

1 Kings 2 shape and keywords

When David's time to die drew near, he ordered his son Solomon, saying: "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, become a man, and keep the mandate of **YHWH** your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the instruction of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you **turn**. Then **YHWH** will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: 'If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before my **face** in truth with all their heart and with all their being, your successor shall not be cut off from the throne of Israel.'

"Moreover you know also what Joab son of Zeruah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner son of Ner, and Amasa son of Jether, whom he murdered, retaliating in time of peace for **blood** that had been shed in war, and putting the **blood** of war on the belt around his waist, and on the sandals on his feet.

Act therefore according to your **wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.**

Deal loyally, however, with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

There is also with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a terrible curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim; but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by **YHWH**, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.'

Therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are **a wise man**; you will know what you ought to do to him, and **you must bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol.**"

Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his **kingdom was firmly established.**

ADONIJAH

Then Adonijah son of Haggith came to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. She **asked**, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably." Then he said, "May I have a word with you?" She said, "Speak." He said, "You know that the **kingship** was mine, and that all Israel set their **faces** to me to be **king**; however, the **kingship** has **turned** about and become my brother's, for it was his from **YHWH**. And now I have one **ask** to make of you; do not **turn** back my **face**." She said to him, "Speak." He said, "Please **ask King** Solomon--he will not **turn** back your **face**--to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife." Bathsheba said, "Good; I will speak to the **king** on your behalf."

So Bathsheba went to **King** Solomon, to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. The **king** rose to meet her and bowed down to her; then he sat on his throne, and had a throne brought for the **king's** mother, and she sat on his right. Then she said, "I have one small **ask** to make of you; do not **turn** back your **face**." And the **king** said to her, "Make your **ask**, my mother; for I will not refuse you." She said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to your brother Adonijah as his woman." **King** Solomon answered his mother, "And why do you **ask** Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? **Ask** for him the **kingdom** as well! For he is my elder brother; **ask** not only for him but also for the priest Abiathar and for Joab son of Zeruah!" Then **King** Solomon swore by **YHWH**, "So may God do to me, and more also, for Adonijah has worded this word at the risk of his life! Now therefore as **YHWH** lives, who **has established** me and placed me on the throne of my father David, and who has made me a house as he promised, today Adonijah

shall be put to death." So **King** Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he **struck him down**, and he died.

ABIATHAR

The **king** said to the priest Abiathar, "Go to Anathoth, to your field; for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord **YHWH** before the **face** of my father David, and because you suffered through all which my father suffered." So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to **YHWH**, thus fulfilling the word of **YHWH** that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

JOAB

When the news came to Joab--for Joab had leaned toward Adonijah though he had not leaned toward Absalom --Joab fled to the tent of **YHWH** and grasped the horns of the altar. When it was told **King** Solomon, "Joab has fled to the tent of **YHWH** and now is beside the altar," Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, **strike him down**." So Benaiah came to the tent of **YHWH** and said to him, "The **king** commands, 'Come out.'" But he said, "No, I will die here." Then Benaiah brought the **king** word again, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me." The **king** replied to him, "Do as he has said, **strike him down** and bury him; and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the **blood** that Joab shed without cause. **YHWH** will bring back that **blood** on his own **head**, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more just and better than himself, Abner son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. So shall their **blood** come back on the **head** of Joab and on the **head** of his seed forever; but to David, and to his seed, and to his house, and to his throne, there shall be peace from **YHWH** forevermore." Then Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and **struck him down** and killed him; and he was buried at his own house near the wilderness. The **king** put Benaiah son of Jehoiada over the army in his place, and the **king** put the priest Zadok in the place of Abiathar.

SHIMEI

Then the **king** sent and called Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem, and live there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever. For on the day you go out, and cross the Wadi Kidron, know, yes, know, that you shall die; your **blood** shall be on your own **head**." And Shimei said to the **king**, "The word is good; as my lord the **king** has said, so will your servant do." So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei's slaves ran away to **King** Achish son of Maacah of Gath. When it was told Shimei, "Your slaves are in Gath," Shimei arose and saddled a donkey, and went to Achish in Gath, to search for his slaves; Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath. When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and **returned**, the **king** sent and called Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by **YHWH**, and solemnly adjure you, saying, 'Know, yes, know, that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die'? And you said to me, 'The word is good; I accept.' Why then have you not kept your oath to **YHWH** and the commandment with which I charged you?" The **king** also said to Shimei, "You know in your own heart all the evil in your heart that you did to my father David; so **YHWH** will bring back your evil on your own **head**. But **King** Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David **shall be established** before **YHWH** forever." Then the **king** commanded Benaiah son of Jehoiada; and he went out and **struck him down**, and he died.

So the **kingdom was established** in the hand of Solomon.