

ALL THE WICKEDNESS WHICH THINE HEART IS PRIVY TO

1 KINGS 2:2 – 3:5

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~ I was brought up in a Godly Christian American home; and I firmly believe I have my mother to thank for leading me to the Lord. However, there are many instances in which Bible knowledge is passed from generation to generation but, somewhere along the line, it becomes encrusted with distortions of the truth and perverted by unlearned misconceptions concerning Christ. In fact, unless we cling closely to the Word of God each day, there is a real danger of becoming Christian in name only. We have a lot of that going on today. The hallmark of such a one is when they begin to protest against such things as Christmas and Thanksgiving – and even Halloween. It's the number one indicator of a carnal Christian. That's why I encourage all of us to study the Word of God together with our family; and make an attempt to learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely. Even the best teacher has a teacher! The problem isn't Santa Claus, turkeys, ghosts or goblins – no, the problem is in your heart, friends. If your heart is right, then whether you eat, drink or *WHATSOEVER* you shall do, it will be done for the glory of God.

First Kings opened with David suffering and shivering on his death bed in our previous report; and he gave a final admonition to Solomon before he succeeded David on the throne. David had very little confidence in Solomon, and they were, from the record apparent, very far apart, personally. If there ever was a generation gap, this is it. Obviously, David wondered whether or not Solomon would show himself to be a man, because he had to charge him to do so. David was not overjoyed with Solomon, who had been raised in the women's quarters of the palace, becoming king. As we know, David was disciplined in the caves and forests, and he was a rugged outdoorsman who had lived in constant danger for decades; whereas Solomon knew nothing about war or leading an army to battle. The comfort and luxury of the palace didn't teach those things. The charge David gave in verse two of this chapter revealed much about his own character, too, by the way – because David was Solomon's father; but that's another report for another time....

1 KINGS 2:2 – 3:5

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II

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

3 And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

~ David urges Solomon to stay close to the Lord and close to the Word of God; and to take heed of the prophets who were prophesying. Very little attention is given in contemporary Bible teaching to the legacies David remanded to Solomon in this passage. Candidly, this section of Scripture is ordinarily ignored wholesale by modern theologians. Well, our study of King Solomon is going to be all about David's legacy that enabled Solomon to rise to power as a great king of the earth. Solomon is certainly one of the most familiar and well-known kings that have ever lived, to be sure.

Alright, David's first legacy was transferring the leadership of the nation Israel from the house of Saul in the tribe of Benjamin to the tribe of Judah; where the royal house of David was established. That makes this section of Scripture *all-important* to understanding prophecy, as we have already discussed in several various previous reports concerning the Davidic Covenant. Also, the Gospel of Matthew opens with the statement "*.... the book of the generations of the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of David....*" The angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus "*.... shall be great and sit upon the throne of His father David*" – Yes, friends, it's all-important to understand this section of Scripture properly, correctly and completely if we ever hope to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord.

As his second legacy, David established Jerusalem as the Holy City, and prepared the way for it to become the religious center of the earth at that time; as well as the national government capitol in the country of God's chosen people, the Jews. Of course, the city and His people are still called that to this day. When the Israeli's took the land in the six-day war, they

had no intention of surrendering Jerusalem. We know Jerusalem was David's favorite geographical area, and Solomon will beautify it by building the temple, which firmly established it as the religious center of the known earth at that time.

King David's third legacy is that idolatry was snuffed out completely, practically speaking; and he made the worship of Jehovah universal throughout the land. Naturally, that is a critical aspect of David's legacy. Fourthly, David made conquests of many surrounding nations. They all came under tribute to Israel, and to the reigning king of the nation. The borders were extended by David to Egypt on the south, to the Euphrates River in the north and east; and to encompass far more territory than at any other time in the history of the nation. For awareness, Solomon had nothing to do with any of that. We will finally see peace in the reign of Solomon, but it was continual warfare during the reign of David.

Our Spiritual Safari examined an oriental monarch named King David a bit more in-depth than I am comfortable with, frankly. He was a man who had a sizable harem; but, as we have clearly seen, God strongly disapproved of polygamy, as it was written in the Mosaic Law not to multiply wives. God *DIDN'T* and doesn't approve of the practice of polygamy – and we have examined it and the effects of that specific sin upon David's life ad infinitum. David experienced nothing but family trouble every time we turned the page in the Book of Samuel. The different sons from the different wives caused constant brawls, rapes and murder inside the palace and out. Polygamy resulted in nothing but woe and sorrow throughout David's entire life. We should note David's foreign marriages were just about *ALL* politically related. Solomon, on the other hand, will be carried away with foreign women. Those thousand wives will contribute directly to the division of the kingdom, too.

David was a poet and musician of the highest order and magnitude. He endeared himself to the people as the sweet Psalmist of Israel. We also know David did all the planning for the temple where the Ark of God was to be placed. The temple was designed to exalt the Lord and the worship of Jehovah; and to promote the religious life of Israel – although David was

not permitted by the Lord to build the temple – because David was too bloody of a man. Either way, it was David’s temple – not Solomon’s.

Another legacy David bequeathed to Solomon was uniting the twelve tribes as one. Although there were remaining remnants of rivalry between the ten tribes of the north and the tribes of Benjamin and Judah, which had been on-going since the days of King Saul, David turned over a united nation to Solomon. Moreover, there was never any question by any of the tribes about the location of the capital being in Jerusalem.

The last legacy David established for Solomon is that, at the time of David’s death, Israel was number one in the world concerning military might and prowess. The children of Israel had finally come to peace, and freedom prevailed as every man enjoyed his own vine and fig tree. The peace Solomon will enjoy during his reign was firmly and unquestionably established by David. So, Solomon inherited a tremendous wealth of materialism and power; and most of the credit that is normally attributed to Solomon is actually an heirloom of aristocracy! That should be a Bible lesson of epic proportions for all of us....

4 That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

5 Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that was about his loins, and in his shoes that were on his feet.

6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.

7 But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.

8 And, behold, thou hast with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

9 Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

~ Remember Shimei was the son of Saul who followed David as he fled from Jerusalem when Absalom attempted the insurrection. At face value, this seems like a vengeful spirit because David had promised Shimei he wouldn't kill him. Well, Shimei had proven himself a traitor again and again; but David had stood by his word. Now, that has all changed because Solomon had made no promises to Shimei; so, David tells Solomon to deal with him without mercy. David knew Shimei would continue as he had. Well, Solomon will do just that, but only after Shimei confirms he is a traitor and disobeys Solomon. And with that, we arrive at the death of David....

10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

11 And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

12 Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

~ I don't think we can read this passage with detecting a note of sadness. David had lived his life as a great man of God. Now, he is doing as he said he would when his first-born son with Bathsheba died. Remember, David knew the child would not come back – but he also knew that he would go to his son someday. Well, that day is today in our record. And that leaves Solomon sitting on the throne of power. There will always be a time of turmoil and trouble at the change of any dynasty or from one ruler to

another; and Adonijah hasn't given up his aspirations of being king of Israel by any means....

13 And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.

14 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.

15 And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.

16 And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.

17 And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.

18 And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

19 Bathsheba therefore went unto King Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.

20 Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; I pray thee, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.

21 And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife.

22 And King Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he is mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah.

23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

~ This request for Abishag from Adonijah may not seem like such a big deal at face value; but Adonijah was making another move toward the throne. Solomon may have been a sissy; but he wasn't a stupid sissy! Solomon sees right through Adonijah's ploy, and it results in execution – thus eliminating the most prominent contender, and possibly the rightful heir, to the crown. Adonijah was older than Solomon. From a governmental perspective, it was the only prudent action in this situation; albeit brutal and harsh, of course. However, it was necessary because there would have been repeated attempts to overthrow Solomon otherwise. So, while removing his adversary, Solomon is also going to remove the priest that advised him – and Joab – the captain of the army who had been so loyal to David but made a huge mistake backing Adonijah in chapter one. Remember, Joab had murdered Abner - and Absalom, too. See, if you live by the sword, you will die by the sword, friends. This also effectively ends the entire family line of Eli the high priest, whom God said would be snuffed out way back in first Samuel....

24 Now therefore, as the LORD liveth, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David my father, and who hath made me an house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.

25 And King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

26 And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.

27 So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

28 Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

29 And it was told King Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and, behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him.

30 And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.

31 And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.

32 And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.

33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

35 And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar.

36 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.

37 For it shall be, that on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head.

38 And Shimei said unto the king, The saying is good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

39 And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants be in Gath.

40 And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath.

41 And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again.

42 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word that I have heard is good.

43 Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

44 The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

45 And king Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever.

46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

~ So, with a thoroughly bloody chapter recounting an abjectly violent transitional period, all serious contenders against Solomon for the throne of Israel are effectively eliminated, and the house of Eli the high priest is brought to an end, fulfilling the prophecy of Samuel. Unfortunately, chapter three is where Solomon makes his first major failure; and the consequences are going to be quite painful for both him and the nation. Note Solomon's "affinity with Pharaoh" is *BEFORE* Solomon prayed to God for wisdom. This is another critically important episode in the life of Solomon to understand properly, correctly and completely when contemplating the kings of Israel. This is also another section of Scripture to which some Bible teachers, evangelists and theologians have never even opened the pages....

III

1 And Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh King of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.

2 Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.

3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

~ This leg of our Spiritual Safari ends in a time of seeming relaxation; but "offering sacrifices in high places" reveals a heathen and pagan worship

practice. Israel is *ALREADY* on the road back to idolatry; and Solomon hasn't even warmed the throne up. Make no mistake, friends, Solomon loved God – but *NOT* with the love for the Lord and His Law David had. Solomon has no compunction offering a sacrifice on heathen altars. Candidly, he shouldn't have been offering anything in Gibeon. This reveals that Solomon's love for the Lord didn't result in much obedience. That disobedience results in a divided Israel as Solomon's legacy. See, friends, it just happens to be important to understand the Bible properly, correctly and completely if we are going to profess a belief in it.

One last item our safari study must address in this report is how God appeared to Solomon in a dream. If God appears to you in a dream and asks you a question – please let me know. Otherwise, God is *NOT* appearing to *YOU* in dreams – or *ANYWHERE* – except in His Word. Don't forget that. If you had a spirit speak to you outside of the Bible, it may have been – but it was *NOT* the Holy Spirit; because the Spirit of God doesn't operate that way. Solomon didn't have the complete Word of God and revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ at the time we are studying, of course. You do. That makes all the difference in the world.

Solomon does, however, make a very wise choice answering God. We'll see his answer in our next report. I hope you read all of the Bible text carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment because, although this is a dry, factual and historic section of the Word of God, it is very important to understanding the entire Bible properly, correctly and completely. That's the reason I am spending so much time with it. By the time we complete Chronicles, you'll be worn out with Old Testament, my beloved. See, there are many other things I could do besides write and edit these reports all day – but I am preparing them only for *YOU* – and no one else. I hope they are as dear to your heart as they are to mine ~