### 1 Kings

## Chapter 2

1Well, the time for David’s death drew near, so he spoke to his son Solomon and said:  
  
 ‘I’m going the way of all on the earth. 2Therefore, you must now be strong and prove that you’re a man.  
  
 3‘Follow the instructions of Jehovah your God, walk in His ways, and follow the Commandments, rules and decisions that are written in the Law of Moses, so you’ll understand what you should do when it comes to all the things that I’ll tell you.  
  
 4‘If you’ll do this, Jehovah will make the thing that He promised come true, when He said:  
  
 ‘If your children will pay attention to the way that they should walk before Me wholeheartedly and in truth, there’ll never fail to be a man from you who sits on the throne of IsraEl.’  
  
 5‘Now, you know all the things that JoAb son of ZeruJah did to me and to the two generals of the army of IsraEl… To AbNer son of Ner, and to AmaSa son of JeTher.  
  
 ‘He murdered them and shed their blood like in wartime, even though we were at peace… He wrapped his waist and the sandals on his feet in innocent blood! 6So, deal with him as your wisdom directs, and don’t allow him to take his grey hair to the grave in peace.  
  
 7‘However, I want you to deal kindly with the son of BarZelli the GileAdite… He should eat at your table, because [BarZelli] came to my aid when I had to run from your brother AbSalom.  
  
 8‘And {Look!} there’s also Semei son of Gera, a BenJaminite of BaUrim, who’s still among us! He cursed me when he came down to the JorDan to meet me as I was returning to JeruSalem... Back then, I swore to him by Jehovah that I wouldn’t use the sword to put him to death. 9However, he isn’t free of guilt.  
  
 ‘Now, you’re a wise man, and you know what you must do to him… You must take his grey hair to the grave covered in blood.’  
  
10Then shortly thereafter, David went to sleep with his ancestors, and was entombed in the city of David. 11David had reigned over IsraEl for 40 years… 7 years in HebRon and 33 years in JeruSalem.  
  
12But then Solomon came to sit upon the throne of his father David, and his kingdom became very great.  
  
  
13Well, [after David had died], AdoniJah (AgGith’s son) went to see BathSheba (Solomon’s mother).  
  
He bowed before her, and then she asked:  
  
 ‘Have you come in peace?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘Yes, in peace… 14For I have some business with you.’  
  
So she said:  
  
 ‘Then speak.’  
  
15And he said:  
  
 ‘You know that the kingdom was mine, because all IsraEl turned to me as their king. But the kingdom was taken away from me and it became my brother’s, because it was given to him by Jehovah.  
  
 16‘So, I just want to ask one thing of you… And please don’t ignore me.’  
  
Then BathSheba said:  
  
 ‘Keep talking.’  
  
17And he said to her:  
  
 ‘I beg you to speak to King Solomon, because he won’t ignore you... Ask him to give AbiSag the Somanite to me, to be my woman.’  
  
18And BathSheba said:  
  
 ‘Well, I’ll speak to the king for you.’  
  
19So BathSheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of AdoniJah.  
  
Well, the king arose to meet her, then he kissed her and he sat down on his throne. Thereafter, he had a throne placed there for the mother of the king, so she sat down at his right hand.  
  
20Then she said to him:  
  
 ‘I’d like to make one little request… And please don’t ignore me.’  
  
So the king said:  
  
 ‘Ask, my mother, and I won’t ignore you.’  
  
21And she said:  
  
 ‘Please give AbiSag the Somanite to your brother AdoniJah as his woman.’  
  
22But King Solomon asked her:  
  
 ‘Why are you asking me to give AbiSag to AdoniJah?  
  
 ‘You could ask me to give him the kingdom also, because he’s my older brother… And his friends are the Priest AbiAthar and my commander-in-chief, JoAb son of ZeruJah!’  
  
23Then King Solomon swore an oath by Jehovah, saying:  
  
 ‘May God curse me and add to it if AdoniJah hasn’t spoken these words against his own life!  
  
 24‘For now, as Jehovah lives – the One who established me, set me on the throne of my father David, and made me a house just as the Lord had promised –  
AdoniJah will die today!’  
  
25So King Solomon sent out BenaiJah son of JehoiAda to kill him, and AdoniJah died that day.  
  
  
26Then the king said to AbiAthar the Priest:  
  
 ‘You must quickly return to your farm in AnathOth, because you also deserve to die today!  
  
 ‘However, I’m not going to kill you, because you carried Jehovah’s Chest of the Sacred Agreement before my father, and because you also shared in all the sufferings of my father.’  
  
27So Solomon removed AbiAthar as the Priest of Jehovah, which fulfilled the words that the Lord had spoken at Salem concerning the house of Eli. 28And when the news of this reached JoAb son of ZeruJah – because he’d supported AdoniJah (not Solomon) – he ran to the Tent of Jehovah and grabbed hold of the horns on the Altar.  
  
29Well when Solomon was told that JoAb had fled to the Tent of Jehovah and he was hanging onto the horns of the Altar, he sent [a message] to JoAb, asking:  
  
 ‘What’s wrong with you?  
  
 ‘Why have you fled to the Altar?’  
  
And JoAb replied:  
  
 ‘I fled to Jehovah for refuge because I’m afraid of you!’  
  
So Solomon told BenaiJah son of JehoiAda to go and kill him, then bury him.  
  
30Well, when BenaiJah son of JehoiAda reached JoAb at the Tent of Jehovah, he said to him:  
  
 ‘The king had commanded that you to come away from there!’  
  
But JoAb said:  
  
 ‘I’m not coming… For I’d rather die right here!’  
  
So then, BenaiJah son of JehoiAda returned to the king and told him what JoAb said, 31and the king told him:  
  
 ‘Then, go and do what he told you to do… Kill him there, and then bury him!  
  
 ‘That way, you’ll remove the blood that he shed for no reason from me and from the house of my father... 32For, Jehovah has brought the blood of his unrighteousness down upon his own head, because he attacked two men who were more righteous and better than himself, killing them with his sword…  
  
 ‘Although my father David didn’t know that he’d kill AbNer son of Ner the commander-in-chief of IsraEl, and Amesa son of JeTher, the commander-in-chief of Judah.  
  
 33‘Now, their blood is on his head and on the head of his offspring throughout the ages! But upon David, his offspring, and his house and throne, may there be peace from Jehovah throughout the ages.’  
  
34So BenaiJah son of JehoiAda went back and killed him, and then he converted his house in the desert into his tomb.  
  
  
35Well thereafter, the king appointed BenaiJah son of JehoiAda to be the commander-in-chief of his army, and his kingship became firm in JeruSalem.  
  
As for ZaDok the Priest, the king appointed him as the High Priest in place of AbiAthar.  
  
So, Solomon son of David started reigning over both IsraEl and Judah from JeruSalem, and Jehovah gave Solomon as much wisdom, understanding, and greatness of heart as there’s sand on the seashore! For the wisdom of Solomon was greater than that of all the ancient peoples, and it was far greater than the wise men of Egypt.  
  
  
36Then the king called for Semei and said this to him:  
  
 ‘You may build yourself a house in JeruSalem and live there… However, you must not leave it!  
  
 37‘For I want you to know that on the day you cross the Cedar (Kidron) Valley, you’re going to die and your blood will be on your own head!’  
  
38And Semei said to the king:  
  
 ‘What you’ve said is good, O my lord the king… And that’s what your servant will do.’  
  
Then the king made him swear an oath to this.  
  
So Semei lived in JeruSalem for the next 3 years. 39But after the three years, two of his slaves ran away (to Anchus son of MaAcha, the king of Geth)... And when Semei was told that his slaves were in Geth, 40he saddled his burros and went to Anchus in Geth to bring his slaves back!  
  
41But when Solomon was told that Semei had left JeruSalem and gone to Geth to bring back his slaves, 42the king sent for Semei and said to him:  
  
 ‘Didn’t you swear by Jehovah, and didn’t I warn you that if you left JeruSalem (whether to the right or to the left) you will surely die?  
  
 43‘So, why haven’t you kept your oath to Jehovah and followed the instructions that I gave you?’  
  
44Then the king told Semei:  
  
 ‘In your heart you know of all the bad things you’ve done, and of the bad things that you did to my father David!  
  
 ‘So now, Jehovah is bringing your badness down upon your own head, 45while King Solomon will be blest and the throne of David will be established before Jehovah throughout the ages.’  
  
46Then Solomon commanded BenaiJah son of JehoiAda to take him out and kill him.