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YouTube Prayer Link

Be strong, show yourself a man

Chapter 2 begins with David's death and Solomon taking the throne. David's last words to Solomon are to keep God's commandments and to avenge the wrongs done to him and his family. Solomon's first act as king is to deal with his enemies.

He orders Joab, the former commander of the army, to be executed for his past crimes, including killing Abner and Amasa. Solomon also orders Shimei, who had previously cursed David, to be put to death. However, he promises Bathsheba, his mother, that he will spare her other son, Adonijah, as long as he remains loyal to the kingdom.

Solomon then consolidates his power as king by marrying the daughter of Pharaoh and establishing his rule over Israel. He also appoints Benaiah as the new commander of the army, and Zadok as the new high priest.

The chapter ends with Adonijah seeking Solomon's permission to marry Abishag, David's former concubine. However, Solomon sees this as a challenge to his authority and orders Benaiah to execute Adonijah. The chapter concludes with Solomon establishing his reign as king and the kingdom being at peace..

Abishag the Shunammite: Adonijah asked King Solomon to give him Abishag the Shunammite as his wife. Among the remaining sons of David, Adonijah was the oldest, so he said, "Kingdom "It is mine" (verse 15), and he is very upset about this. Contains a terrible conspiracy of rebellion. Although some people think that Adonijah made this request out of lust for Abishag, a contemporary beauty, rather than political desire, this view is inappropriate. Although Abishag had no physical contact with David (1:4), she was regarded as David's last concubine in the eyes of the people.

1Kg. 2:2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man,

In the journey of life, everyone will face the choice of choice, and "there are things a man should do and things he should not do" has become an important principle guiding our actions. In this ever-changing world, we often fall into confusion and hesitation, not knowing which way to go. However, it is at such moments that we need to strengthen our beliefs, clarify our goals, and decide the direction of our actions.

"Doing something" means that we must have clear goals and plans and work hard to realize our dreams and ambitions. This requires courage and perseverance, and requires us to continue to work hard to gradually move towards the road to success. In the process of pursuing our dreams, we may encounter various challenges and difficulties, but it is these challenges that make us stronger and more mature, allowing us to constantly surpass ourselves and realize our own value. "Sitting at the king's right hand": shows that Queen Mother Bathsheba enjoyed a very high status at that time.

Don't forget to respect your parents when it comes to family etiquette. In today's rapidly developing society, the traditional etiquette of respecting parents has become increasingly precious and important. Family is the cradle for everyone's growth, and parents are our earliest mentors and guides. Respecting parents is one of the core values of our traditional culture, and it is also our obligation and responsibility as children.

The nurturing grace of our parents is like a mountain or an ocean. They have devoted their selfless care and hard work to us. Whether in material or spiritual aspects, they always support us silently and give us the most selfless love. Therefore, respecting parents is not only a moral and etiquette requirement, but also an expression of gratitude and repayment.

Respecting our parents is not only reflected in our words and deeds, but also in our hearts. We should respect our parents' opinions and decisions, and respect their lifestyle and values. When communicating with parents, we must listen to their opinions, respect their feelings, and understand their difficulties. Even if we have different views or opinions, we should communicate with respect and understanding instead of forcefully resisting or ignoring their opinions.

## We pray together

Dear Father God

May Jehovah give us the wisdom to make wise decisions when we face life's challenges and choices. May God's wisdom guide us on the path of justice and lead us to achieve beautiful goals. May we rely on Jehovah's wisdom to benefit not only ourselves but also others. May God's wisdom enable us to have clear ideas and correct actions in everything, and achieve a beautiful life. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

1Kg. 2:1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

1Kg. 2:2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, show yourself a man,

1Kg. 2:3 and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,

1Kg. 2:4 and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

1Kg. 2:5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me — what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt round his waist and the sandals on his feet.

1Kg. 2:6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his grey head go down to the grave [Hebrew Sheol; also in verse 9] in peace.

1Kg. 2:7 “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

1Kg. 2:8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: ‘I will

not put you to death by the sword.’

1Kg. 2:9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his grey head down to the grave in blood.”

1Kg. 2:10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.

1Kg. 2:11 He had reigned for forty years over Israel — seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.

1Kg. 2:12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

1Kg. 2:13 Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith, went to Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother. Bathsheba asked him, “Do you come peacefully?” He answered, “Yes, peacefully.”

1Kg. 2:14 Then he added, “I have something to say to you.” “You may say it,” she replied.

1Kg. 2:15 “As you know,” he said, “the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my brother; for it has come to him from the LORD.

1Kg. 2:16 Now I have one request to make of you. Do not refuse me.” “You may make it,” she said.

1Kg. 2:17 So he continued, “Please ask King Solomon — he will not refuse you — to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife.”

1Kg. 2:18 “Very well,” Bathsheba replied, “I will speak to the king for you.”

1Kg. 2:19 When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to meet her, bowed down to her

and sat down on his throne. He had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat down at his right hand.

1Kg. 2:20 "I have one small request to make of you," she said. "Do not refuse me." The king replied, "Make it, my mother; I will not refuse you."

1Kg. 2:21 So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah."

1Kg. 2:22 King Solomon answered his mother, "Why do you request Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him — after all, he is my older brother — yes, for him and for Abiathar the priest and Joab son of Zeruiah!"

1Kg. 2:23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD: "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request!"

1Kg. 2:24 And now, as surely as the LORD lives — he who has established me securely on the throne of my father David and has founded a dynasty for me as he promised — Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

1Kg. 2:25 So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died.

1Kg. 2:26 To Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go back to your fields in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but I will not put you to death now, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign LORD before my father David and shared all my father's hardships."

1Kg. 2:27 So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD, fulfilling the word the LORD had spoken at Shiloh

about the house of Eli.

1Kg. 2:28 When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah though not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of the horns of the altar.

1Kg. 2:29 King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the LORD and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, “Go, strike him down!”

1Kg. 2:30 So Benaiah entered the tent of the LORD and said to Joab, “The king says, ‘Come out!’” But he answered, “No, I will die here.” Benaiah reported to the king, “This is how Joab answered me.”

1Kg. 2:31 Then the king commanded Benaiah, “Do as he says. Strike him down and bury him, and so clear me and my father’s house of the guilt of the innocent blood that Joab shed.

1Kg. 2:32 The LORD will repay him for the blood he shed, because without the knowledge of my father David he attacked two men and killed them with the sword. Both of them — Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel’s army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah’s army — were better men and more upright than he.

1Kg. 2:33 May the guilt of their blood rest on the head of Joab and his descendants for ever. But on David and his descendants, his house and his throne, may there be the LORD’s peace for ever.”

1Kg. 2:34 So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and struck down Joab and killed him, and he was buried on his own land [Or buried in his tomb] in the desert.

1Kg. 2:35 The king put Benaiah son of Jehoiada over the army in Joab’s

position and replaced Abiathar with Zadok the priest.

1Kg. 2:36 Then the king sent for Shimei and said to him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, but do not go anywhere else.

1Kg. 2:37 The day you leave and cross the Kidron Valley, you can be sure you will die; your blood will be on your own head.”

1Kg. 2:38 Shimei answered the king, “What you say is good. Your servant will do as my lord the king has said.” And Shimei stayed in Jerusalem for a long time.

1Kg. 2:39 But three years later, two of Shimei’s slaves ran off to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath, and Shimei was told, “Your slaves are in Gath.”

1Kg. 2:40 At this, he saddled his donkey and went to Achish at Gath in search of his slaves. So Shimei went away and brought the slaves back from Gath.

1Kg. 2:41 When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned,

1Kg. 2:42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you swear by the LORD and warn you, ‘On the day you leave to go anywhere else, you can be sure you will die’? At that time you said to me, ‘What you say is good. I will obey.’

1Kg. 2:43 Why then did you not keep your oath to the LORD and obey the command I gave you?”

1Kg. 2:44 The king also said to Shimei, “You know in your heart all the wrong you did to my father David. Now the LORD will repay you for your wrongdoing.

1Kg. 2:45 But King Solomon will be blessed, and David’s throne will remain secure before the LORD for ever.”

1Kg. 2:46 Then the king gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down and killed him. The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands.

Here's a detailed summary of chapter 2 of 1 Kings:

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Here are some important verses from 1 Kings chapter 2 in the Christian Bible:

1 Kings 2:1-4 - David gives his final instructions to Solomon, urging him to walk in God's ways and keep his commandments.

1 Kings 2:5-9 - David tells Solomon to deal justly with Joab and Shimei, two men who had wronged him in the past.

1 Kings 2:10-12 - David dies and is buried in the City of David.

1 Kings 2:13-25 - Adonijah asks Bathsheba to request that Solomon give him Abishag as his wife, but Solomon sees this as a power play and has Adonijah executed.

1 Kings 2:26-27 - Solomon removes Abiathar from his position as priest, fulfilling a prophecy that had been made against his family.

1 Kings 2:28-34 - Joab seeks sanctuary at the altar, but Solomon has him killed there, believing him to be a threat to his reign.



1 Kings 2:35-46 - Shimei is allowed to live on the condition that he stays within the city of Jerusalem. When he violates this condition, Solomon has him executed.

These verses show the passing of the mantle of leadership from David to Solomon and the actions that Solomon takes to secure his reign and consolidate his power. The story also demonstrates the importance of obeying God's commands and the consequences that can result from disobedience.

In the second chapter of the book of 1 Kings in the Bible, we witness the final moments of King David's life and the subsequent actions of his son, Solomon, as he assumes the throne of Israel. Here are some reflections on chapter 2:

**The importance of obedience and honor:** In this chapter, King David gives his final instructions to Solomon, emphasizing the need for him to obey God's commandments and walk in His ways. David urges Solomon to be strong and courageous, to act with wisdom, and to uphold justice. This highlights the significance of honoring and obeying God's commands in our own lives as we seek to follow Him faithfully.

**Consequences of justice and accountability:** We see David taking measures to ensure justice by giving specific instructions to Solomon regarding certain individuals who posed potential threats or had committed wrongdoing. David's actions remind us of the importance of accountability and the consequences that come with both righteous and unrighteous behavior. It serves as a reminder that God sees and judges all actions, and justice will be served in due time.

**The fleeting nature of power and life:** As David's life draws to a close, we are reminded of the transient nature of power and life itself. Kings and rulers come and go, but God's sovereignty endures. This chapter prompts us to reflect on the brevity of life and the need to prioritize our relationship with God and the things that truly matter in light of eternity.

**God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises:** Amidst the transition of power from David to Solomon, we see God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises to David. He assures Solomon that if he walks in God's ways and obeys His commands, his descendants will continue to reign on the throne of Israel. This reminder of God's faithfulness encourages us to trust in His promises and seek His guidance in all aspects of our lives.

These reflections offer a glimpse into the themes and lessons found in the second chapter of 1 Kings. As you delve deeper into the book, you will encounter further narratives and teachings that provide additional insights and spiritual nourishment.

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