

1 KINGS 2:1-12

“STARTING WELL, FINISHING WELL”

Solomon has been to the Gihon Spring to be anointed as the next King of Israel and Judah

- The Holy Spirit was not ignored in his quest for the throne
- Zadoc the Priest and Nathan the Prophet knew he would need the Holy Spirit's anointing
- Solomon needs to start his position under the will of the Lord

1 Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying:
2 “I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.”

- **David was King because of the will of the Lord**

Acts 13:36 “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;

- **David wrote and sang his last song:**

2 Samuel 23:1–7

1 Now these are the last words of David.

Thus says David the son of Jesse;

Thus says the man raised up on high,

The anointed of the God of Jacob,

And the sweet psalmist of Israel:

2 “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,

And His word was on my tongue.

3 The God of Israel said,

The Rock of Israel spoke to me:

‘He who rules over men must be just,

Ruling in the fear of God.

4 And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises,

A morning without clouds,

Like the tender grass springing out of the earth,

By clear shining after rain.’

5 “Although my house is not so with God,

Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant,

Ordered in all things and secure.

For this is all my salvation and all my desire;

Will He not make it increase?

6 But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away,

Because they cannot be taken with hands.

7 But the man who touches them

Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear,

And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place.”

David was concerned for the next generation

He was concerned about his son Solomon who:

- Never knew hard work
- Never knew tending sheep
- Never challenged to defend the weak sheep from the strong predator
- Probably never felt lonely or forgotten
- Raised in the Women's Palace – only knew opulence and girl's stuff
- Soft clothing, rich food and manicures
- **1 Chronicles 3:5 suggests strongly that Solomon was their fourth son, which could make him as young as fifteen when he became king.**

David described Solomon as “young and tender [inexperienced, NIV]” (1 Chron. 22:5, KJV), but perhaps this was the language of an aged father as he looked at his successor. Raised in the security of the palace, Solomon wasn't the well-rounded man that his father was; but does any leader think his son is ready to take over? ¹

- **Be Strong!**

- **קָזַק** [*chazaq* /*khaw·zak*/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 636; GK 2616; 290 occurrences; AV translates as “**strong**” 48 times, “repair” 47 times, “hold” 37 times, “strengthened” 28 times, “strengthen” 14 times, “**harden**” 13 times, “**prevail**” 10 times, “**encourage**” nine times, “take” nine times, “courage” eight times, “caught” five times, “stronger” five times, “**hold**” five times, and translated miscellaneously 52 times. ²

Follow the Lord in All Things:

3 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;

4 that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

- **Great instructions every father should give his sons and daughters:**

1 Chronicles 22:11–13

11 Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you.

12 Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

13 Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Responsible*, “Be” Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002).

² James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001).

- **Moses' instructions to Joshua:**

Joshua 1:7–8

7 Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

- **Joshua's instructions to Israel:**

Joshua 22:5 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

- **Isn't it wonderful to live a life that would, at it's end, be remembered as one possessed with the service of the Living God:**

John 17:4 (Jesus said) I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

2 Timothy 4:6–8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

David's enemies within the city of Jerusalem:

5 “Moreover you know also what **Joab** the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet.

6 Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

- **Joab was a fierce warrior, and stood by David in war many times**
- **BUT – he was often self-willed and didn't follow commands from David**
 - **Killed Absalom when David wanted him taken alive:**

2 Samuel 18:9–15

9 Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on.

10 Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, “I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!”

11 So Joab said to the man who told him, “You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt.”

12 But the man said to Joab, “Though I were to receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king’s son. For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, ‘Beware lest anyone touch the young man Absalom!’

13 Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against me.”

14 Then Joab said, “I cannot linger with you.” **And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom’s heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.**

15 And ten young men who bore Joab’s armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.

7 “But show kindness to **the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite**, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

- To David, kindness was to be repaid.
- David sat at their table in his great need – now they should sit at his table

2 Samuel 17:27–29

27 Now it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,

28 brought beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and flour, parched grain and beans, lentils and parched seeds,

29 honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who were with him to eat. For they said, “The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.”

8 “And see, you have with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’

9 Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood.”

- Shimei was a nasty man
 - A Benjamite who wanted to see Saul’s family line continue on the throne of Israel
- He cursed David for the benefit of a political position with Absalom

2 Samuel 16:5–8

5 Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came.

6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

7 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: “Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!

8 The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!”

10 So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.

11 The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years.

1 Chronicles 29:28 So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place.

12 Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

- Solomon starts well – he doesn't finish so well.
- Squandered opportunities – broken promises – stubbornness against the Laws of the Lord

1 Kings 11:4–8

4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.