

## I GO THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH

### 1 KINGS 1:1 – 2:2

^^^^^^

~ ***Our Spiritual Safari rolls on*** in this report straight out of Samuel into the Books of Kings. Kings is the second of three double books: 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. The three “double books” were originally one compilation; but was divided as we have them today by the Septuagint translators. So, first Kings is also commonly called the third book of the kings, and so on. The divisions were made, more or less, for the convenience of the readers and I, personally, think it was a good decision overall; but should be considered either as our safari approaches them, or in relation of king to prophet in any particular historical timeframe. The latter is likely the more edifying. Although the writer of this portion of the Bible is not known, we do know it was written while the first temple was still standing. Some believe Jeremiah to be the traditional writer; but modern-day scholars also assign authorship simply to “the prophets.”

The theme of first Kings is the “*Standard of the Kingdom*” - and the phrase “*as David his father*” occurs nine times. See, we’re following the line of David, and each subsequent king will be measured against David’s standard of relationship to God as determined and established by the True and Living Jehovah. Even though we have a human standard presented – which is not a very high standard – we’ll find king after king failed to attain even that low plane. There will be a few exceptions, but not many – and *MOST* of the kings are simply evil rulers. As we move through this book, we’ll discover it is a very sorry and sordid section of Scripture. It contains mostly historical facts revealing the decline, division of and ultimate fall of both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. There are very definite key verses in the Book of Kings, and they are as follows:

*2 Kings 17: 22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; 23 Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day ~*

*2 Kings 25: 21 And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land ~*

Alright, first Kings records the *DIVISION* of the kingdom, and second Kings will record the *COLLAPSE* of the kingdom. If we consider them together, we open with King David, but close with the king of Babylon. That's bad. This is the book of the rule of man over God's kingdom. The results of that rule are not going to be good, of course. See, the throne on earth *MUST* be in tune to the throne in Heaven if blessings are to come and spiritual treasures are to accrue unto God's people. Even so, man's wrongful schemes and epic failures can never overrule or overthrow God's prescribed plans and purposes!

The historical book of the Kings of Israel is a continuation of the narrative we began considering in Samuel; and, again, this could, and I believe should, be considered one book, from Samuel through Chronicles as our safari program follows. We have already seen the history of the nation Israel at the time of its greatest period of influence and prosperity under King David; and we'll follow through Solomon to the division, downfall and captivity – and exile – of both the northern and southern kingdoms. Samuel taught us the doctrine of the total depravity of mankind; Kings unlocks moral teaching designed to demonstrate the total inability of mankind to govern and rule himself and the world.

We read the final words and witnessed the final acts of David as king in our previous report; and, in this report, we find David senile on his death bed with the warmest woman they could locate in the land attempting to keep him alive. It's very difficult to conceive of David in this condition, and I doubt very many ever had this mental picture, but verse one is, actually, tragically sad. Seeing another son, Adonijah, take advantage of his father in that condition and make an abortive attempt to seize the throne; well, that's not God's plan – but the Lord allowed David to suffer though that, too. We don't get by with sin in this life, friends. David didn't get by with it; and if you are God's man, you won't get by in sin, either. Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap.

This report also brings more of the intrigue that marked David's life and family; and Solomon is anointed king by David. After Absalom was killed, David didn't seem too interested in his successor. He had, apparently, promised Bathsheba that Solomon would be king – but it seems he had long forgotten about that – and didn't care either way. I don't think many people ever seriously consider these sections of Scripture; most people think of David as a little shepherd boy with a slingshot. Others only remember David as a murdering adulterer. The critical Bible lessons are seemingly never learned. Well, our subsequent studies are extremely enlightening and interesting if they are examined properly. That means begin in prayer....

## **I**

***1 Now King David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat.***

***2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat.***

***3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.***

***4 And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not.***

***5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.***

***6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.***

~ This is the first record of Adonijah in any prominent connection; and the words "exalted himself" is extremely interesting. There is another verse of Scripture we can place on top of this one: "... *he that exalteth himself shall be abased.*" Well, we're going to findeth it worketh exactly that way for this boy of David's. This is one conceited and proud young man with an even higher level of narcissism in terms of self-regard. I think we see a cookie-cutter image of his brother Absalom. If David hadn't acted quickly, I think we would be seeing another rebellion against David in this chapter. We know David has a terrible reputation for a lack of discipline in the family. In the book of Samuel, an atrocious and disorganized royal family with a trademark of continual organized chaos as their code of arms came into view....

***7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him.***

~ Joab had been extremely loyal to David throughout his entire life. Suddenly, Joab seems fit to abandon that trust and loyalty to defect and follow Adonijah. Quite frankly, I feel I can understand his doing so, because he has to prepare for his future. Of course, David is very old and he's not taking any action towards appointing a new king; and is, once again, just giving a wink and a nod to another coup attempt and to Adonijah assuming the throne prematurely. I'm sure Joab thought David would die and Adonijah would seize power. I don't believe we should criticize Joab for protecting his best interests.

Naturally, Joab wanted to be on the right side when the time came to make difficult choices. None of the other sons were making any moves towards leadership and Joab, who had tremendous influence and power in David's court as his right-hand man, wanted someone in the line of David to assume authority. Although I doubt Joab would have permitted Adonijah to harm David in any way, I also believe Joab doubted Solomon would have the nerve to make a move against Adonijah in protest. What a picture.

To me, we have one extremely interesting power dynamic presented in this section of Scripture. Joab never imagined Solomon would be David's successor! My judgment is, as I have stated before, David didn't want

Solomon to be the next king; and I believe David had forgotten all about promising Bathsheba that he would make Solomon the next king. Absalom was David's choice for the throne but, of course, he's dead. So, I think David smiled at the move Adonijah made because he was likely very much the same as his brother Absalom, whom David loved tremendously....

***8 But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.***

***9 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:***

~ Having a party and feeding people is always a great way to garner support in the church, in politics, and even personally. So, Adonijah makes this festival to announce he is going to be their next king. It would seem by right of primogeniture, Adonijah would be in line for the throne. At any rate, he had a rightful claim to the kingship. We know Adonijah was older than Solomon. According to the laws of custom, the eldest son would have been the next crown prince. I'm sure many of the men in Israel were already following Adonijah, too. So, this is a very bold move to presumptuously send out invitations but not invite Solomon, Bathsheba, Nathan or any of the mighty men. Certainly, there was talk around the palace about David promising Bathsheba that Solomon would, in fact, be the next king. It seems everyone is simply ignoring that fact....

***10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.***

~ Adonijah conveniently leaves this group out of the picture because he knew Nathan and army leadership would side with Bathsheba. We should all recall the account of how Nathan guided David and Bathsheba through the awful period immediately following the murder of Uriah and the death of their first son. At this point, I believe David hadn't even spoken to Bathsheba in some time. It must have been a bit humiliating going to see

David to remind him about Solomon being king as Abishag was doing her thing for David. Awkward is an understatement.

Anyways, Nathan knows they must move fast now. He knows David is old and senile and it might already be too late. Again, as we move along, it will be revealed that David most definitely did not approve of Solomon being the next king. Our Spiritual Safari does not guess at the Bible, friends. For those who claim they have read it through, my advice is to read it again *AFTER* praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment this time. David had no stomach for what could and probably would happen between Solomon and Adonijah fighting for the crown....

***11 Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not?***

***12 Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.***

***13 Go and get thee in unto King David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?***

***14 Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.***

***15 And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.***

***16 And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldst thou?***

***17 And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.***

**18 And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not:**

**19 And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.**

**20 And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.**

**21 Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.**

**22 And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.**

**23 And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.**

**24 And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?**

**25 For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.**

**26 But me, even me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.**

**27 Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?**

**28 Then King David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.**

**29 And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,**

**30 Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.**

~ So, we know David is out of touch with reality; because, when he called for Bathsheba in verse twenty-eight, she was already right there in front of him. In verse thirty-two, he also calls for Nathan who was *ALSO* already there in his presence. The written structure in this section of Scripture has always been extremely intriguing to me. David doesn't say "our son" to Bathsheba; no, he says, "thy son!" This is another indicator David wasn't interested in Solomon being king; and I think David regretted having made the promise to Bathsheba so long ago – probably in the heat of a moment. I seriously doubt David and Solomon had anything in common, actually. We'll see that as we read on....

**31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord King David live for ever.**

**32 And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king.**

**33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:**

~ We learned in the Book of Judges the mule is the animal of peace that king's rode upon. We read in Revelation that horses always signify warfare. The riding of the four horsemen indicates extreme turmoil. Jesus rode into Jerusalem at the time of His crucifixion on a mule – a donkey; because He came the first time in peace offering Himself as our King. When the Lord returns to this earth, He's going to be returning in war to put down a rebellion, friends. I hear a whole lot of talk on this forum on which I teach saying, "... I wish Christ would return" and all that; well, if you're here



when He returns, you're going to find yourself in serious trouble. Why don't you take the time to actually learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely for a change so it can begin to actually mean something in your life? ~

***34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save King Solomon.***

***35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.***

***36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too.***

***37 As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.***

***38 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon King David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.***

***39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save King Solomon.***

***40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.***

***41 And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar?***

***42 And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings.***

***43 And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king.***

***44 And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule:***

***45 And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This is the noise that ye have heard.***

***46 And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom.***

***47 And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.***

***48 And also thus said the king, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it.***

***49 And all the guests that were with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.***

***50 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.***

***51 And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth King Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let King Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword.***

**52 And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.**

**53 So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to King Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.**

~ The horns of the altar in verse fifty-one signify the place of asylum and safety in the time in which we are studying. Adonijah should have fled to a city of refuge, but he is holding onto the strength of the Lord, as it were, nonetheless. Solomon is being more than fair at this point with his brother. An internal family rebellion was worthy of immediate death. Solomon gives Adonijah every opportunity to show himself loyal! Thankfully, a peaceful conclusion brings us into chapter two....

## **II**

**1 Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,**

**2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;**

~ It is a profound statement in verse two. The “way of the earth” is the way of man, friends. By man came death and death is coming upon all men because all have sinned. The sin Adam committed has been made over to you and me; and, if the Lord tarry, we’ll all go through the one-way door of death as a final result of our sin. That’s the way each of our safari’s will end - and it’s not pretty. We don’t see this depressing depiction displayed much today, because the human race can’t handle the stark reality of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way this modern world can deal with God on any level is to water Him down until He means nothing.

When David wrote, “yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...” He was *NOT* speaking about coming to his death bed. What David is saying is that the moment you begin to live, you begin to die! Someone

has said it like this: *“the very moment that gives us life begins to also take it away.”* When we start out through life, we begin going *DOWN* in a valley, friends; make no mistake about this. The further we travel, the more narrow it becomes – and at the end – is death. We’re *ALL* in that valley right now if you are reading this report. You might be in the prime of your life, but you could be dead before the sun comes up tomorrow morning.

Here, David is going the way of all the earth. David tells Solomon to ‘show thyself a man’ because Solomon was *NOT* showing himself as a man; actually, Solomon was nothing in the world but a little sissy. Jesus asked the crowd, concerning, John the Baptist, *“what did you go out to see – a man in soft raiment?”* See, those who wear soft clothing are the ones in palaces. John the Baptist was raised outside in the harshest of wildernesses. David lived in the dens and caves of the earth. Solomon wouldn’t survive five minutes in the wilderness. On a side note, have you ever noticed how pictures of Jesus always depict Him as semi-feminine? That’s just another reason I don’t like pictures of the Lord. He was a carpenter – He didn’t live in luxury. As a man, Jesus had callous hands and toned muscles; He wasn’t some soft and passive stature of a man we see in those ridiculous pictures.

Well, not only was Solomon brought up in the palace, but he was also raised in the *WOMEN’S* quarters of the palace. That might explain why he had a thousand wives. Obviously, women were what Solomon knew. David has now made him king and wants him to finally show himself a man. I don’t feel David expected it was going to happen, but I’m sure he hoped Solomon would be the best he could be. So, that’s the injunction we conclude this report with. Solomon is *NOT* like his father David; he is *NOT* like John the Baptist, and he is *NOT* like the Lord Jesus Christ. What Solomon is now is king of Israel; and we’ll attend the funeral of David in our next report, after he leaves nine legacies to Solomon. Those legacies are the only reason a glorious way was paved for Solomon’s kingdom, too, by the way – with the exception of one – which leads to Solomon’s downfall. Read ahead through chapters two and three after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then we’ll continue our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God ~