

# Legacy

## 1 Kings 2:1-4

### Dr. Paul Cannings

#### A. Stand Strong (vs. 1-2):

1. David's time to die – David's time to die (Eccl. 3:1-2) was coming closer; there was no stopping its course, and David clearly understood this.
  - a) David was indeed only seventy years old; but premature decay, the consequence of a life of exposure and fatigue, had confined him not only to his room (ver. 15), but to his bed (ver. 47). Such was his weakness, that the body had lost its natural heat, which could not be restored even by artificial means; so that the physicians, according to the medical views of those times, had advised bodily contact with a young, healthy subject.<sup>1</sup>
  
2. David charged Solomon, his son – Aware he was nearing death, David used his authority to delegate and establish what he needed Solomon to know, aiming to ensure Solomon's success (Deut. 8:3). David's perspective on God's Word is delineated in Psalm 119.
  - a) It was somewhat hastened by an incident which, like so many others that caused trouble in Israel, must ultimately be traced to the weakness of David himself. It has already been noticed, in the history of Amnon and in that of Absalom, to what length David carried his indulgence towards his children, and what terrible consequences resulted from it. Both Amnon and Absalom had died violent deaths. A third son of David, Chileab, whose mother was Abigail, seems also to have died. At least, so we infer from the silence of Scripture concerning him. These were the three eldest sons of David. The next in point of age was Adonijah the son of Haggith (2 Sam. 3:2–4). Like his elder brother, Amnon, he had been born in Hebron; like Absalom, he was distinguished by personal attractions. But he also, as Amnon and Absalom, had all his life been fatally indulged by David. In the expressive language of Holy Scripture: "his father had not made him sorry all his days, saying, Why hast thou done so?" (1 Kings 1:6.)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Edersheim, A. (1975). *Bible History: Old Testament* (Vol. 5, pp. 51–52). William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

<sup>2</sup> Edersheim, A. (1975). *Bible History: Old Testament* (Vol. 5, pp. 50–51). William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

3. Saying - David made sure he communicated verbally with his son. He did not use any of his top generals, prophets, or those who served him. Instead, David wanted to speak directly with Solomon.
4. Saying - We should never allow ourselves to be busy, no matter how dire the circumstances may be, to engage in our children's lives.
5. I am going the way of all the earth – David accepted God's divine will for his life. David is not struggling with passing away. Instead, he has accepted that this is his time, so even in his death, he is teaching Solomon how to live.
6. Be strong; Courageous – David instructs Solomon to completely surrender, with a deep resolve, to never give up. To always become completely committed to remaining steadfast at whatever God calls him to do, no matter the sacrifices he needs to make.
7. Be strong; Courageous – Even though David has not been a good father, he is confident (Solomon was basically raised by his mother) that Solomon can live in God's strength (Eph. 6:10). A parent can see the potential in their child better than anyone, and they are the best positioned to urge children toward a great future. The father, as the head of the home, is key to this.
8. Show yourself a man – David told Solomon he must remain in his role of manhood, being a good husband and a good person. David urges him not to allow anyone to remove him from his manhood. It is possible David gave this special emphasis because Solomon grew up around his mother.
  - a) The age of Solomon at his accession is very doubtful. David said, "Solomon my son is young and tender" (1 Chron. 22:5; 29:1); and Solomon says of himself, "I am a little child" נַעַר קָטָן (1 Kings 3:7). Josephus, probably reflecting the tradition of his time, fixed his age at fourteen; Eupolemus at twelve. I incline to think that the words "young and tender" almost forbid the favourite opinion that he was about twenty.]<sup>3</sup>
9. Show yourself a man – Jacob grew up around his mother because she favored him (Gen. 25:28). Unlike his brother, who was a skilled hunter (Gen. 25:27), Jacob lived among the tents (Gen. 25:27; Absalom, Solomon's brother). As a result, it is not surprising that Jacob offers his brother a pot of shew (Gen. 25:30). Furthermore, it is Jacob's mother, Rebekah, who sent him away and protected him. Similarly, in the story of Solomon, it is his mother whom Nathan asks to go to King David, rather than Solomon himself. In contrast, David tells his son he must maintain his manhood. In the scriptures, this tends to mean a commitment to being a leader, provider, warrior, or instructor. Although David's reasons for saying this are not stated, it is significant that a father feels the need to stress this to his son. This sentiment is seen when David reflects, "*My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced and the work is great; for the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God.*" (1 Ch 29:1; NASU)

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<sup>3</sup> Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. (1909). *1 Kings* (p. 24). Funk & Wagnalls Company.

a) Solomon was a young man who had lived a sheltered life, so he needed this admonition. In fact, from the very outset of his reign, he would have to make some tough decisions and issue some difficult orders. David had already commissioned Solomon regarding building the temple (1 Chron. 22:6–13), a task that would take seven years. One day Solomon would come to the end of his life, and David wanted him to be able to look back with satisfaction. Blessed is that person whose heart is right with God, whose conscience is clear and who can look back and say with the Master: *“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do”* (John 17:4, nkjv).<sup>4</sup>

1. Keep the charge - David’s instruction for his son’s success is to guard the Word of God in his heart so that he lives totally surrendered to obeying it. This is what David did that led to his success (Ps. 119:11, 105, 130). The Word of God never comes back without good results (Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12). Daniel was successful because, before he began his life in Babylon, he *“made up in his mind he will not forsake obeying God’s Word.”* (Dan. 1:8)

David’s charge to Solomon (2:1–4) echoed God’s exhortation to Joshua (Josh. 1:6–7).

Obedience was the key to success (1 Kings 2:4). The promise (2:4) referred to the covenant God had made with David (2 Sam. 7:12–16). “The City of David” refers to Zion, or Jerusalem, where David established his capital (1 Kings 2:10).<sup>5</sup>

2. Of the Lord your God – Solomon must live with a consciousness of the One who has all authority, who reigns with a commitment to have a relationship with all whom He has a covenant with. He is God, meaning He is supreme over everything, the creator of all things, and He judges the earth. David knows this experientially because of Goliath and all the victories he experienced in war, the grace he experienced in sin, and the strength and protection he encountered for a protective life.
  3. To walk in his ways – Knowing the Word of God intellectually is not enough (1 Cor. 8:1-2); it must become the source that directs our lives so that we make great decisions (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Peter 1:3-11). When the Holy Spirit becomes the transforming power (Phil. 2:12-13) in our lives, we manifest the character of Christ (Rom. 8:9-17; Eph. 5:15-18). Paul states this powerfully in Galatians 2:21 and Philippians 2:21.
- a) A walk in the ways David has just highlighted is a life open to receive God’s blessing. God will validate and honor a life sensitive to His priorities, and fulfill promised blessing (4). Solomon needs to focus on a careful walk, in truth, real in the heart, as Paul would say to the Ephesian believers (5:9, 15; cf. 3:16–21; 5:18).<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (2002). *Be responsible* (pp. 15–16). Victor.

<sup>5</sup> Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). *Tyndale concise Bible commentary* (p. 132). Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>6</sup> Rosscup, J. E. (2008). *An Exposition on Prayer in the Bible: Igniting the Fuel to Flame Our Communication with God* (p. 548). Lexham Press.

4. To walk in his ways – Walking in God’s ways is a determinative decision that stimulates the work of the Holy Spirit in us (Phil. 2:12-13), transforming us from the inside out (1 John 4:4). As we make this lifestyle commitment - always resolved to remaining steadfast in the faith - the trials we encounter refines us to become like Christ (James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9). This commitment is especially important for Solomon, who must be attentive so that the Word becomes his life jacket. With this in mind, David instructs Solomon to follow God’s commandments in several specific ways:
  - a) His statutes – Solomon must keep the laws God gave to Moses.
  - b) Commandments – All the laws of Moses are God’s way of ruling our lives so that He is not just Lord God positionally but also practically.
  - c) Ordinances - Solomon must respect the civil laws of the land and the governmental structure David established.
  - d) Testimony - Solomon must live by the ten commandments.
  
5. According to what was written, the Law of Moses - Moses’s Laws -- is unchangeable (“written” means engraved in stone). In other words, the Word of God, provided through the Law of Moses (ceremonial, moral, and civil laws), is unchangeable and directs and shapes a person’s life so that they live in a way that pleases God.
6. So that you may succeed - When Solomon submits all David’s instructions from the Word, he receives spiritual understanding (Col. 1:9-12) for wisdom and great decisions.
  - a) First, the new king will “prosper” in everything he attempts. This blessing is, of course, of great interest to Solomon, who would naturally want a successful reign. Second, obedience will ensure God’s ongoing pleasure with David’s family. All the promises made in 2 Sam 7:1–17 will be fulfilled, including the eternal nature of David’s kingdom. This blessing is of particular interest to David, since it immortalizes his faith in God. It is also important to every generation of the text’s readers, all of whom depend on David’s messianic descendant for salvation.<sup>7</sup>
  
7. So that you may succeed in all that you do - Whatever hard work Solomon endeavors to accomplish as king, he would achieve his purposes when he resolves in his heart to allow his decisions to be directed by God’s statutes, commandments, ordinances, testimonies, and Law of Moses. The success Solomon experiences would be continuous, so that he would never fail (Josh. 1:5-9).
8. Wherever you turn - It does not matter what direction Solomons moves in. So long as it is directed by the Law of Moses, he is guaranteed success. It is not that God wants to control our free will; His focus is on influencing how that decision is carried out by His Word.
  - a) He warned Solomon that if he disobeyed God’s law, he would bring chastening and sorrow to himself and the land, but if he obeyed God’s commandments, God would

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<sup>7</sup> House, P. R. (1995). 1, 2 Kings (Vol. 8, p. 96). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

bless him and the people. More importantly, God would see to it that there was always a descendant of David sitting on the throne. David knew that Israel had a ministry to perform in providing the vehicle for the promised Redeemer to come to earth, and the future of God's redemptive plan rested with Israel. How tragic that Solomon didn't fully follow God's law, became the means of promoting idolatry in the land, and then caused the kingdom to be divided. Wiersbe, W. W. (2002). *Be responsible* (p. 16). Victor.

9. The Lord may carry out His promises - The Lord in His power and might will relentlessly fulfill all He has prophetically committed himself to doing. When we make decisions based on the Word of God, everything the Lord commits to extend to us through His Word will be accomplished, because He has the power to get it done.
10. Which he spoke concerning me - The promises that were provided to David were verbally communicated and there is nothing to add to them, so Solomon has nothing more to expect. Similarly, all of God's Word is provided to us whether for individual believers (2 Peter 1:3-4) or pastors (2 Tim. 3:17). We must remain committed to what is already written, rather than waiting for additional special revelations from God when making decisions.
11. Saying, if your sons are careful of their way - These promises become null and void if David's sons do not continuously give careful attention to applying God's Word for each decision that they make.
12. How they walk before Me - We must live conscious of God's constant presence (Acts 17:24-28). This is important because due to the nature of who He is, we can be shaped to develop a lifestyle that pleases Him. This in turn provides to us His blessings.
13. Truth with all your heart and our soul - Solomon's son's must show commitment by being faithful, avoiding lies, and living by God's moral standards. Only such heartfelt devotion allows God's promises to take root and affect their daily lives.
14. Truth with all your heart and our soul - We must not allow our feelings or mindset to affect our commitment to walk in the Word of God. When anxiety, or uncertainty, or feelings arises, they must not override God's Word. Instead, let these moments reveal our commitment to remain steadfast to God's purposes. Solomon eventually failed at this, which led to the nation of Israel dividing into North and South and its slow decline.
15. You shall not lack a man on your throne - David or Solomon's legacy will continue if these principles are sustained. They lived under the Mosaic covenant, so their relationship with God was conditional.

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you — a land with large, flourishing*

*cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant — then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” (Dt 6:4-12; NIV)*