

Bible Readings

1 Kings 2:1-12

David's Charge to Solomon

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

2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, act like a man, **3** and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go **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 successor on the throne of Israel.'

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 he stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. **6** Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

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.

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.'^{**9**} But now,

do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.”

¹⁰ Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. ¹¹ He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

Matthew 7:24-25

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock

Sermon: Securing the Kingdom - Part 1

01-Aug-01

G'Day Church Family

We're continuing our series on the OT book of 1 Kings.

It would be good to have your **bible in front of you** - and you may have a sermon **outline** - if you'd like to **take notes**.

Let me **ask God** to grant us **understanding** this morning

Let's pray...

Intro/Context

I expect most of us have been **watching** the **Olympics?**

One of my **favourite events** is the **4 by 100m relay**

There is **always excitement** at the **baton change**

[PowerPoint 1-Baton change]



There is a particular **way of passing the baton on** - if you don't do it right - it **spells disaster** - if there is a **smooth baton change** it can **make the difference** between a gold or silver medal - or between getting a bronze medal or no medal at all

In our OT reading from 1 Kings chapter 2 today [Please turn there now]

There is a **baton change**

King David who is about to die passes the baton on to King Solomon

David wants to make sure that he passes the baton on to Solomon smoothly - The way David passes the baton on to Solomon - **makes the difference** between a safe & secure kingdom and an unsafe and insecure kingdom

So, what does "passing the baton on" look like?

1st it looks like - *being obedient to God's Word* - that's in vv1-4

Being obedient to God's Word (vv1-4)

- We pick up the story in v1 - David is about to die - and by God's grace David has the **opportunity** to **pass on some advice** to his son Solomon

[PowerPoint 2-David & Solomon]



- David tells Solomon (v2) - "**be strong and act like a man**"
- What does David mean by "**be strong and act like a man**" here?

- Some people might think to **act like a man** is to be **physically strong - athletic - a warrior type**. David was those things
- Some people might think to **act like a man** is to be **sexually active with many partners**. Again, David fits the bill there too
- Some people might think to **act like a man** is to have built a **successful career**. Again, David was very successful. He expanded his kingdom greatly
- Our culture today has many ways to measure what it means to act like a man
- But look what David says to Solomon in verse 3
- As far as David is concerned to act like a man means to walk in obedience to God and keep His decrees and commands, keep His laws and regulations as written in the Law of Moses
- Jesus himself said in Matthew 4:4 "**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God**"
- For us - we have **God's Word in the Bible - God's handbook** on how to live a life that pleases Him
- **God's rules in the Bible** are not there to necessarily keep us happy - they are there to a) keep us safe - sometimes protecting us from ourselves and b) to bring glory and honour and respect to God by following these rules
- We see this idea of rules keeping us safe - right now in our lives
- The **NSW government** has introduced "**Stay at home**" orders to keep us safe from catching this dreadful virus - these rules are not to make us necessarily

happy - in fact most of us aren't happy about staying home - but the rules will definitely keep us safe - It's the **same with God's rules**

- **God's rules also have wisdom attached** - just like the governments' wise advice to consult your doctor about vaccination - the **government wants us to be guided by what the wise medical advice says rather than us foolishly thinking we know better than the medical experts**
- In the same way - we can think we know better than God - and **that's very foolish of us**
- David goes on to tell Solomon in v4 the reason he was to obey the word of God was "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 successor on the throne of Israel.'" (1 Kings 2:4).
- This was a **conditional promise from God: If David's sons obeyed God and his word, then David would not lack a man on the throne of Israel.** Sadly, however, David's sons did not obey God and his word. The **earthly kingdom of David eventually fell.**
- **But God's word did not fail.** God also gave David an unconditional promise. God said to David, back in 2 Samuel 7:12, 16 - "When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom... and your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'

- This unconditional promise found its fulfilment in David's Greater Son Jesus, who is the king forever ruling on David's throne.
- But let us come back to David's initial words to his son Solomon, when David said to Solomon in v3 "observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go". David was telling Solomon that to make his life count, Solomon needed to live by God's word. Solomon would prosper in all that he did and wherever he turned, if he lived by God's word.
- What we have here is a promise that is throughout the Bible
- **Blessings for obedience to God** [we see this in Deut 28]
- This does not mean that we will never suffer, or that every difficulty we face in life is the direct result of our own personal sin. But it does mean that obedience brings God's blessing."
- The bottom line of David's advice is security of the kingdom depends on obedience to God
- This catches us by surprise - doesn't it?
- In human terms - Kingdoms are thought to be secure - by having strong trade agreements - or by strong alliances with other powerful nations - or by having a sizeable state of the art military
- No self-respecting political analyst thinks a nation's security is based on obeying God's law?
- But that's what God's Word here in 1 Kings 2:3-4 is saying

- For us - what priority are we giving to God's Word and God's Law in our lives?
- Are we relying on God's Word?
- Or are we relying on powerful and influential friends?
- Or are we relying on our wealth or career?
- Or are we relying on our own wisdom and gut feeling?
- Our priority must be - to walk in faithful obedience to God with all our heart and with all our soul?

2nd "passing the baton on" on looks like "acting wisely in Kingdom matters" - that's in vv5-9

Acting wisely in Kingdom matters (vv5-9)

- Having given Solomon, the charge to be obedient to God
- David goes on in vv5-9 to set Solomon the task of putting a few things in order that David himself has never got around to
- **David's reign** had been **plagued with military attacks** from Israel's enemies - especially the **Philistines** - and his **reign was also plagued with family problems** too - and **betrayal and disloyalty**
- David hadn't been able to deal with some people in his time as King
- He's mostly **been reactive** - rather than proactive in looking after his kingdom
- So, he **now charges Solomon** to sort some of these things out
- They need to be sorted out to keep Solomon's Kingdom safe
- His **advice** here can be **grouped into 2 categories**

- **"What to do with those who have been loyal" - and "What to do with those who have been disloyal"**
- 1st then - "What to do with those who have been loyal"

What to do with those who have been loyal (v7)

- **Look at v7 - David recalls the kindness that Barzillai had shown him when David's son Absalom had rebelled against David and David had fled Jerusalem.**
- **Barzillai had helped David in a practical way with food and supplies**
- **David had not forgotten this kindness and **felt it should be rewarded****
- And so here in v7 - **He tells Solomon to make sure Barzillai's sons are not forgotten** - when David says "*let them be among those who eat at the King's table*" - it literally means Barzillai sons will have a royal pension
- A lesson for us - to **not forget** the kindness that people show us - we should at the very least say "thank you" even if we're never in a position to reward their kindness. "Thank yous" seem to be scarce these days - **I've noticed?**
- This attention to detail - from David - shows the heart of the man

What to do with those who have been disloyal (vv5-6; vv8-9)

- **2nd "what to do with those who have been disloyal"**
- **David tackles two men who have been disloyal to him**
- **Remember David is God's anointed one**
- **David is God's king on Earth**
- **Any attack or disloyalty to David is an attack on God**

- So, **David's suggested punishment** is to be seen as a reminder to all people that God will punish those who attack Him or His representatives on Earth
- See **v5-6** - the first man to be dealt with is Joab
- **Joab is a complex character** - he has at times been very loyal to David - he is also David's nephew and has been the commander of David's army through many difficult but successful campaigns
- But Joab has also been a loose cannon at times - blatantly disobeying David's orders when Joab felt David was weak or when it suited Joab's own cause to do things his own way
- Here in v5 - David reminds Solomon how Joab had killed Abner (Saul's army commander) in cold blood because Abner had killed Joab's brother in battle. **David also reminds Solomon how Joab had killed Amasa in cold-blood and not in battle, out of jealousy because David and Absalom had both made Amasa as commander of the army instead of Joab**
- Perhaps a reason why David hadn't punished Joab himself was because Joab knew David had arranged for Bathsheba's husband Uriah to die in battle
- Added to this we know from last week that Joab had sided with Adonijah's claim to take the Kingdom - so David knew Joab could no longer be trusted to be loyal to Solomon
- **David realizes that Joab needs to be stopped if Solomon's kingdom is to be successful**
- We shouldn't see this as David taking revenge - God is the one who takes revenge (Deut 32:5; Romans 12:17-19)

- It's more a case of David wisely advising Solomon - how his kingdom can remain safe
- Later on, in this chapter - we see Joab comes to a sticky end
- But Joab had a choice in that - At any time he could have sworn his allegiance to King Solomon - but he didn't
- For us - we should both refrain from taking revenge ourselves - and yet also stand up for what is right in God's eyes - stand firm - and not allow evil to prevail - trusting that God is sovereign in all things
- The **second man** to be dealt with is mentioned is in vv8-9
- This man is **Shimei** - he was the man who cursed and threw stones at David as he fled Jerusalem during Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 16:5-14) - calling David a murderer for taking Saul's kingdom. David at the time had promised not to kill Shimei
- But remember again, Shimei had cursed God's anointed one - this is not on!
- So, **David now advises Solomon** to deal with Shimei - as he may cause trouble for Solomon's kingdom
- But notice v9 - David leaves it up to Solomon's wisdom as to how he does this.
- If we read ahead to v36 - we see that Solomon wisely confined Shimei to live in Jerusalem and if he did, he would remain safe but if he left, he would be killed.
- This action kept Shimei where Solomon could keep an eye on him
- The choice lay with Shimei whether he lived or not

- Again, this is a lesson for us - not for revenge - but for wisdom in how to keep people at arm's length from hurting us again and again
- **David was acting wisely in Kingdom matters - his intention is purely for Solomon to be wise and obedient to God's Word - to keep the Kingdom safe**
- **For us we act wisely in kingdom matters when we apply God's word in a consistent manner towards others.**
 - For example: as parents or grandparents, we must act consistently with each of our children or grandchildren. We must not treat some with favour and others with disfavour. That includes any step-children or adopted children
- Likewise, God wants us to act consistently toward each other.

When we are be obedient to God's Word and act wisely in Kingdom matters - It brings us security

We see that in our NT reading from **Matthew 7:24-25** [Please turn there now]

Security for obedience (Matthew 7:24-25)

[PowerPoint 3-Rock]



- From these verses it's clear just as the King of Israel is to be wise and hear God's Word and put it into practice, we must do the same.
- The King must build his life and kingdom upon the rock-solid foundation of God's Word and Law.
- In the same way, we must wisely build our lives on the rock-solid foundation of the Words of Jesus AND put them into practice.
- When we do this the storms and floods and winds of life may beat upon us but we will not fall - instead we will stand firm
- It's easy for us to build our lives on the wrong things -
- **Our security** is not anchored in our experience or profession, nor in our education or pedigree, nor in our achievements nor wealth - but ONLY in the obedience to the Word of God and putting it into practice in our lives
- Putting Jesus' words into practice will look like
 - Us doing the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21-23) and seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first (Matthew 6:33)

- What is the will of the Father and how do we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first?

In John 6:40 Jesus tells us what the will of the Father is:

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

The most important thing we can do as far as God's Kingdom is concerned - is to model a life built on Jesus - a life built on His forgiveness and promise of eternal life - and pass that on to others.

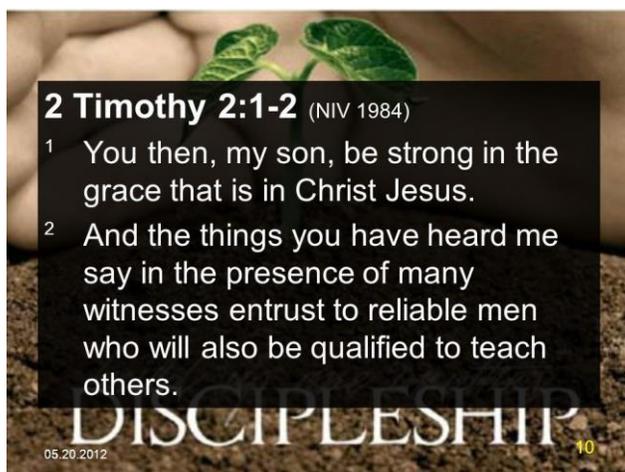
Challenge

So, a **challenge for us** - this morning

This idea of passing on a good legacy to those coming after us, is something the Apostle Paul demonstrates with his young protégé, Timothy.

Here's what Paul tells Timothy in 2 Tim 2:1-2

[PowerPoint 4-Timothy]



You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

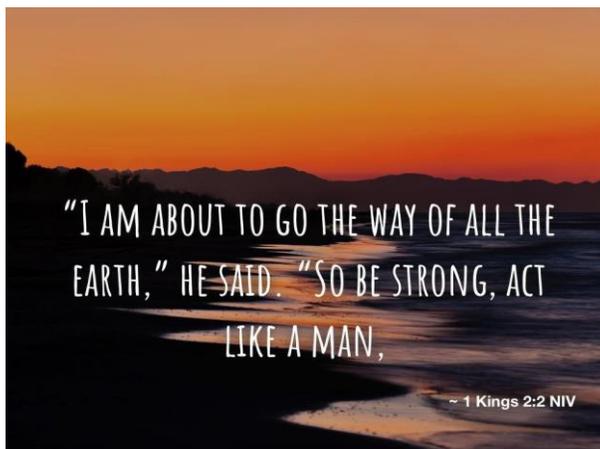
That's my challenge for us all this morning - is to pass the baton on to others - to entrust our love for Jesus and the Gospel of Jesus to others who can in turn pass the baton on to others.

3rd "passing the baton" on looks like recognizing we all die - that's in v2 and vv10-12 of 1 Kings 2.

Conclusion - Recognizing we all die (1 Kings 2:2, 10-12)

- We read in vv10-12 - after David gave this advice to Solomon - David died and was buried in Jerusalem
- He reigned 40 years - 7 years in Hebron and 33 years in Jerusalem and Solomon takes the throne

[PowerPoint 5-1 Kings 2:2]



- But look what David says in v2 **"I am about to go the way of all the earth"** - in other words David is going to die
- This is a result of the fallen broken world we live in - which began with Adam and Eve's sin -which brought death into the world
- **David's death is a reminder that we are all going to die**
- **David passes on his advice to Solomon - so that Solomon's life is not wasted and to make sure his life counts - by acting wisely in kingdom matters**
- In the same way - our lives must count
- In the Bible stories of David's life; we see David warts and all (the good, the bad and the ugly of David). We can learn from David's life - his mistakes and failings are there - so we don't make the same ones.
- Despite David's failures and weakness, he is a man after God's own heart and David dies with His relationship with God, intact. That's must be our goal too.
- But - what legacy are we leaving to our children? To our grandchildren? To those coming after us?
- What would the people who know us say about us at our funeral?
- Would they say, we loved and followed Jesus.?
- Would they say we were a man or woman after God's own heart?

Let's pray...