

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 2

1 KINGS 2:1-4 - DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON

HIS CHARGES ARE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL AND ALSO INCLUDE INSTRUCTION AND WISDOM BASED ON THE THINGS DAVID HAS LEARNED AND EXPERIENCED AS KING. DAVID ALSO WANTS SOLOMON TO KEEP THE PROMISES THAT DAVID HAS MADE TO VARIOUS PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL ALIVE.

DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20 - RULES FOR A KING. MUCH OF DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON IS AN ECHO OF THIS IMPORTANT PASSAGE.

V. 4 - DAVIDIC COVENANT CONFERRED TO SOLOMON (2 SAM. 7:11B-16)

1 KINGS 2:5-9 - SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS: JOAB, BARZILLAI & SHEMEI

JOAB WAS DAVID'S LEADING GENERAL AND HIS NEPHEW. HE WAS A GREAT HELP AT TIMES AND ALSO OFTEN A SOURCE OF FRUSTRATION OR ILL (MOST RECENTLY BY JOINING WITH ADONIJAH'S ATTEMPT AT THE THRONE). JOAB ALSO REPRESENTED THE JUDEAN/SOUTHERN TRIBE WING OF DAVID'S UNITED KINGDOM.

BARZILLAI'S HELP OF DAVID DURING ABSALOM'S REBELLION - 2 SAMUEL 17:27-29

SHEMEI'S CURSING OF DAVID DURING ABSALOM'S REBELLION - 2 SAMUEL 16:5-8

(SHEMEI ALSO REPRESENTED THE ISRAELITE/NORTHERN TRIBE WING OF DAVID'S UNITED KINGDOM)

1 KINGS 2:10-12 - DAVID'S DEATH

V. 10 - DAVID "SLEPT WITH HIS FATHERS" MEANS HE DIED. THE BIBLE REFERS TO DEATH USING THE EUPHEMISM OF SLEEP BECAUSE IT CARRIES WITH IT THE IMPLICATION THAT THE DECEASED WILL "RISE AGAIN" OR "WAKE UP" AT THE RESURRECTION. THE OLD TESTAMENT/JEWISH MINDSET ON DEATH IS ROOTED IN THIS TRUTH OF RESURRECTION. NO ONE OF THAT DAY ASSUMED DAVID WENT TO HEAVEN OR HELL UPON HIS DEATH RATHER THAT HE WAS DEAD AND BURIED IN THE GRAVE, AWAITING RESURRECTION ON THE LAST DAY. (THIS CONCEPT IS ONLY A LATER ADDITION TO CHURCH TEACHING AND TRADITION INFLUENCED BY GREEK PHILOSOPHY.) IN FACT, THE NEW TESTAMENT SHARES THIS VIEW OF DAVID:

ACTS 2:29 - "BRETHREN, I (PETER TO THE CROWD ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST) MAY CONFIDENTLY SAY TO YOU REGARDING THE PATRIARCH DAVID THAT HE BOTH DIED AND WAS BURIED, AND HIS TOMB IS WITH US TO THIS DAY.

THIS WORDING OR SIMILAR PHRASES WILL COME UP OFTEN IN KINGS (10X IN 1 KINGS, 14X IN 2 KINGS).

"THE METAPHOR OF SLEEP HINTS AT THE EXPECTATION OF AWAKENING SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, AND "WITH HIS FATHERS" HINTS THAT PREVIOUS GENERATIONS ALSO JOIN IN THIS HOPE (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 KINGS 2:10)"

1 KINGS 2:13-25 - ADONIJAH'S INSULTING BEHAVIOR & DEMISE

ADONIJAH WAS THE OLDEST REMAINING SON OF DAVID WHO IN 1 KINGS 1 HAD ATTEMPTED TO PROCLAIM HIMSELF KING AS DAVID WAS IN HIS FINAL DAYS. THIS WAS NOT DAVID'S WISHES (NOR WAS IT THE LORD'S FOR THAT MATTER) AND SOLOMON WAS PROCLAIMED AND ANOINTED THE NEW KING OFFICIALLY.

V. 17 - "SECOND SAMUEL 16:20—22 SUGGESTS THAT SEXUAL LIAISON WITH THE KING'S CONCUBINES AMOUNTED TO A CLAIM TO THE THRONE; AND ALTHOUGH ABISHAG WAS NOT STRICTLY A CONCUBINE, SHE WAS INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED IN PEOPLE'S MINDS WITH DAVID. CERTAINLY SOLOMON APPEARS TO INTERPRET ADONIJAH'S REQUEST AS A REVIVAL OF THE CONSPIRACY OF 1 KINGS 1—AS PRECISELY THE "WICKEDNESS" AGAINST WHICH SOLOMON HAD WARNED HIM IN 1:52" (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 KINGS 2:17)

1 KINGS 2:26-27 - ABIATHAR'S DISMISSAL

ABIATHAR HAD BEEN A LOYAL PRIEST TO DAVID DURING DAVID'S LIFE. WE FIRST MEET HIM AS A MESSENGER TO DAVID AFTER SAUL HAD KILLED THE PRIEST OF NOB (VIA DOEG THE EDMITE IN 1 SAMUEL 22:20-23). HE THEN REMAINED AS A PRIEST LOYAL TO DAVID DURING ABSALOM'S REBELLION. DURING THAT TIME HE WAS PART OF THE INSIDER INFORMANT NETWORK THAT COMMUNICATED TO DAVID WHILE IN EXILE (2 SAMUEL 15)

V. 27 - FULFILLING THE WORD OF THE LORD TO ELI:

1 SAMUEL 2:29-33 - (GOD'S WORD TO ELI): 'WHY DO YOU KICK AT MY SACRIFICE AND AT MY OFFERING WHICH I HAVE COMMANDED IN MY DWELLING, AND HONOR YOUR SONS ABOVE ME, BY MAKING YOURSELVES FAT WITH THE CHOICEST OF EVERY OFFERING OF MY PEOPLE ISRAEL?' 30 "THEREFORE THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL DECLARES, 'I DID INDEED SAY THAT YOUR HOUSE AND THE HOUSE OF YOUR FATHER SHOULD WALK BEFORE ME FOREVER'; BUT NOW THE LORD DECLARES, 'FAR BE IT FROM ME-- FOR THOSE WHO HONOR ME I WILL HONOR, AND THOSE WHO DESPISE ME WILL BE LIGHTLY ESTEEMED. 31 'BEHOLD, THE DAYS ARE COMING WHEN I WILL BREAK YOUR STRENGTH AND THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE SO THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN OLD MAN IN YOUR HOUSE. 32 'YOU WILL SEE THE DISTRESS OF MY DWELLING, IN SPITE OF ALL THE GOOD THAT I DO FOR ISRAEL; AND AN OLD MAN WILL NOT BE IN YOUR HOUSE FOREVER. 33 'YET I WILL NOT CUT OFF EVERY MAN OF YOURS FROM MY ALTAR SO THAT YOUR EYES WILL FAIL FROM WEeping AND YOUR SOUL GRIEVE, AND ALL THE INCREASE OF YOUR HOUSE WILL DIE IN THE PRIME OF LIFE.

THOUGH ABIATHAR IS NOT KILLED BY SOLOMON, HE IS REMOVED FROM HIS PRIESTLY DUTIES.

1 KINGS 2:28-35 - JOAB'S DEATH

V. 35 - NEW ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS: BENAIAH THE SON OF JEHOIADA OVER THE ARMY AND ZADOK THE PRIEST.

1 KINGS 2:36-46 - SOLOMON & SHIMEI

SOLOMON IS ON GUARD AGAINST THE FRAGILE LOYALTY OF SHIMEI. HE FORBIDS HIM FROM LEAVING JERUSALEM. (SHIMEI WAS FORMERLY A LOYALIST TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUL AND THE NORTHERN TRIBES) SHIMEI LEAVES JERUSALEM AFTER 3 YEARS OF GOOD BEHAVIOR TO LOOK FOR TWO OF HIS SERVANTS. REGARDLESS HIS MOTIVES, HE HAS DISOBEYED THE KING'S ORDER AND WILL FACE THE CONSEQUENCES (DEATH).

FROM A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE, THESE ARE SOME OF THE ACTS OF SOLOMON "FIRMLY ESTABLISHING" HIS KINGDOM. SOMETIMES STRENGTH COMES WHEN OPPOSITION AND POTENTIAL THREATS ARE REMOVED. IN SOME WAYS, SOLOMON HAS A VERY TENUOUS JOB - TRANSITION FROM ONE KING TO THE NEXT IS NOT ALWAYS A GUARANTEED SUCCESS. DAVID'S FIRST FEW ACTS INCLUDED CAPTURING JERUSALEM AND RETURNING THE ARK OF THE COVENANT. SOLOMON'S INCLUDE KILLING HIS BROTHER THE PRINCE, BANISHING A LEADING PRIEST AND KILLING HIS FATHER'S TOP GENERAL. QUITE A CONTRAST, BUT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM, CRITICAL.

FROM A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE SOME OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF PEOPLE'S ACTIONS IN 2 SAMUEL FALL UPON THEM IN 1 KINGS. PERHAPS THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE ESCAPING PUNISHMENT BECAUSE OF THE TIME BETWEEN THEIR SIN AND ITS RAMIFICATION. BUT THEIR LACK OF REPENTANCE AND BENT ON EVIL LEAVES JUDGMENT UPON THEIR HEAD. IT'S ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH DAVID DID NOT ACT OUT IN PUNISHMENT IN THESE MEN, HE ALSO HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THEIR WICKEDNESS (V. 5-9).

PROVERBS 19:5 - A FALSE WITNESS WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED, AND HE WHO TELLS LIES WILL NOT ESCAPE.

GALATIANS 6:7 - DO NOT BE DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED: FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THIS HE WILL ALSO REAP.

SOLOMON'S EARLY ACTS ARE MARKED BY DECISIVENESS AND JUSTICE. HE IS A MAN OF HIS WORD, AND NOT SWAYED BY EMOTIONALISM OR FAMILY TIES. HIS FIRST AND STRONGEST ALLEGIANCE IS TO THE LORD AND SECONDARILY IT IS TO HIS OWN WORDS.