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## 1 KINGS 2:5:46

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Related Topics: David; Solomon; David's Death; Parting Words; Joab; Shimei; Adonijah; Bathsheba; Solomon's Wives; Solomon's Request; Wisdom from God

### REVIEW

In the opening 4 verses of 1 Kings 2, we find David on his death bed. He gives to Solomon, then about 15 years old words to live by.

In Verses 5-9 David gives Solomon advice regarding several men. He names the men, tells Solomon what they had done, and then tells Solomon how he was to deal with them.

v.5 Joab the son of Zeruah

*NLT - 5he murdered my two army commanders, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He pretended that it was an act of war, but it was done in a time of peace.... ESV continues 6Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.*

v.7 – the sons of Barzillai

*7But (in contrast to Joab) deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.*

v.8 – Shimei

*8And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Ma-hanaim. NLT continues, When he came down to meet me at the Jordan River, I swore by the LORD that I would not kill him. 9But that oath does not*

*make him innocent. You are a wise man, and you will know how to arrange a bloody death for him.”*

KEY QUESTION: Is David cruel and cold blooded here? No, David had honored his word to these men in his life, but they had not repented, and they would be a tremendous threat to his 15 year old son. They are crafty and cruel men. David could handle them, but he does not want Solomon’s kingdom threatened in it’s infancy by such treacherous men. This is not vengeance nor vendetta, it was right for David to keep his vow, but it was also right for him to make sure that Shimei received justice without David breaking his vow. It is prudent counsel for national security

*10Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.*

According to [Acts 2:29](#), the tomb of David was known in the time of Jesus and the apostles. Afterwards, the Christian writer Jerome (c.347-420) speaks of it being known in his time. What is currently known in Jerusalem as David’s Tomb is almost certainly not the genuine that was known in ancient times.

According to [2 Kings 11:10](#), David’s weapons were preserved as relics in the sanctuary. The Jewish historian, Josephus, records that some of the treasures accumulated by David during his reign were buried with him in his tomb.

*11And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.*

David began his reign at the age of 30. He reigned 40 years. Forty years is a Biblical generation.

INTERESTING: We referenced [Psalm 90](#) last week in relationship to David saying that he was going the way of all the earth.

*Psa 90:10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;*

David had some long hard years of preparation before ascending to the throne. How many of you tonight are under the age of 30? Thirty is a significant number in Scripture. At 30 the Levites entered their ministry. At 30 Joseph became prime minister of Egypt and began his ministry. At 30 Ezekiel began his powerful prophetic ministry. At 30 John the Baptist began his ministry. At 30 Jesus began His public ministry. That age should be approached prayerfully and zealously. The years up to that time are training and preparation time. Then (should the Lord tarry) the 40 years that follow are that generation that God has called you to serve.

May the Lord help us who are over 30 to have vision for those under 30. Hence my vision and passion for OPEN! By [Psalm 90](#), I’ve got about 12 years left with on this side of heaven. When we were just planting Metro, Valerie gave this passage to me out of the Bible Bus and said it was the Word of the Lord for me!

*Psalm 71:17-18 O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.  
18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.*

May the Lord give us his heart for those who are under 30, and those just launching into their time of service to the Lord. May we spend and be spent to see Jesus exalted in them and through them!

*12So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.*

This is a fulfillment of the promise that God made to David in [2 Samuel 7:12-16](#). That promise was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, the Son of David; but it also had a definite and partial fulfillment in Solomon.

QUOTE: G. Campbell-Morgan

*“With Solomon began, in some senses, the most splendid period in Israel’s history. The splendor, however, was largely mental and material. The spiritual is noticeably absent.”*

*13Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon.*

Remember, Adonijah was the son of David who tried to make himself king over Israel instead of Solomon. That is why we find Bathsheba asking the question

*13....And she said, “Do you come peacefully?” He said, “Peacefully.”*

That’s a lie because Adonijah’s request is a covert quest for power.

*14Then he said, “I have something to say to you.” She said, “Speak.” 15He said, “You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother’s, for it was his from the Lord. 16And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me.” She said to him, “Speak.” 17And he said, “Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife.”*

Most likely, Abishag was one of David’s concubines. If so she was legally bound to him. Abishag is now a “concubine widow” and Adonijah wants Abishag to be his wife. You might say, “What’s the big deal.” The Holy Spirit recorded for us that she was a strikingly beautiful virgin. Wouldn’t it be natural for any guy, even Adonijah, to want to marry her?

Adonijah wanted more than Abishag’s beauty ([1 Kings 1:3-4](#)). Men in quest of thrones saw the wives of kings as symbols of power shifts.

In [2 Samuel 16:20-23](#), Absalom, the brother of Adonijah, asserted his rebellious claim on David’s throne by taking David’s concubines unto himself. Adonijah wants to declare or build a claim to Solomon’s throne by taking David’s widowed concubine as his wife.

There are examples of this in the ancient secular histories of the Persians and Arabs, where the new king took the harem of the previous king as proof that he was now king.

*18Bathsheba said, “Very well; I will speak for you to the king.” 19So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king’s mother, and she sat on his right. 20Then she said, “I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me.”*

Promise you won’t say ‘no’ before I ask you, that would be called manipulation.

*20...And the king said to her, “Make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you.” 21She said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as his wife.” 22King Solomon answered his mother, “And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah.”*

Solomon smells a plot right away. He knows something is going on. Solomon understood the situation perfectly. He knew that this was Adonijah's attempt to declare or build a claim to the throne of Israel. Pretty remarkable discernment for a 15 year old!

*23Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, "God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life! 24Now therefore as the Lord lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of David my father, and who has made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day." 25So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he struck him down, and he died.*

Some might think - Great! A 15 year old paranoid, tyrannical, power monger! I think that's an utterly wrong conclusion!

1.) Solomon simply acted according to the "terms of parole" (if-you-would) granted to Adonijah in 1 Kings 1:52-53

*52And Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." 53So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."*

2.) As we follow Solomon in his early years we are going to see that in his heart he has a very deep and very genuine concern for the Kingdom, a very deep and a very genuine concern for the Davidic Covenant. This is a fifteen year old who has the promises of God in his heart. This is a fifteen year old who chooses the well being of the Kingdom of God's people over his own interests. Solomon is not dealing with Adonijah to preserve Solomon's power or position. He is dealing with Adonijah in the face of the promises that God had made to David concerning the nation of Israel and throne of David. He knew that Adonijah would divide the Kingdom for his own benefit. Solomon wanted to preserve the Kingdom for the sake of God's Covenant with David. What a great lesson for those in places of authority within the local church.

Now we come to another trouble maker -

*26And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your estate, for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before David my father, and because you shared in all my father's affliction."*

Solomon shows mercy and wisdom in dealing with Abithar.

Mercy - Abiathar deserved death because he supported Adonijah as the next king over Israel – which was in direct defiance of the will of God and the will of King David (1 Kings 1:7). This was treason against both God and the King of Israel. Solomon was merciful to Abiathar because there was a time when Abiathar was the chief priest and supporter of David.

Wisdom - Solomon was demonstrating wisdom by saying "I will not put you to death at this time." By that statement Solomon let Abiathar know that he could still be executed. So Solomon says, "Abiathar, I'm going to spare you. But, you are going to go back to your home town. You are not going to officiate as a priest any longer."

*27So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, thus fulfilling the word of the Lord that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.*

Abiathar was a descendant of a man named Eli. Eli lived 100 years before this moment! Eli had two incredibly wicked sons who were serving along side of him in the house of the Lord. They were having sex with the women of Israel at the door of the Tabernacle. They were taking for themselves the portions of the sacrifices that belonged to God. Their behavior stumbled the people of God. It said that the people of Israel began to hate worship and giving! Eli never disciplined his sons. He was in a very real way guilty of idolatry, honoring his sons over God.

*1 Samuel 2:30-31; 33 ...but now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 31Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.*

*33The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men.*

*1 Samuel 3:11-14 11Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.*

Here is this fifteen year old kid, what a way to start your reign. Yet remarkably, the Holy Spirit tells us that in the midst of all this political insanity and scheming, in the midst of these attempts to undermine Solomon, the Word of God is being fulfilled concerning this particular priesthood and the son's of Eli.

Don't miss this, even when it looks like things are out of control. Even when men are out of control, it says here that nothing is out of control. The friends of Solomon could have looked at the maneuvering of Joab and Abiathar and Adonijah and you think - Wow, this is out of control, this really stinks, this is really dirty... God was in the middle of the whole thing bringing to pass the things that He had declared.

What a commentary on the WORD OF GOD!

*Jer. 1:12 12Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."*

What a commentary on the SOVEREIGNTY of God.

*28When the news came to Joab—for Joab had supported Adonijah although he had not supported Absalom—Joab fled to the tent of the Lord and caught hold of the horns of the altar. 29And when it was told King Solomon, "Joab has fled to the tent of the Lord, and behold, he is beside the altar," Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down." 30So Benaiah came to the tent of the Lord and said to him, "The king commands, 'Come out.'" But he said, "No, I will die here." Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me." 31The king replied to him, "Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause. 32The Lord will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. 33So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever. But for David and for his descendants and for his house and for his throne there shall be peace from the Lord forevermore." 34Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went*

*up and struck him down and put him to death. And he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in place of Joab, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.*

The horns of the altar is where the sacrificial animals were tied. Anyone in Israel who was guilty of a crime could flee to the horns of the altar for sanctuary, except someone who is guilty of murder (Exodus 21:13-14) and that was Joab.

QUOTE: Spurgeon

*“He did not know where to fly except he fled to the horns of an altar, which he had very seldom approached before. As far as we can judge, he had shown little respect for worship during his lifetime. He was a rough man of war, and cared little enough about God, or the tabernacle, or the priests, or the altar; but when he was in danger, he fled to that which he had avoided, and sought to make a refuge of that which he had neglected.”*

Joab runs to the altar and hangs on to the place where the blood of bulls and goats was shed as an atonement for sin. But he is taken away from the altar and killed in the house of the Lord. Joab thought that he could commit murder and then run into the house of God and never suffer the consequences of his actions.

Surely they won't take me away, I'm clinging to the altar

I think this is a great picture of those who run to church or religion to save them. Those who think they are home free because they attend church where people sing about and study about the sacrifice of the cross, when all along they been disobeying and disregarding the Word and the Will of the One who shed His blood and died on the Cross.

CRUCIAL, clinging to the externals of Christianity, giving intellectual ascent to the sacrifice of the Cross, does not save!

Joab, smug and secure for many years was indeed shocked when he discovered that holding on to the horn of the altar didn't save him! So too, the Word of God says that there are those who will be shocked when they stand before the Lord and cast out of the kingdom.

“Depart from Me, I never KNEW you!” “But I was holding on to the altar” “You may have been holding on to church, but you never really held on to Me!”

My prayer is that no one here tonight would make the same mistake as Joab. Religion can not save! In fact, religion kills! Only Jesus can save you. Turn from your sins and commit your life to Jesus. You've come to church tonight, now come to the cross of Jesus, come to Jesus, surrender your heart and life to Him!

ONE MORE GUY TO DEAL WITH

*36Then the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever. 37For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die. Your blood shall be on your own head.” 38And Shimei said to the king, “What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days. 39But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei's servants ran away to Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shimei, “Behold, your servants are in Gath,” 40Shimei arose and saddled a donkey and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants. Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath. 41And when Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned, 42the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you swear by the Lord and solemnly warn you, saying, ‘Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die’?”*

*And you said to me, 'What you say is good; I will obey.' 43Why then have you not kept your oath to the Lord and the commandment with which I commanded you?" 44The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father. So the Lord will bring back your harm on your own head. 45But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever." 46Then the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him down, and he died. So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.*

As a result of dealing with these threats, Solomon's throne was secure at an early date.

QUOTE: John Trapp

*"Oh that we would be as quick in slaying our arch-rebels, those predominant sins that threaten our precious souls!"*

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