. And both Abner and Amasa he killed in cold blood, in circumstances unrelated to war, and so David says do according to your wisdom with him. Prov 20:26 says, *“A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them.”* He roots the troublemakers out of the fold so that they're not stirring up more trouble and bringing about division and contention. And David says, don't let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace. Ps 37:37 says, *“Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.”* What man? The blameless and upright, Joab was neither, and so David says don't let him go to the grave by peaceful means. Now the question comes up, why didn't *David* have him executed, the law was clear regarding the penalty of murder? Well, there's a # of possible reasons, none of them conclusive but Joab was overall incredibly loyal to David, and it could be that David found it difficult to do justice to someone who'd really watched out for him on more than one occasion. But then there's also the matter of Uriah the Hittite, Joab knew a secret about David that only Nathan the prophet and God knew other than him. And that was that *David* had murdered Uriah with the sword of the people of Ammon and sought to cover it up in a military campaign of which Joab was the general over those troops. And seemed as though as long as Joab had one over on David, he felt as though he was above the law, and he just did what he wanted to and figured he was covered.

But he has nothing on Solomon, as a matter of fact he's already joined forces against him once, and David knows he's a viable threat. And so Solomon needs to remove him from the equation for a # of reasons, to secure his own throne, to remove him as a threat, but mainly to follow through on the ramifications that the law had laid down for murder, so that the word of God would be upheld.

Vs7-9

Shimei as you know was also a potential threat, when he thought David was on the way out he kicked him and cursed at him while he was down. And David on his way back to Jerusalem after Absalom had been removed to Shimei that he wouldn't put him to death even though what he'd done was punishable by death. And here again it would seem that David is telling Solomon that he lived up to his word with that guy, but he's bad news and Solomon is under no such oath. Shimei has no respect for the throne as long as it's in David's hands and he's a volatile individual; and so Solomon, do what you need to do.

Vs10-13

Notice her reservation, it wasn't but a short time ago he was seeking to usurp the throne, and so she wisely exercises caution here.

Vs14-15

Is it just me or does this smell fishy just by the way he's setting her up? "You know the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had their expectations on me that I should reign." No, I don't know that the kingdom was yours and from the way the parade went with Solomon, the fact that all Israel had their expectations on you seems to me to be wishful thinking. And he goes on here to act as though he's resolved to be good with the way things went since it was the Lord who turned the tide on him. And I can't know for sure but it seems to me that there's no evidence that Adonijah was ever sincerely interested in what the Lord wanted, but there's all kinds of evidence that points to the fact that he was interested in what *Adonijah* wanted!

Vs16-17

The bible says, "*A fool's mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul.*" Prov 18:7 He butters Bathsheba all up here saying, "Solomon won't refuse *you*, so though *the kingdom* was supposed to be mine and I willingly forgo that, can I have one little morsel? All I want is Abishag the Shunammite as wife." Now who was Abishag the Shunammite? She was the beautiful young lady that was brought in to keep David warm on his deathbed, prêt ell what's the big deal? Now we know that David never had physical relations with Abishag, but she was the king's property nonetheless, would've been considered by the people as a part of his harem (if you will.)

Well, as you well know when you obtain the king's property *especially* his wives/concubines/ladies of his harem, however you want to say it, that was like taking title deed to the throne. Remember when Absalom came into Jerusalem to overthrow his dad? What was the 1st order of business that he tended to, he took David's concubines in a tent up on the palace roof and slept with them all and in so doing he sent a message to the nation, "I'm your king now!" and So Adonijah thinking he's being subtle here in his humble request, is asking Bathsheba to basically hand him the kingdom. Now watch this.

Vs18-21 (Vs19, No matter how great you become, or how big you get, we're to honor our mother and father).

Why would she do this? Some think she was snowed and didn't really see it coming, others think she knew exactly what would be coming and so it was strategic on her behalf knowing how it would backfire on him, but it's all conjecture, the bible doesn't say. But notice, Solomon got the message loud and clear.

Vs22-25

And because Solomon mentions Joab and Abiathar there in vs 22 some think that perhaps there was a leak regarding another conspiracy and that they were all in on it together just like before, whether or not that's true I don't know, but what I do know is that you can be sure (the bible says, "...*your sin will find you out.*" Num 32:23

Vs26-27

And so for honorable service Abiathar wasn't executed, but he was banished. But notice how the Holy Spirit draws our attention to the fact that in that act the Word of God was fulfilled which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh. (And you can find that there in 1st Sam Ch 2 and 3). What's the point? That God will always fulfill His Word, good news, or bad, God is not a man that He should lie, if He says it, He will do it. He gave Eli this news (What) 100plus years ago? Yet here it is coming to pass, heaven and earth will pass away but the Word of God will never pass away. Jesus said He would come again and receive us to Himself that where He is, there we will be also, and just sure as those words came from His mouth it's going to happen, and we say even so come Lord Jesus, God always fulfills His Word.

Vs28

You see this is another reason people suspect that they had regrouped, because the issue of the 1st conspiracy had been dealt with. But now Joab catches the news of Adonijah and Abiathar and he high tale's it to the altar much like Adonijah did the 1st time. Why would he do that if there was nothing to convict him of? As far as he knew the issue of his devious murders died with David, he really didn't have any reason to suspect Solomon coming after him over those things, and so some believe he was guilty of treason having regrouped with Adonijah and now he's on the run.

Vs29-37

So Solomon is dealing with these guys, and here like he did with Adonijah he gives him an opportunity of peace 1st. But if he transgresses then his blood will be on his own head, and he makes it real clear and everyone understands.

Vs38-43

Prov 5:22 says, "*His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.*" It's that, "...out of your own mouth I'll judge you," type thing going on here, apparently Shimei didn't put a lot of stock in Solomon's authority, but now it's going to catch up to him. Solomon offered him grace, but by his own volition he's chosen law and now he's going to have to pay the penalty. Aren't you glad that Jesus Christ paid the penalty of the law for you and for me, man I sure am.

Vs44-46

So Solomon cleans house and his position in the Kingdom is firmly rooted. What about you, what about me, is there an "Adonijah" of selfish ambition lingering around in you somewhere?

What about an outward appearance of godliness like Abiathar, but inwardly things aren't where they need to be? Or perhaps a "Joab" who thinks that just because you seek to abide under the shadow of the altar that you won't have to give an account for ungodliness in your life? You think you know a secret, that where sin abounds grace abounds more at the altar of the cross and so you don't really have a repentant heart, but you use grace as a cloak for vice, and sin in your life? Don't be deceived, the bible is clear Corinthians, Galatians, these NT epistles were written to "believers." Read 1 Cor Ch 6, Gal 5 and it's real clear if you're given over to sinful habits and fleshly lifestyles with no heart of repentance and you practice such things, you can claim the safety zone of the cross all you like, you will not inherit the kingdom of God but rather certain judgment awaits you.

Or like Shimei maybe there's no real respect for authority in your life. Be it in the practical matters or even the authority that Christ is to have in your life. Listen, learn the lesson of Ch 2 of the book of 1st Kings, these things need to be dealt with, "Run through" as it were, crucified, put to death. That you might be firmly established in your walk with Christ, and that the rule of Christ might be firmly established in your life. When these guys died, the kingdom was firmly established, as long as they were alive, there was always a potential threat to Solomon's security in the Kingdom. So if any of those guys are alive and well in your life, be careful to observe the commandments and the judgments of the Word of God, they've got to die. "Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.