

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER THREE – 1 KINGS 2:1-12

Today we are saying goodbye. This is no easy study to teach because one of my favorite biblical characters is David. And in the process of Solomon becoming king, old daddy must pass off the scene in order for young son to take the reigns. And that is happening today.

From here on in it is Solomon all the way but in these first three episodes we have been dealing with some pretty traumatic things.

- First of all, we dealt with the fact that David loved Solomon so much he prepared everything that was necessary for him to build the temple.
- Then last week even on his deathbed he rises with strength to deal with Adonijah's conspiracy to take the kingdom at the last moment.
- And now today in these few verses we have David's final words.

This tremendous man, you would look at him and you would say he is exempt from physical death. You would never relate to his deteriorating to the point where he is bedridden and he is going to die because he has been a military hero, he has been a poet par none, he has been used mightily of God in their lives. And now he is going to die.

(A 3rd Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul: 101 More Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit compiled by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hansen)

Keep Your Fork

Martha found out that she had six months left to live because the doctors found a tumor that they did not know that she had. So Martha called her pastor and she said will you come over and visit with me? He came prepared to comfort her but she said hey, hey no, don't do that. I'm in my eighties, I've had a wonderful life and I'm ready to die, okay, but I just wanted you to come over because I had a few things I wanted to tell you. So she started in. She said I'd like you to read this passage of Scripture and I'd like you to sing these hymns and I'd like you to do this for my service. He said oh, that is wonderful, I will be glad to do that and he bowed to pray. She said just a minute preacher. And he said well, what? I said I've got some more instructions yet. Said I want you to put my old Bible in that casket and in my other hand I want you to put a fork. He said a what? Said I want you to put a fork and he said, well, I never had a request like that before. She said, well, I just been thinking about all those church dinners and banquets that I attended through all these years and I cannot begin to count them all. But one thing always sticks in my mind.

“At those really nice get-togethers, when the meal was almost finished, a server or maybe the hostess would come by to collect the dishes. I can hear the words now. Sometimes at the best ones, somebody would lean over my shoulder and whisper, ‘You can keep your fork.’ And do you know what that meant? Dessert was coming!”

“It didn’t mean a cup of Jell-O or pudding or even a dish of ice cream. You don’t need a fork for that. It meant the good stuff, like chocolate cake or cherry pie! When they told me I could keep my fork. I knew that the best was yet to come!”

And that is exactly what I want people to say at my funeral. So when they look down and they see my pretty blue dress and they see my old worn out Bible and they see my fork and they ask you what the fork is for you just tell them brother that I kept my fork because the best is yet to come!

Roger William Thomas

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You know all of us, if we are believers that is really the truth. The best is yet to come.

Now remember what I told you last week? One thing you want to do in your life is when you get ready to die be sure that is all you have to do is die; have your life so much in order that all you have to do is die.

You see David is having a very difficult time dying and listen guys the reason he is having such a hard time dying is he was a lousy dad. I mean he really did not get involved in the lives of his children.

And David it is sad to say, although he is a tremendous man, blew it when it came to being a family man or a father. And he is paying a price for that.

You know one other thing I would share with you, two things actually that come out of this experience that I have had with David this week:

- 1. The great ones when they die they are still looking to the future and being concerned about others.**
- 2. When the great ones die they are concerned about relationships.**

Those two things. I want to illustrate on that in the study today. Because David is still looking to the future and what he has to say today and we will see that in just a minute.

Are you ready? Are you excited? Oh, man, this ought to be better than any ballgame anytime, now let's get into it, okay.

v. 1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

Notice the word “die” because he is going to use three different terms to describe the physical demise of each of us. That is one thing we all have in common.

Now the common denominator between the great ones is they are looking at the future, right? When Paul gets ready to die he charges young Timothy in 2 Timothy 4 which is the last chapter that he wrote under divine inspiration.

2 Timothy 4: 1-2

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Now we have David ready to die and he is still looking to the future.

Come On, Get With It!

Howard Hendricks

Not along ago I lost one of my best friends, a woman eighty-six years old, the most exciting lay teacher I've ever been exposed to. The last time I saw her on planet earth was at one of those aseptic Christian parties. We were sitting there on

eggshells, looking pious, when she walked in and said, “Well, Hendricks, I haven’t seen you for a long time. What are the five best books you’ve read in the past year?” She had a way of changing a group’s dynamics. Her philosophy was, *Let’s not bore each other with each other; let’s get into an argument.* She was eighty-three on her last trip to the Holy Land. She went there with a group of NFL football players. One of my most vivid memories of her is seeing her out front yelling back to them, “Come on men, get with it!”

She died in her sleep at her daughter’s home in Dallas. Her daughter told me that just before she died, she had written out her goals for the next ten years.

May her tribe increase!

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Now how does this great man who takes up so much of the biblical record come to the time of his physical death and what is he thinking about and what are the last things that he does? Well you are going to see both. He is looking to the future concerned for his son and he is also concerned about relationships, those are the two things that are going to jump out at you.

**v. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said.
“So be strong, show yourself a man,**

Verse 1 he is going to die.

Verse 2 he says, “I am about to go the way of all the earth.” What does that tell you? That means we are all going that way. I hate to tell you this but we are all going to die. We all have that in common. It is going to come upon us.

“I am about to go the way of all the earth.”

Now David has been preparing for this. I believe that he wrote Psalm 23 not when he was a little shepherd boy out with the sheep but I think late in his life he wrote:

Psalm 23:1 (New King James Version)

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want.

He also said:

Psalm 23:4 (New King James Version)

Yea, 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.

So he knew this hour was coming. So he turns to Solomon and he gives him three commands, okay. The first two are here in the verse. What are they:

1. *“be strong”* and
2. *“show yourself a man.”*

Laymen’s terminology, I am handing you the torch, I am out of here, it is your game from here on in. Be strong and show yourself a man.

You know something? That is military terminology. The Philistines used to use this when they were on the field of battle to encourage each other. Remember David’s number one enemy was the Philistines from the time he walked down into the Valley of Elah and confronted old Goliath the huge Philistine that was in the NBA draft. And taking him out, he had Philistines to fight for the rest of his life. So he knew their language. And this is their language.

It is recorded in 1 Samuel 4:9:

Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!”

So I want to tell you two things, son, be strong and show yourself a man.

You know what is sad about that? Solomon did not know diddly squat about the military. I do not think he was ever exposed to the military. I think he is a rich kid that had everything given to him and although he has a lot of smarts and he is going to start out great he sure is going to blow it before it is over. And here is a father who has neglected it and in the hour of his death he is telling his kid what he ought to do rather than what he showed him to do. And I do not think he knows how to even fulfill these two commands. How do you be strong and then how do you show yourself a man, daddy, tell me please.

Ephesians 6:10 tells us,

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.”

Isaiah 40:31 says,

Isaiah 40:31 (King James Version)

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;

Paul told the Philippians:

Philippians 4:13 (New King James Version)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

To the Colossians, I am:

Colossians 1:11 (New King James Version)

**strengthened with all might, according to His
glorious power,**

1 Corinthians 16:13

**Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men,
be strong.**

So “be strong” – “show yourself a man.”

You know something? I just had a thought. That is going to be the problem in the 20th century. That is the thing that is going to blow America out of the tub. I am convinced of it. We have a generation that does not know how to be a man and we have a generation that does not know how to be strong when it gets rough. We do not. We have raised a whole generation that has lots of wealth, they have never had an experience of war where they have watched their friends die and they have done very little work to accumulate what they have gotten, many of them have inherited it and they do not appreciate it. And that is going to be the demise of America, I tell you. We are in apathy now and the next step is bondage in the seven cycles of a civilization that goes to destruction.

I do not want to shake you up or anything but that just got a hold of me just now. To see the tremendous parallel to a dad handing on from his generation all that he achieved in accomplishing the kingdom with everything he needed. And he is not going to appreciate it. And he does not know how to function because he has never been in the hard life of the military or knows anything about it.

So I am sitting there and I am thinking my students are going to want some definition. How would I tell you to be strong? How would I tell you to show yourself a man?

Well to be strong:

- 1. You have to be persistent in obedience. When the culture says “no” you say “yes.” When it comes time to say “yes” say “no” if it is in conflict with your personal convictions. You are persistent in obedience.**
- 2. You are positive in your attitude.**
- 3. And you persevere in your living.**

Those three things tell me that you are strong. When you are persistent in your obedience, you are positive in your attitude and you persevere in your living.

And then you are saying well then how do you show yourself a man? And you ladies say I do not know how

to do that but how to show myself a woman of God?
Four ways:

1. I never give up being a servant.
2. I am a person characterized by stability.
(Servanthood, stability.)
3. And the people around me have a sense of security because they know I am always going to be there.
4. I am spiritually in tune with God's plan for my life.

Servanthood, stability, security and spiritually.

I show the fact that I am man.

I have a statement behind my desk that is very familiar to all of you and I often read it when I am home.

It is Rudyard Kiplings *If*.

If--

by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

....

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings--nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run--
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And--which is more--you'll be a Man, my son!
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That is what I want out of you Solomon. My charge to you is to be strong and prove yourself a man. Show yourself a man.

Third thing he says is in the next verse.

v. 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: [be strong, show yourself a man and observe what the Lord your God requires. Now you see those next four words, they all refer to the same things. That is the Law of Moses under different terminology.] Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,

So these are the three things:

1. Be strong

2. Stand tall and
3. Submit in obedience

If you want something that will make it easier for you to get a hold of: be strong, stand tall and submit in obedience to what God is asking you to do.

I neglected for many years and I have been the loser because of it in failing to read a book that has been on my shelf for Lord only knows how long. *Borden of Yale '09*, it is out of print. It is written by Mrs. Hudson Taylor, she put together all of his diaries and clippings. This is a young man that graduated from Yale in '09 and went immediately to the mission field and died on the mission field in his early twenties. Listen to what he says about life.

Solomon I want for you more than anything else in the world to be successful and as I look to your future, the secret to your future is to do these three things that I have told you:

1. I want you to be strong.
2. I want you to prove yourself a man.
3. And I want you to leave the legacy of obedience. Be obedient to the Word of God.

v. 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: [*I am asking you to do this because the promises of the kingdom are conditional upon you doing this. And notice the two things:*] **'If your descendants** [*Do*

what?] watch how they live, and [*secondly*] if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

So two things:

1. They must “watch how they live” and
2. They must “walk faithfully before me.”

And then he says, “you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.”

Now what is the bottom line? Bottom line is understand what God’s will is in His Word and be obedient. Whenever you are presented with the Scriptures, hasten to be obedient.

Paul and David have this in common, for Paul turned to young Timothy in

2 Timothy 2:15 (King James Version)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Understand the textbook because the final exam is going to be based on the textbook: the Word of God.

One old Indian was quizzed after a service when a preacher kind of ranted and raved and you could tell by the way that he was carrying on that he did not have much time to prepare and he did not have a text of Scripture. And they asked the old Indian what he thought about the sermon. He said:

Preach the Word

“High wind. Big thunder. No rain.”

(From Parson’s Bible Illustrator 1.0)

You know he pretty well summarized a whole lot of what is being said when the Word of God is not being presented.

Oh, I found this piece and this is so convicting. Some of you are going to be ready for the invitation here.

A Sad Choice

**On the table side by side;
A Holy Bible and the TV Guide,
One is well worn but cherished with pride,
(Not the Bible, but the TV Guide).
One is used daily to help folks decide,
No! It isn’t the Bible, it’s the TV Guide.
As pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh, what does [it] matter, turn on the TV.
So they open the book in which they confide**

(No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide).

**The Word of God is seldom read,
Maybe a verse ere they fall into bed.
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, but watching TV.
So, then back to the table, side by side,
Is the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
No time for prayer, no time for the Word;
The plan for salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin so full and free
Is found in the Bible, not on TV!**

(From Parson's Bible Illustrator 1.0)

So he has told him three things, hasn't he?

Now the next section of Scripture helps you understand why relationships play such an important part in the time of your death and demise.

For Paul he had to get right with John Mark and he said bring John Mark with you because he is profitable to me for ministry. Remember this young guy he went with Paul and Barnabas on that first missionary journey and when he got to Pamphylia we do not know why but he took off for Jerusalem and Paul would not give him the time of day. And in fact when they got ready to go on the second missionary journey, Barnabas was begging Paul to let John Mark go because he had learned his lesson and Paul just said

no-way-Jose. And they got so angry with each other that Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cypress and Paul found this visiting Bible teacher from down in Jerusalem by the name of Silas and took him and went on the second journey. And so late in his life now when he is sitting in prison in 2 Timothy 4 he says bring John Mark. It is like he is profitable to me to the ministry. I have reconciled this relationship with John Mark.

Peter, the same thing, I mean Paul scorched him in Antioch when he went over and sat down with the Jewish brethren and ostracized the Gentiles. And Paul just scorched him and I am sure he carried that for a long time but in his last chapter that he writes in 2 Peter, chapter 3 he says oh by the way read some of Paul's stuff because it is worth reading. I mean that is the laymen's way of putting it but basically he is putting a stamp of approval on Paul's ministry late in his life and he dealt with it.

Now you know what can happen to you today and before I take you into these verses because they are very, very troublesome if you read them in the flesh rather than the Spirit. Why? Each one of these verses looks like David is a bitter old man and he is trying to get even and he is spewing out all of his bitterness before he dies. You missed it. Let me give you an illustration so you will understand what is going on.

When David was partway through his kingdom he had a tremendous economic crisis. If you will remember in

2 Samuel 21 there were three years without any rain and there was a time of tremendous famine and finally David came to the Lord and said Lord what are we doing wrong that there is no rain for our crops, we are destitute. Do you remember what the Lord said? Bring Saul's administration. He unjustly treated the Gibeonites and I am holding you responsible for that.

Do you realize that the most powerful lesson that can come to you today out of this study is not that you would spew off the bitterness from your past but if you have some stuff you have not dealt with that is the reason God has cut you off at the pockets and you are not being blessed. That could be well the reason why you have no joy and no excitement and no fulfillment today because there is something unresolved you have not dealt with before the Lord.

And the Lord put His finger right on that, it is the Gibeonites. And what happened? As soon as he went to the Gibeonites and he found out what they required, it meant the death I think it was of ten of Saul's sons, and when they were executed, what happened? It began to rain and the harvest came.

Hosea 10:12 (King James Version)

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and reign righteousness upon you.

Literally the showers of blessing that come when everything is okay and I am walking in fellowship with the Lord and I have dealt with the stuff that is keeping from that blessing. That is what is happening here, okay. David is saying in his heart, I do not want my son to fail in his kingdom because I left some stuff that was not taken care of and there are three things, son, that you must take care of if you expect God's continuous blessing upon your new administration.

Now that is the love of a dad still looking to the future and being very specific.

There are two Psalms that will jump out at you when you see them in this context:

Psalm 26:2-3

Test me, O Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;
for your love is ever before me,
and I walk continually in your truth.

Psalm 139:23-24 (King James Version)

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and
know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead
me in the way everlasting.

That is David, twice, telling you exactly what he is doing in these verses.

Is there some unfinished work that needs to be done before I die that will affect the administration of my son who is heir-apparent to the throne. That is what he is saying in this.

Now notice with those thoughts in mind then how different the perspective of these verses are. And we have three people we have to talk about.

v. 5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me--what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

Joab. He was the military commander. He is actually part of David’s family. David’s sister Zeruiah had my three sons and all three of them were military, mighty men. You have:

- 1. Asahel**
- 2. Abishai**
- 3. Joab**

Joab just happened to be the head honcho when it came to military operations.

But Abishai was always there to help David and support him and was eager to do whatever needed to be done to protect the throne.

Asahel, he made a mistake. When Abner and the forces of Saul came down under David in his early administration and they had this conflict between the sons of Benjamin and the sons of Judah, do you remember? Asahel chased Abner, he was going to kill him and Abner says stop chasing me and he kept on doing it and Abner stopped on a dime and let the rod of his spear go right there. Asahel, he just ran right up on it. Joab never forgave him for that because that was his brother.

Abner went back north and he realized that the kingdom of Saul was done and that the reign of Saul was going to stop because David's kingdom kept getting stronger and stronger. So when he realized he was a loser he came down and met with David and said David, I can bring all Israel together for you. I come to you in peace and David says I accept that. Then David sent him away in peace to accomplish his task. Joab came in and found out that Abner had been there and he rebuked David for being so vulnerable and so foolish. And unbeknownst to David he commands his men to go and bring Abner back and when he comes back Joab sticks it to him. And David distances himself from that because he wants the whole kingdom to come

together and he scorched Joab in public proclamation for what he done in that thing.

Now that is one thing on his ticket and you say, well, one would be enough but the next time he kills Amasa. Amasa is the son of Abigail and Jether. Abigail is David's other sister. Is this like "The World Turns" or this is a soap and something you cannot believe and it is all in the family and you start thinking, wow, look at the network.

What happened with Amasa is that when Absalom rebelled and formed his conspiracy instead of having Joab he had Amasa as his military general and Amasa led the forces of Absalom into battle. Well what happened in that battle was that Joab commanded the death of Absalom against David's advice. And David just wiped him out, says Joab, no more, I am replacing you with Amasa in the new kingdom. And then Sheba forms this rebellion. And David says to Amasa, form the troupes in three days and get after Sheba or we are going to lose the kingdom. Well Amasa took longer than three days and David was not going to wait. It was too serious. So he turns to Abishai, Joab's brother, and says you lead them. He was not going to let Joab do it. Can you imagine how much his nose was out of joint that he did not get to and Abishai is leading them after Sheba? Well when they get to Gibeon guess what, Amasa shows up, he finally gets there, three days late and a dollar short. And Joab pretends to be his friend and he sticks it to him. And then he says everybody

that is for Joab follow me and he takes it away from Abishai and he leads them up and takes care of Sheba and comes back and now he is the commander in charge.

Now that is three guys on his ticket, three strikes and you are out, huh?

1. You have Abner
2. You have Amasa
3. And he commanded Absalom to be killed.

Why didn't David deal with that before? Because you remember it is Joab that he wrote the letter to and said put Uriah the Hittite up in the front so he becomes a fatality of battle. And so there was a lot of thick stuff going on between these guys. And he never really dealt with the Joab situation.

Now notice he is not bitter. When you get to verse 6, look what he says.

v. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

You do what is right but be sure you do deal with him because if you let his "head go down to the grave in peace," your kingdom is going to be affected by it. That is the unsaid statement because it has to be dealt with.

When you get to verse 7 you get to one of my favorite Bible characters. I guess it is because I am getting older. I love Barzillai.

v. 7 “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

When David left and went up the Mount of Olives and then down to the Jordan River and then crossed over and then went up the eastern side to Mahanaim, which is about 65 miles north, who does he meet up there? Barzillai is a very wealthy business man. Along with several of the Ammonites provided food, sustenance for all of David’s forces until they could recoup and get ready to go into battle against Absalom. So Barzillai was one great guy. And he was there to meet his needs when he had a real need.

Now, the most beautiful picture in the Scripture. Here is old Barzillai. David is now king again. Absalom has been put down. Here comes David down from Mahanaim and getting ready to cross the Jordan, who is there? Listen to this, this is so good, I love it.

2 Samuel 19:31-35

Barzillai the Gileadite also came down from Rogelim to cross the Jordan with the king and to send him on his way from there. Now Barzillai was

a very old man, eighty years of age. He had provided for the king during his stay in Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man. The king said to Barzillai, “Cross over with me and stay with me in Jerusalem, and I will provide for you.”

But Barzillai answered the king, “How many more years will I live, that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king? I am now eighty years old. Can I tell the difference between what is good and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats and drinks? Can I still hear the voices of men and women singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?”

Verses 36-37 say your servant will cross over with you but I will not go with you. I want to go back and die with my people.

And he has already done that, David is getting ready to meet him again over across the River Jordan when he dies in just a little bit.

But he promised Barzillai, and Barzillai turned him down, that he would look after his sons. And so that is what precipitates this statement. Be faithful to the promise I made to Barzillai. Remember to take care of her and have his sons eat at your table because I promised that.

Now we have one more guy to deal with.

v. 8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord: ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’”

Shimei, the son of Gera, the Benjamite. The tribe of Benjamin is Saul’s tribe and he is of the house of Saul. And when David crosses the Mount of Olives and he starts down he comes to Bahurim. And Shimei comes up, throwing rocks and kicking dirt and cursing David. It says:

2 Samuel 16:7-8

“Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel! The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!”

So he curses him and David basically says leave him alone, he might be cursing me because the Lord told him to.

So they go on up, okay, the battle is over, who is the first guy down the river? Shimei is down there and he is on his face before the new king and he says:

2 Samuel 19:19

“May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind.

And then in that moment of celebration he says, you will not be put to death on this day (verses 22-23).

Now an oath ceases to be an oath when the person dies who made the oath and he is basically saying to Solomon, you have to deal with that because he cursed the king, the Lord’s anointed. And he is just basically, I think, saying to him in verse 9:

v. 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.”

Again he is going to have to be dealt with, watch him, he goes with the flow and he is very influential and there are a lot of people that came with him when he met the king and David is nervous about him. In essence all he is saying is you had better put your top surveillance team on this project and be sure you always know the whereabouts of Shimei at this point and deal with him.

Verse 10. That is it.

v. 10 Then David rested with his fathers [*Now we have another word for “death,” don’t we? “Die” in verse 1. “Go the way of all the earth” in verse 2 and now he “rested with his father.”*] and was buried in the City of David.

Which is Jerusalem.

David had said at the death of his child, remember, he will not come to me, I will go to him. He has now gone to be with him.

All of us have to face the reality of physical death at some time in our lives.

The final statistics,

v. 11 He had reigned forty years over Israel--seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

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

But there are still some problems with his kingdom.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER THREE — 1 KINGS 2:1-12

Notes

1 Kings 2: 1-12

v. 1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

v. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, show yourself a man,

v. 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,

v. 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

v. 5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

v. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

v. 7 “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

v. 8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord: ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’

v. 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.”

v. 10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.

v. 11 He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

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

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

- LESSON #1:** David is concerned about the future at the time of his own physical demise.
- LESSON #2:** David is concerned about Solomon's kingdom at the time of his death.
- LESSON #3:** David's charge to Solomon is to "Be strong", "Show yourself a man", and "Do what the Lord your God requires."
- LESSON #4:** God is in the business of blessing the obedient heart.
- LESSON #5:** "Watch how you live, and walk faithfully before me."
- LESSON #6:** Relationships seem to dominate at the time of one's death.
- LESSON #7:** We learn from these three examples in the text the inviolable law of "Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap."
- LESSON #8:** David's primary concern about this unfinished business is that it could affect the blessing of God on Solomon's kingdom.
- LESSON #9:** David finished strong. He finished his lap, passed the torch, and went to bed for the last time.
- LESSON #10:** Isaiah 33:17 - "Your eyes will see the king and his beauty."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 2:1-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does David ask Solomon to do in verses 2 & 3?

3. What does David have to say about Joab to his son, Solomon in verses 5 & 6?

4. What does David have to say about the sons of Barzillai, according to verse 7?

5. What does David have to say about Shimei, according to verse 8-9?

6. How does David characterize his son, Solomon, in verse 9?

7. What thoughts come to your mind when you read the phrase, “David rested with his fathers” in verse 10?

8. Summarize David and Solomon’s kingdom’s to this point, according to verses 11-12.

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
