

In *1 Kings 2*, we see the transition of leadership from David to Solomon. This chapter is full of wisdom, warnings, and the consequences of past actions. As David nears the end of his life, he gives Solomon both godly counsel and personal instructions regarding certain individuals. Through this passage, we can see key principles for our own lives—how to live wisely, lead with integrity, and deal with the past in a way that honors God.

### 1. Finishing Well: Leaving a Legacy of Faith (1 Kings 2:1-4)

David, knowing his time was short, called Solomon to his side and charged him:

*"I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, 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."* (1 Kings 2:2-3)

David's words remind us of our own responsibility. No matter what stage of life we are in, we should be thinking about what we will leave behind—our faith, our example, and our influence.

- **Have we passed on a godly legacy to those who come after us?**
- **Are we living in a way that others can follow?**

David reminds Solomon that the key to success is not in power, wealth, or wisdom—it is in following God wholeheartedly. **If we want to prosper, we must walk in God's ways.**

### 2. Dealing with Unfinished Business (1 Kings 2:5-9)

After giving Solomon godly wisdom, David also instructed him on how to deal with certain men who had caused trouble. Some, like Barzillai, had shown loyalty and deserved kindness. Others, like Joab and Shimei, had sown seeds of rebellion and needed to be dealt with.

While David's actions may seem like personal revenge, they actually demonstrate an important principle: **unresolved issues don't disappear on their own.**

We all have "Joabs" and "Shimeis" in our lives—unfinished conflicts, lingering offenses, or relationships that have never been properly addressed. If we don't deal with them, they can come back to harm us later.

- **Are there past issues we need to address before moving forward?**
- **Is there unforgiveness or bitterness that we need to surrender to God?**

We should strive to leave behind peace, not unresolved conflicts.

### 3. Recognizing Hidden Motives (1 Kings 2:13-25)

Adonijah, who had previously tried to take the throne, came to Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, with what seemed like an innocent request—he wanted to marry Abishag, the young woman who had

served King David in his final days. However, Solomon saw through the request. In that culture, taking the previous king's concubines was a political move to claim the throne.

Solomon's response was immediate: **"Now therefore, as the Lord lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father... Adonijah shall be put to death today."** (1 Kings 2:24)

This teaches us the importance of discernment. Not everyone who comes to us with kind words or requests has good intentions. **We need godly wisdom to see beyond the surface.**

- **Are we being cautious about who we trust?**
- **Are we asking God for wisdom in our decisions?**

James 1:5 tells us, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*

We should seek God's discernment daily.

#### **4. Facing Consequences of Our Actions (1 Kings 2:26-35)**

Several key figures faced the consequences of their past choices:

- **Abiathar the priest** was removed from his position for siding with Adonijah.
- **Joab**, who had shed innocent blood, was executed.
- **Shimei**, who had cursed David, was given a warning to stay in Jerusalem but eventually broke the terms and was put to death.

Their stories remind us that **our actions have consequences**. God is merciful, but He is also just. Choices we make today—whether for good or for evil—can shape our future.

- **Are we making choices today that honor God?**
- **Are we walking in obedience or ignoring warnings?**

Galatians 6:7-8 says, *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."*

Let's be intentional about sowing seeds of faithfulness and integrity.

#### **Personal Application: Walking in Wisdom and Obedience**

Solomon's early reign was marked by wisdom, obedience, and decisive action. He listened to his father's advice, followed God's instructions, and set a strong foundation for his kingdom.

In our own lives, we can apply these lessons:

1. **Live with a godly legacy in mind.** Are we leaving behind faithfulness and obedience?
2. **Address unresolved issues.** Don't let past conflicts go unhealed.

3. **Seek discernment.** Not everything is as it seems—ask God for wisdom.

4. **Recognize that our choices have consequences.** Every action we take impacts our future.

Solomon's early obedience led to a strong start, but as we'll see later in his life, drifting from God's ways led to great trouble. **May we choose to follow God consistently, trusting Him for every step.**

#### **Final Thought: God's Kingdom Over Our Own**

The real question for us is this: **Are we building our own kingdom, or are we submitting to God's kingdom?** Adonijah sought to take the throne for himself, and it cost him everything. Solomon, when he trusted in God, was established in strength.

Let's make it our prayer today:

*"Lord, help me to walk in Your ways, to trust Your wisdom, and to leave behind a legacy that honors You. May I build Your kingdom, not my own. Amen."*