

David
Part 27
David's Charge to Solomon

1 Kings 2 NIV

1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man, **3** and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go **4** and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

- David the great king of Israel has served as king for forty years. Seven years over Judah and thirty three years over all Israel. His testing season in the wilderness payed off. His journey with the Lord started when he was a young and now he is old and at the end of his journey. God has been faithful his entire life.

Vs. 1,2

“When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. I am about to go the way of all the earth,”

- It's a humble reminder that our days, in this life, are numbered and won't last forever; how we spend them is very important. David conquered not only his enemies but also the test of time by remaining faithful to God to the end.

David, before he dies, gives Solomon a three part charge:

1st Part

Vs. 2b

he said. "So be strong, act like a man..."

- David knows Solomon is skipping the boot camp he endured in preparation for the throne. David's passageway to kingship was a slingshot and a giant. After that he was full time on the battlefield and then later dodging spears from King Saul. His son Solomon has never experienced any of that. He is possibly a mommas boy and is about to be introduced to a man's world and David knows it will require him to "be strong and act like a man."

What does it mean to be strong and act like a man?

Perhaps David is saying to Solomon he needs to be grounded and that begins in God. He needs to be steadfast and resolute, not given to every opinion.

He needs to act like a man:

- A man takes responsibility.
- Keeps his word.
- Follow through on what he says he will do.
- Faces difficult head on and deal with it.
- Doesn't give up when things get tough.
- Be a man of action. Action requires courage.

David Guzik comments:

"Perhaps David sensed some weakness in Solomon. Perhaps he knew Solomon would be tested in far greater ways than before. Whatever the exact reason was, David knew Solomon needed strength and courage. Great responsibilities require great strength and courage."

2nd Part

Vs. 3a and observe what the Lord your God requires

- The first thing needed to be strong and act like a man is here in Vs.3 “observe what the Lord your God requires.”

I like this word **observe** because it is a call to action

NET - Do the job

NKJV - keep the charge

Observe: give heed, keep watch, preserve

- Solomon is not just to read it, he needs to soak it in. Solomon is to personally lead the way in doing it, keeping it, keeping watch over it and preserving in it.
- Solomon needs a personal revelation and passion for what the Lord his God requires.
- Isn't that what we all need. Every believer needs a personal revelation from God's Word that causes a passion, personal connection, and God given conviction.
- The strength and boldness needed for obedience to God starts with personally observing God's Word.

3rd Part

Vs. 3b

Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses.

- The heart is proven not by it's sentiment but by it's action. If I tell my wife I love her but it never materializes she will wonder if it's real.

Example: If I tell Audra I love her but never pay for her to get her nails done, she would probably wonder if I really love her.

- 1 Chronicles 28 parallels our text and expounds some of what David says to Solomon.

1 Chronicles 28:9 NIV

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought.

- “The Lord searches every heart” tells us God not only judges our actions but our motives.

John 14 NIV

15 “If you love me, keep my commands.

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21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Does this calling on Solomon sound like anything else in scripture?

Joshua 1:7

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

God ties a promise to these things if Solomon is faithful.

Vs. 3c,4

Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go
4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

Question: Have you ever notice the difference between walking with the blessing of God on your life, and doing life your own way without his blessing?

- God's Blessing is very real and now David reminds Solomon of this very real promise from God.
- If Solomon is strong, observes God's commands and keep his commands he will walk in his blessing and the throne of Israel will never fail to have a successor from the line of David. But if Solomon goes his own way and does his own thing he will forfeit that blessing.
- We can read this and think, wow must have been nice for David and Solomon to have a promise from God like this?

Matthew 6 NIV

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. **29** Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **30** If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

David's request to his son Solomon

Vs. 5-7

5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood he stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. **6** Deal with him according

to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

7 “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

- It’s like David has a short registry of things to go over with Solomon before he dies. An inventory of things he knows are left and need to be dealt with.
- David’s reign was known for triumph and victory over the enemies of Israel. Solomon’s reign is very different. Solomon reign will be known for wisdom, justice and prosperity.
- This section of David’s request to Solomon is also subtitled “Solomon’s Throne Established”. The fact that David highlights certain ones tells us there were things that needed Solomon’s attention in order to establish his throne and bring justice.
- Joab unfortunately was one of the. Joab undermined David and was not obedient. He disobeyed David when he thought it was in David’s best interest, and he was cunning and ruthless in furthering his own position. Joab also killed Absalom when David asked him not to.

Vs. 7 “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai...

- This shows just how loyal David was to those who helped him in his time of need when fleeing from Absalom.
- If there is one thing David is known for it is his loyal heart. He doesn’t forget those who helped him and stood with him during desperate times.

- David was so loyal I believe it could be said that loyalty was his love language. Like with Saul, even though David suffered great betrayal from him to the point of facing death, David never retaliated.
- David, in his life earned a Ph.D in loyalty and betrayal. This speaks to his ability to reward those with a loyal hearts while also warning Solomon of those with a disloyal nature.

Vs. 8-9

8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord: ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’
9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.”

- Shimei is the obnoxious mocker who threw rocks and dirt at David when he fled Jerusalem during Absalom’s rebellion in 2 Samuel 16.
- Shimei later repented to David asking for forgiveness in 2 Samuel 19 when David was reestablished in Jerusalem. David said to him **Vs. 22** “Should anyone be put to death in Israel today?” **Vs. 23** “You shall not die.” And the king promised him on oath.
- Now David turns this situation over to Solomon for justice even as David in his fierce loyalty to Saul took the life of the Amalekite that brought news of Saul’s death, claiming he killed Saul in his dying moment. David now calls for Solomon to show that same level of honor to him even as David showed Saul honor after his death.

Vs. 10-12

10 Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. **11** He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. **12** So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

- The text says David rested with his ancestors speaking to the other great men of God who went before him. David passed from this life to his eternal rest and reward.

“Of his adultery and murder we hear not a word, because he had made a thorough peace with God for those sins in his lifetime” (Trapp).

“He was a shepherd, a soldier, an outlaw, a king, a fugitive, a sinner, a saint, a poet... His experiences were the writing of God on his life, making him into a man after God’s own heart.” (Redpath)

Closing

David in his old age writes Psalm 37 to you and I. In his wisdom he contrasts the temporary reward of the wicked with the eternal inheritance of the righteous and he says:

Psalm 37

1

Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;

2

for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.

3

Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

4

Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

— — —

23

The Lord makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;

24

though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

25

I was young and now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread