

Sunday Evening Message Series

1st and 2nd Kings

Message Two – 1 Kings 2

August 6, 2023

Title – *The Passing of the Baton*

Text – 1st Kings 2

Introduction

In the last message from chapter one we saw the confirmation by David that the kingdom would pass from him to his son Solomon. Another brother, Adonijah, had tried sneakily but unsuccessfully to acquire the throne. He attempted a coup of sorts, and would have been successful had David died, but David was still alive when this was going on, and he put an end to the rebellion of Adonijah by declaring clearly that Solomon was God's choice for the throne.

Here in chapter two, we will see the passing of the baton from David to Solomon. During this transition we will see Solomon start out his reign as king by doing a little housecleaning. He will purge from the kingdom all those who were a threat to his authority.

I. The Passing of David (vs. 1 – 12)

A. Solomon's Charge to Walk with God (vs. 1 – 4)

This passage is like what Moses and God said to Joshua:

"1 And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel. 2 And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan. 3 The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said. 4 And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed. 5 And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you. 6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. 8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." (Deuteronomy 31:1-8)

"23 And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee." (Deuteronomy 31:23)

"1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. 5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."
(Joshua 1:1-9)

David had previously charged Solomon:

"20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 28:20)

B. David's Cautions to Solomon Regarding Old Enemies (vs. 5 – 9)

David now warns Solomon about two people that caused him problems and would likely be a problem for Solomon as well.

David also wants one man to be remembered for the good he had done.

1. Joab (vs. 5 – 6)

Joab killed Abner

"26 And when Joab was come out from David, he sent messengers after Abner, which brought him again from the well of Sirah: but David knew it not. 27 And when Abner was

returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth rib, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother. 28 And afterward when David heard it, he said, I and my kingdom are guiltless before the LORD for ever from the blood of Abner the son of Ner: 29 Let it rest on the head of Joab, and on all his father's house; and let there not fail from the house of Joab one that hath an issue, or that is a leper, or that leaneth on a staff, or that falleth on the sword, or that lacketh bread. 30 So Joab and Abishai his brother slew Abner, because he had slain their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle." (2 Samuel 3:26-30)

Joab killed Amasa after David had chosen him to lead the army against the rebellion of a man named Sheba.

"9 And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him. 10 But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri." (2 Samuel 20:9-10)

Joab also killed Absalom, which was directly against David's orders.

2. Barzillai (v. 7)

"27 And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim," (2 Samuel 17:27)

Read 2 Samuel 19:31 - 40

Barzillai was a wealthy old man that supplied David with food and supplies when David had fled Jerusalem and crossed over the Jordan River. He was from Mahanaim (See 2 Samuel 17:27 – 29). David offers him a place in his kingdom, but Barzillai refuses, expresses his desire to live out the remainder of his days at his home on the eastern side of the Jordan. He does accompany David all the way to the Jordan River before turning back home.

Practical Point – At 80 years old, Barzillai could have stayed out of the battle between David and Absalom. However, he made it very clear whom he supported. He risked his life for a cause at eighty. You are never too old to fight for right in whatever you still can. You can pray; you can support the cause of right.

Barzillai offers to give David "Chimham" in his place, and David accepts. Chimham may have been Barzillai's son (See 1 Kings 2:7). At the same time that David warned Solomon about Joab and Shimei, he also asked him to remember and be a blessing to the sons of Barzillai.

We know nothing else of Chimham except that there is a place near Bethlehem that bears his name (Jeremiah 41:17). Bethlehem is in the land of Judah.

3. Shimei (vs. 8 – 9)

Read 2 Samuel 16:5 – 14 – Shimei curses David

Read 2 Samuel 19:15 – 23 – David spares Shimei

C. David is Called Home to Heaven (vs. 10 – 12)

David was called a man after God's heart.

"22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will." (Acts 13:22)

David served his generation faithfully.

"36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:" (Acts 13:36)

David had faithfully and courageously served the Lord, but now the baton was about to pass to Solomon. The jury was still out at this point as to whether Solomon would be a strong leader, but if he was, he was going to have to deal with these problems that David had left in the kingdom for him to take care of.

II. The Purging of the Kingdom (vs. 13 - 46)

A. Adonijah (vs. 13 – 25)

Solomon had spared Adonijah in the last chapter, but Solomon sees through what he is trying to do here in chapter two. He is trying again to seize the throne, but this time it is through David's last wife, Abishag.

*"Adonijah's request for Abishag was an attempt to support his claim to the kingship and perhaps generate a revolt to usurp the throne. Bathsheba didn't see the treachery (vv. 18–21)."*¹

Solomon demonstrates his ability to make the tough decisions here by eliminating this threat to the throne.

B. Abiathar (vs. 26 – 27)

C. Joab (vs. 28 – 35)

D. Shimei (vs. 36 – 46)

¹ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. 1997. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. Electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub.