

1 Kings 2:1-4

Email ✉ | [+](#) more

Richard Cimino

Oct. 26, 2009

1 KINGS 2-3

Related Topics: David; Solomon;
David's Death; Parting Words: Parting Words

CHAPTER 2

¹When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, ²"I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show

yourself a man, ³and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, ⁴that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.

David COMMANDED Solomon

- This was not a suggestion!
- It means – "*Solomon, do this*"

CRUCIAL INSIGHT: But the word COMMAND also means to *set in order*

- He wanted Solomon's life to be SET IN ORDER
- **LISTEN GUYS** – these really are WORDS TO LIVE BY
-
- Words by which we can ORDER our lives!

So let's take a close look at the words of David.

²"I am about to go the way of all the earth.

David is recognizing the FACT that ALL of us are going to die

- EVERY human being is headed for the grave – Barring the rapture of the Church
- Not just humans – ALL of life forms on the earth.



The BEGINNING of Death is traced back to Genesis – The Book of Beginnings

- God told our first parents – *Gen. 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat you shall surely die.*
-
- **KEY INSIGHT:** Literally = *Dying, you shall surely die*
-
-
- Immediately – Spiritual death - separation from God.
-
-
- Ultimately – physical death
- Satan contradicted the Word of God – told our first parents – *Gen. 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.*
- Billions of graves prove that God is true
-
- His Word is true
-
- He says what He means and means what He says.

It is interesting how death is something that we rarely think of as happening to us

- We usually think that death is something that happens to someone else
- Like the Swedish couple that was constantly fighting....
-
- Life was one big battle. After years of trying to get along, the wife prayed –
-
-
- *“Lord, we know that it’s not right that Ollie and I fight as much as we do. We’re such a poor witness to you. You know how hard we’ve tried to stop fighting. Lord, the ONLY solution to this is that You’re going to have to let one of us die. It’s the ONLY way we’ll stop fighting. So Lord, I pray that You’ll take one of us, and when You do I’ll move in with my sister.”*
- Though we might not think of death pertaining to ourselves – the Bible says
-
- *Heb 9:27it is appointed unto men once to die*
-
- **BY THE WAY** – It Our text says – When *David’s TIME* drew near.
-
- *Psalms 90:10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;*
- When you are in your teens and twenties you think you are immortal – you don’t think **YOUR time** is NEAR
- When you are a parent you never think that YOU will get the phone call from the CHP
- When you are married you never think that you are the one that gets the call from the doctor.

- **Karen Stewart** — Is in her 30's with three teen age kids
-
- Women her age are thinking they have another 40 years ahead of them —
-
- She has stage 4 incurable cancer.
- There is wisdom in the words of the prophet — **Amos 4:12** — *prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.*
- We WILL meet God... We should be PREPARED to do that!
- **Psalm 90:12** *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR the calm in David's voice

- No fear, simply — *I am going the way of all the earth*
- We remember what David wrote many years earlier
- **Psalm 23:1, 4** *The LORD is my shepherd....⁴ though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
- It was that NEARNESS of the Lord that dispelled the fear of death
- David's LORD became a man in the person of Jesus — He would say *I am the Good Shepherd*
- **YESTERDAY in John 1** — We saw that Jesus answers the cry of every man's heart
-
- Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?
- **We saw that** there are 2 fears common to mankind
-
- the fear of death and the fear of the dark.
- JESUS is the remedy for man's greatest fears.
-
- IN HIM is LIFE and LIGHT!

Without Jesus we are left to face our greatest fears — death and darkness

-
- **STORY:** The nurse who witnessed the death of the famous atheist, Voltaire — said that he was in such torment and fear on his death bed that she would not ever again witness the death of an unbeliever for all of the money in Europe

INTERESTING — In the place that is most feared by man David is being **a good dad for the first time!**

- He has that PEACE of God that passes all understanding.
- **QUOTE: Parker p. 262** *There is no....*
- **EXAMPLE:** Jeff and Karen Stewart — They could sell the house and just travel — but they said no — Serving the Lord is what they do.
- They decided that they wanted their suffering to be used by the Lord to show others how it is possible to LIVE for Jesus in the face of death.

Be strong, and show yourself a man,

I wonder if David — a man familiar with war — saw in Solomon a softness that was dangerous.

MAN = a male person

- There is no gender blurring in the Bible.
- Jesus said: **Mat 19:4** *“Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,*

This distinction goes beyond issues of sexuality

- The Bible defines the differences in the roles of the man and the woman **REFERENCE:** Credo study 4 – **David is saying** – *Be strong.... Be all that God intended man to be* –

QUOTE: Joseph Parker – Preaching Through the Bible Vol. IV page 262-263

HERE is HOW you prove yourself a man!

³and keep the charge of the Lord your God,

KEEP = to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; to protect, attend to, take heed, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save

CHARGE = ordinance, duty

God has charged mankind with certain rules

- He has special rules for those men who are leaders
- In the Old Testament He has a special charge for the kings
- **EXAMPLE:** Foreseeing the day when Israel would desire a king like the other nations, God placed in the Pentateuch a special CHARGE concerning kings
- **Deut. 17:16-20** *Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ ¹⁷And he shall not acquire many wives for himself,*
- *lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. ¹⁸“And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.*
- **Unfortunately** – Solomon did NOT KEEP
 -
 - [to hedge about (as with thorns)]
 -
 - Guard
 -
 - to protect
 -

- attend to
-
- take heed
-
- Mark
-
- look narrowly
-
- observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save]
-
- **that charge**
- He multiplied horses (Chariot city in Meggido)
- He multiplied wives that turned his heart from the Lord
- Silver was as common as stones in the day of Solomon
- **1 Ki 10:27**

walking in his ways and keeping his statutes,

“Son – God has told you the way that He wants you to live – now you must **CHOOSE to LIVE** in that way”

HERE’S THE POINT – You must choose whether or not you are going to **live for Jesus – follow Jesus** – or live your own way....live after the flesh

- **Mat 16:24-25** *Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*
- Listen to the rational for such a demand:
- **Mat 16:26** *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?*

The way of the world is to live after your flesh

- Get what you can..... You only go around once.
- **Jesus asked** – “What if you get EVERYTHING that you want, but lose your soul?”

BIG CONNECTION TO BE MADE – David charged Solomon to be STRONG because

-
- Living after the way of God takes strength
- Because living God’s way will lead you directly into the face of the world
- It takes strength to go against the course of this world
- Because there are very few people that are walking in the way of God
- **Mat 7:13-14** ¹³*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

- There are a lot of people who have intellectually and emotionally seen the wisdom of walking in the way of God
 - But they weren't man enough to do it when the pressures of the world came against them
 - THAT is why David associated STRENGTH with walking in the way of the Lord
 - ANY wimp can walk in the ways of the world
 - I have NO respect for the person who walks in the way of the world because it requires NO strength
 - But it takes a man or woman of strength to walk in the way of the Lord because it is DEMANDING and NARROW
- keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses**

In essence, David is saying – “Keep the WHOLE Law of God

- Deuteronomy 17 says that it would be the priests responsibility to bring to young Solomon a copy of the law
-
- possibly just Deuteronomy

Edit this entry?