

1 Kings 2:1-46 **David's instructions – Solomon's compliance**

David's Instructions to Solomon

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.

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.'

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.

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.

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."

Death of David (1 Chron 3:4; 29:26-28)

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.

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

Solomon begins his reign in compliance to David's instructions

Solomon Executes Adonijah

¹³ Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. So she said, "Do you come peaceably?"

And he said, "Peaceably." ¹⁴ Moreover he said, "I have something to say to you."

And she said, "Say it."

¹⁵ Then he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has been turned over, and has become my brother's; for it was his from the Lord. ¹⁶ Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me."

And she said to him, "Say it."

¹⁷ Then he said, "Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife."

¹⁸ So Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak for you to the king."

19 Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so she sat at his right hand. 20 Then she said, "I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me."

And the king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

21 So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."

22 And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also — for he is my older brother — for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah."

23 Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life! 24 Now therefore, as the Lord lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

25 So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.

Abiathar Exiled

26 And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted."

27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, that he might fulfill the word of the Lord which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.

Joab Executed

28 Then news came to Joab, for Joab had defected to Adonijah, though he had not defected to Absalom. So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the Lord, and took hold of the horns of the altar.

29 And King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the Lord; there he is, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."

30 So Benaiah went to the tabernacle of the Lord, and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come out!'" And he said, "No, but I will die here." And Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."

31 Then the king said to him, "Do as he has said, and strike him down and bury him, that you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed. 32 So the Lord will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword — Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, the commander of the army of Judah — though my father David did not know it. 33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever. But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the Lord."

34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck and killed him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35 The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

Shimei Executed

36 Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere. 37 For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head."

38 And Shimei said to the king, "The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do." So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

39 Now it happened at the end of three years, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Look, your slaves are in Gath!"

40 So Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves. And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath. 41 And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back.

42 Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the Lord, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.' 43 Why then have you not kept the oath of the Lord and the commandment that I gave you?"

44 The king said moreover to Shimei, "You know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the Lord will return your wickedness on your own head.

45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever."

46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

David's Instructions to Solomon [1 Kings 2:1-9]

- ✧ David knows he is approaching the time of his death, so he called for Solomon to give his son instructions to begin his reign. The focus must begin with his relationship with Yahweh Eloheym (The Lord Your God). [1 Kings 2:1-4]

1. Walk in His ways.
2. Keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies.
3. As written in the Law of Moses.

- ✧ The purpose is that you may prosper in all that you do wherever you turn.
- ✧ God's covenant with David is conditional, depending on continued obedience.
- ✧ That Yahweh 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, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

Joab [1 Kings 2:5-6]

- ✧ "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. [1 Kings 2:5-6]
Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

- ✧ David was displeased by the things Joab had done that damaged his kingdom and cast a blot on David's reputation. David had attempted to replace Joab as commander of the armies of Israel but had failed in the attempt. [2 Samuel 19:13, 20:8-10]
- ✧ Joab had rebelled against David by siding with Adonijah, though he had not sided with Absalom in his rebellion. [1 Kings 1:7]
- ✧ David left justice in this matter in the hands of Solomon.

Barzillai [1 Kings 2:7]

- ✧ "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. [1 Kings 2:7]
- ✧ Barzillai had brought provisions to David and his people at Mahanaim. [2 Samuel 17:27-29]

Shimei [1 Kings 2:8-9]

- ✧ "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.'

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 had run along the hill, cursed David, hurled stones and dust at David and the people with him, when David was fleeing from Absalom. [2 Samuel 16:5-8]
- ✧ David had accepted and tolerated the cursing because he had a guilty conscience about his misdeed with Uriah the Hittite, and considered Shimei's actions as part of the punishment from God. [2 Samuel 12:1-12, 16:10-13]
- ✧ When the battle was ended and it became obvious that David was established as unchallenged king, Shimei rushed to meet David at the Jordan asking for pardon, and David promised not to kill him. [2 Samuel 19:9-10, 16-23, 1 Kings 2:8]
- ✧ However, because of the public offense, David still called for justice to be served by Solomon, trusting him to find a wise solution for the problem.

Death of David [1 Kings 2:10-11] (1 Chron 3:4; 29:26-28)

- ✧ David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.
- ✧ David reigned as king a total of 40 years, 7 years in Hebron, and 33 years in Jerusalem.

Solomon assumed the throne of David and his kingdom [1 Kings 2:12]

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

Solomon followed the instructions of David in the beginning of his reign [1 Kings 2:13-46]

Solomon Executes Adonijah [1 Kings 2:13-25]

- ✧ Adonijah had attempted to assume the throne of David before the death of David, but David had made Solomon, King of Israel, So Adonijah pleaded for his life before Solomon. [1 Kings 1:5-10, 41-51]
- ✧ Solomon had promised if Adonijah proved himself worthy he would not be put to death. [1 Kings 1:52-53]
- ✧ Now Adonijah the son of David through Haggith, craftily requested Abishag to be given to him as wife through Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. [1 Kings 2:13-21]
- ✧ Solomon perceived the request as a continuation of Adonijah's attempt to usurp the throne, and considered it as an unworthy weakness of wickedness, deserving of death. So Solomon called for Benaiah to strike Adonijah to death. [1 Kings 2:22-25]

✧ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada the Priest was head of David's elite force, now under the authority of Solomon. [2 Samuel 8:18, 20:23, 23:20-23, 1 Chronicles 11:22-25, 27:5]

Abiathar Exiled [1 Kings 2:26-27]

✧ And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted."

So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, that he might fulfill the word of the Lord which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh. [1 Samuel 2:12-36, 3:11-18]

✧ Abiathar was the son of Ahimelech the Priests at Nob where David fled and received the holy bread as food when first fleeing from Saul he became a fugitive. [1 Samuel 21:1-9]

✧ Abiathar was the only priest to escape the slaughter when Saul killed all the priests at Nob, and Abiathar fled to David in the wilderness. [1 Samuel 22:6-23]

✧ Abiathar served David as priest until he defected to join Adonijah in his attempt to usurp the throne of the kingdom. [1 Samuel 23:6 - - 1 Kings 1:7]

✧ Solomon saw the defection as an act of a traitor and worthy of death, however because of the long time Abiathar had been faithful to David, Solomon did not put him to death, but he removed Abiathar from being priest to the Lord and sent him home to Anathoth.

(Jeremiah the prophet was descended from the priests of Anathoth).

Joab Executed [1 Kings 2:28-35]

✧ When Joab heard that Adonijah had been executed, and Abiathar had been removed from the office of the Priest, he feared for his own life because he had defected to Adonijah as had Abiathar, though Joab had not defected to Absalom. [1 Kings 1:7, 2 Kings 2:28]

So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the Lord, and took hold of the horns of the altar. [1 Kings 2:28]

✧ Guilty conscience causes one to fear, and Joab knew his error and expected the death penalty to come against him.

✧ King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the Lord; there he is, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down." [1 Kings 2:29]

✧ This was in keeping with the instruction David had given to Solomon regarding Joab because of his acts against David's men. [1 Kings 2:5-6]

✧ Joab chose to die at the altar of the Lord, and Solomon agreed. [1 Kings 2:30-31]

✧ Then Solomon expressed the Justice of the execution:

"That you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed. So the Lord will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword — Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, the commander of the army of Judah — though my father David did not know it. Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever."

But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the Lord." [1 Kings 2:31-33]

✧ So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck and killed him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. [1 Kings 2:34]

✧ Solomon put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in Joab's place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar. [1 Kings 2:35]

Shimei Executed [1 Kings 2:36-46]

✧ To accomplish David's instruction concerning Shimei, Solomon gave Shimei a command that he would most likely not be able to comply with, but it looked so innocent. Solomon said to

Shimei, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere. For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head." [1 Kings 2:36-37]

☆ Shimei agreed to the terms and dwelt in Jerusalem many days. [1 Kings 2:38]

✧ The problem happened when after three years, two of Shimei's slaves ran away and Shimei learned where they had gone. [1 Kings 2:39-41]

✧ Forgetting the life or death requirement to stay in Jerusalem, Shimei went after his slaves to bring them back to his service.

✧ Self centered greed is often the cause for destruction of many of us.

☆ Solomon was told that Shimei had left Jerusalem, so he called for Shimei and said, "Did I not make you swear by the Lord, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.' Why then have you not kept the oath of the Lord and the commandment that I gave you?"

"Moreover, you know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the Lord will return your wickedness on your own head.

But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever." [1 Kings 2:42-45]

✧ The judgment is completely in line with the agreement between the two, therefore there is no question of the justice in the matter.

✧ However Solomon also wanted Shimei to remember another case of his unworthiness in the case of Shimei's wickedness against David.

✧ With the two occasions, the death penalty is a just and righteous punishment.

✧ Because the judgment is righteous and just, the stain of reproach is removed from the throne of the kingdom, that the Lord may continue to bless the throne of David and establish it forever.

✧ God's covenant concerning the eternal throne of David: [2 Samuel 7:4-16, 9:1-5]

☆ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon [1 Kings 2:46]