



44: A Father's Final Words of Wisdom (1 Kings 2:1-10)

As King David nears death, his final words to Solomon reveal what it means to live with strength, wisdom, and faithfulness to God's Word. As we conclude our journey through Samuel, David's imperfect reign points us to Jesus—the perfect, risen, and eternal King who sets everyone who believes in Him free from sin.

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* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) & New International Version (NIV).

1 Kings 2:1-4a CSB

As the time approached for David to die, he ordered his son Solomon, "As for me, I am going the way of all of the earth. **Be strong and be a man**, and keep your obligation to the Lord your God to **walk in His ways** and to **keep His statutes**, commands, ordinances, and decrees. This is **written in the law of Moses**, so that you will have success in everything you do and wherever you turn, and so that the Lord will fulfill His promise that he made to me:

Just like all mankind, David's kingship nor his godliness will keep him from **going the way of all of the earth**. *The final words of King David*, will echo in King Solomon's mind long after his father has passed. Solomon will face many difficult decisions. He must **be strong**. He must **be a man** - speak the truth and be ready to stand for what is right - even when others oppose him.

Solomon must **walk in the ways of Yahweh** and obey His commands. The commands are found in **the law of Moses** - the Scriptures.

Throughout both the Old and New Testament Scriptures God's people are told to **be strong** and courageous - *to TRUST Yahweh and DO what He says*...regardless of what others say. We see this from Moses to Joshua → Yahweh to Joshua → Joshua to Israel → David to Solomon → Paul to the church.

🕒 *The same is true for YOU and ME!*

How can we KNOW what Yahweh says? We are privileged to not only have the writings of Moses (Gen-Deut), but the entirety of the Old & New Covenant writings! We are to KNOW & OBEY Yahweh's commands as written in the Scriptures.

- Make sure to **NEVER READ A BIBLE VERSE**...read the whole chapter. Reading the context transforms how we understand, apply, and teach God's Word.

You will have success in everything you do. This promise was given specifically to Solomon. We are not Israel's king, and God has not promised us uninterrupted peace and prosperity. But Scripture does give followers of Jesus a deeper definition of success:

Biblical Success

- Accomplishing what God has assigned us.
- Living wisely under God's direction.
- Producing the fruit God desires.
- Remaining spiritually stable when storms come.
- Receiving God's approval, even when faithfulness is costly.

Here's the promise Yahweh made to David...

1 Kings 2:4b CSB

"If your sons take care to walk faithfully before Me with all their heart and all their soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel."

This is a GREAT promise, but Solomon and his descendants would not continue walking faithfully. A time would come when Israel had no descendant of David sitting on the throne. Yet God would not abandon His promise. **ONE MAN** from the tribe of Judah, born into David's family in David's hometown of Bethlehem, **WOULD reign on the throne forever**.

Sadly, Solomon and his sons would NOT fulfill this and there WOULD be a time when Israel would have no descendent of David on the throne....**until ONE MAN** from the tribe of Judah, **born to the family of David**, delivered in David's hometown of Bethlehem - **WOULD sit on the throne for all eternity**.

SEEKING JUSTICE

1 Kings 2:5-6 CSB

You also know what **Joab** son of Zeruiah did to me and what he did to the two commanders of Israel's army, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. **He murdered them in a time of peace** to avenge blood shed in war. He spilled that blood on his own waistband and on the sandals of his feet. Act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray head descend to Sheol in peace.

- **Joab** had just overstepped King David's authority by siding with Adonijah - the son of David claiming to be the next king.
- Joab murdered **Abner**, the former commander of Saul's army, by taking him aside and stabbing him (2 Samuel 3:27).
- Joab also killed **Amasa**, the former commander of Absalom, whom David appointed over the army in Joab's place. Joab stabbed him too (2 Samuel 20:9-10)
- Joab ignored David's direct command, thrust three spears into **Absalom**, and allowed his armor-bearers to finish killing him (2 Sam 18).

Solomon was to make sure that Joab died - not allowing him to live a long life and die in peace.

EXTENDING GRACE

1 Kings 2:7 CSB

Show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite and **let them be among those who eat at your table** because they supported me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

USING DISCERNMENT

1 Kings 2:8-9 CSB

Keep an eye on **Shimei** son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim who is with you. He uttered malicious curses against me the day I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan River, and I swore to him by the Lord, 'I will never kill you with the sword.' So don't let him go unpunished, for you are a wise man. You know how to deal with him to bring his gray head down to Sheol with blood."

Remember the rock chucker who was cursing David out? When Absalom is killed and it becomes obvious that David is being reestablished as king, **Shimei changes teams**. Even after this man's wickedness toward David, the king had allowed **Shimei** to live and had promised not to kill him. David wants Solomon to keep his eye on this **chameleon**—a man who seems to change his colors to match his environment. David wants Solomon to use wise DISCERNMENT on how he deals with Shimei. And that is exactly what he does. Go read about it in 1 Kings 2:36-46.

1 Kings 2:10 CSB

Then **David rested with his ancestors** and was buried in the city of David.

That is the end of David's life on earth. Samuel introduced us to Israel's first kings, and we saw the sinfulness of each one.

Samuel leaves us longing for a PERFECT KING - a SINLESS KING - an ETERNAL KING.

🕒 That description belongs to the Lord Jesus alone!

Jesus is forever tied to the name of "David". People repeatedly recognize Jesus as the "Son of David"

- The Canaanite woman whose daughter was tormented by a demon cried out: "Have mercy on me, Lord, **Son of David!**" (Mt 15:22)
- Blind Bartimaeus yells out: "Jesus, **Son of David!**, have mercy on me!" (Mk 10:47-48)

Matthew 21:9 CSB

Then the crowds who went ahead of him and those who followed shouted: *Hosanna* to **the Son of David!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! *Hosanna* in the highest heaven!

After Jesus's ministry, death, burial, and resurrection, the importance of King David's life to Jewish people was on display. The Jewish followers of Jesus mentioned King David to *SPOTLIGHT* the Ultimate King of Israel - Jesus (Acts 2:29-36, Rm 1:3-4, 2 Tim 2:8, Rev 22:16).

- David was the shepherd → **Jesus** is the **Good Shepherd**.
- David was God's anointed king → **Jesus** is the **Messiah/Christ—the Anointed King**.
- David defeated Israel's enemies → **Jesus defeats sin, death, and Satan**.
- David ruled from Jerusalem → **Jesus reigns eternally**.
- David received God's covenant promise → **Jesus fulfills that promise**.
- David died and remained in the grave → **Jesus died and rose again**.
- David was Israel's king → **Jesus is both David's Son and also called David's Lord**.

Acts 13:21-23 CSB

Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. After removing him, **He raised up David as their king** and testified about him, *'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my own heart, who will carry out all my will.'* **"From this man's descendants, as He promised, God brought to Israel the Savior, Jesus.**

Acts 13:36 CSB

For **David**, after **serving God's purpose** in his own generation, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and decayed, but **the One God raised up did not decay**. Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers and sisters, that through this Man forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you. **Through Him everyone who believes is set free from every sin**, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

In Jesus' day, many people knew where David's tomb was still among them in Jerusalem - **an OCCUPIED tomb** (Acts 2:29).

Through Him everyone who believes is set free from sin. This same story has been replayed many times.

- David's final words told Solomon how he should live.
- God's enduring Word tells all of us where life, freedom, and forgiveness are found—in David's greater Son, Jesus Christ.

❓ **Have you trusted Jesus?** Be strong, walk in His ways, and serve God's purpose in your generation until our King returns.

Luke 1:32-33 CSB

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

Discussionquestions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. If you knew you had only one conversation remaining with your loved ones, what would you want them to hear from you?
2. **Read 1 Kings 2:1-4.** What were the most important things David wanted Solomon to remember?
3. Why does David connect strength with walking in God's ways and obeying His Word? Can someone be spiritually strong while disregarding Scripture? Explain your answer.
4. Discuss the principle: **"Never read a Bible verse by itself."** How can reading the surrounding passage—and understanding the whole story of Scripture—change how we interpret and apply a verse?
5. How does the Bible's definition of success differ from the world's definition? Which of these descriptions is most challenging for you personally? a) Accomplishing what God has assigned us b) Living wisely under God's direction c) Producing the fruit God desires d) Remaining spiritually stable when storms come d) Receiving God's approval even when faithfulness is costly
6. In what ways was David a picture pointing forward to Jesus? In what important ways is Jesus infinitely greater than David?
7. **Read Acts 13:36-39.** What contrast does Paul make between David and Jesus? What does verse 39 promise to everyone who believes in Jesus?
8. What does it mean to be "set free from every sin"? How is that different from merely trying harder to become a better person?
9. David served God's purpose in his generation. What purpose or responsibility has God placed before you in this season of your life?
10. Which question most needs your response today? a) Have I trusted Jesus as my King? b) Am I walking faithfully according to His Word? c) Am I serving God's purpose in my generation?
11. ****Closing prayer:**** Ask God to help you trust His Word, walk faithfully in His ways, serve His purpose in your generation, and live with confidence in the returning King whose kingdom will never end.