

1Ki 2:1 ¶ "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, 2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; 3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: 4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."

King David knows he is dying, and he gives Solomon directions of how to prosper as king over God's people, and how to handle several situations. David is not afraid to die. We understand this from the matter-of-fact way he says, "*I go the way of all the earth.*"

We are reminded of another time when one was told to be strong in an exchange of positions of leadership, seen in: *Jos 1:5-9; 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."* Look at both texts and see the many similarities in the commands and promises.

We see a prophetic mystery revealed in verse *1Ki 2:3 "And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself."* We saw that King David failed in this. We shall see that King Solomon will fail in this. However, with gladness we tell you of one who did not fail and that is Jesus Christ. Through His total obedience: Jesus fulfilled the law and prophets, overcame the world, and brought to all of God's people eternal remission of sins, and Jesus gives them eternal life in the new birth.

Why did Kings David and Solomon fail? We believe it is because they did not follow the commandment of God found in: *De 17:18-20; 18 "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."* This command of God demanded two things in particular. The king was to go to the tabernacle where the priest kept a copy of the law for themselves to study. Wherefore, it required the king to come to the place of the worship of God. Next, the king was to write a copy of the law which God had given himself, remember the two tables of stone were written by the finger of God, and so is the bible. Notice, God said a copy, not what the king interpreted it to say, or would like to change to suit his own wishes. After writing his own copy, the king was to read therein every day of his life. Now, let's apply this to our own lives, since Christ has made us priest and kings unto God. God has already written his word of truth down for us in the King James bible. Wherefore, as kings unto God, we are to read therein every day. If we do this faithfully, we shall be enabled, by the holy Spirit power in us, to withstand all temptations and walk uprightly before God and the world.

The first things King David tells Solomon is to be strong and show that you are a man. David is telling Solomon to be a man after God's own heart, which you shall prove by keeping the charge of God, walking in his ways and not you own, by keeping the statutes and commandments of God. By judging in accordance with God's commandments, God's statutes, and the testimony of God, as recorded in the law that God gave to Moses.

David tells Solomon: if you do this, God will prosper your way as king in all that you do. David tells Solomon: this is necessary that the word of God spoken unto me might continue to be as God promised. We point out here that David includes the **"if"** in the promise of God. If David's children do as God has prescribed, walking in the way of the Lord and not doing that which is right in their own sight: the kingship of Israel shall continue in the lineage of King David, who was God's first chosen king to rule over Israel.

We shall see as we continue to study scripture that there is indeed a lapse in the lineage of King David to sit upon the throne over Israel. Because of disobedience to God, they were taken away captive into other nations, and there they had no king of the lineage of David. We do not see the **"if"** King David speaks of in: **2Sa 7:12-16; 12 "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever."** God did fulfill this promise in King Solomon. Although Solomon's heart will turn to idolatry in the end of his days, God kept his promise to not withdraw his mercy from him as he did from Saul.

We understand, as King David understood; the promise of God to him for continual reign of his seed on an earthly throne, depended on obedience to God. We see this demonstrated in scripture as we move forward. After Solomon's failure of complete obedience to God and his reign is over, God will divide Israel and give to David's seed one tribe, that he may sustain his promise to David seen in: **1Ki 11:36 "And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there."** Because of Israel's sins and the destruction of Jerusalem; there was no throne of David for one to sit upon in Jerusalem. This is why David's seed did not continue to reign on David's throne.

However, the promise God made to King David, which had no **"if"** in it, did not fail. The lineage of David was revived, and manifested, when Jesus was born into the world, as King of the Jews and the Gentiles. The **"forever"** throne of David's lineage is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, whose earthly mother was of the lineage of King David. The throne of David forever is the prophecy of the second coming of Christ, who presently is seated upon the eternal throne of God, and this throne is established forever.

5 "Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet. 6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace."

Next David gives Solomon charge concerning Joab the son of Zeruiah, who has been captain of the host of Israel, most of King David's reign. Joab deserted King David and followed Adonijah in his insurrection. Joab murdered two men more righteous than himself, and by the law commandments he is to die. There is the further charge against Joab in directly disobeying King David and slaying Absalom, even though Absalom was guilty of the death penalty. David says, I didn't kill him because he has suffered with me through my afflictions. However, as you begin to reign over Israel, you need to take his life with the sword, to take away the shedding of innocent blood from the house of David.

7 "But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother."

He further commands Solomon: continue to show kindness to the sons of Barzillai, who sustained me with food when I fled from Absalom, your brother. I made a vow to Barzillai, and you should continue to keep that vow in honor of what he did, and in accordance with my promise to him.

8 "And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword. 9 Now therefore hold him not guiltless:

for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood."

Next, King David gives Solomon charge pertaining to Shimei, who cursed David as he fled from Absalom in his insurrection. King David says he came to me when we returned fully repentant for his wrongdoing. I told him I would not carry out the sentence of death that his actions warranted. However, that was my promise, and you are a new king, and you know what you need to do to bring his head to the grave in his own blood. Do not let him go free, for it is a sin to curse the Lord's anointed, for in so doing you are also cursing God. By slaying him for his sin, you will free the house of David, and Israel, from bearing the sin of this man.

10 "So, David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David."

David dies and is buried. We point out, from henceforth, all kings shall be measured by the standard of the reign of King David. We point out also, every child of God is measured by the standard of King Jesus, which demonstrates to us; it is only by the kindness and mercy of our King that we are not slain for our sins.

There is also a great warning to all in leadership positions, in the church established by Jesus Christ, to follow the word of God in all that it teaches. An admonition to be the light of Christ on earth to all you are in contact with. It is a great warning and admonition, to all the children of God, to live the life of a true disciple of Christ to the fullest degree. Living Christian lives is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, and fulfills the two great commandments given by Christ in: **Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."**

Peter tells us in scripture that David's tomb was still in existence after the ascension of Christ, seen in: **Ac 2:29 "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day."** Unlike King David, Jesus was buried in a tomb when he gave up his mortal life, however, the body of Jesus does not remain in the tomb as the body of King David. Jesus arose from the grave and ascended back to the immortal heaven, while the body of David sleeps, awaiting the resurrection of the dead in Christ.