
1-2 Kings

Lesson 2

Study Notes¹

1 Kings 2:1-46

Review

- As noted in our first study, Kings picks up where Samuel leaves off: at the conclusion of King David's reign.
- The first four chapters recount Solomon's rise to the throne and his early accomplishments.
- In chapter 1, despite the attempts by Adonijah, Solomon is anointed as king. This fulfills God's promise to David found in 2 Samuel 7:12-13.

What did we learn in last week's lesson? Who are the major figures and how do they fit into the narrative?

- Now, in chapter 2, David gives a final charge to his son and Solomon's reign is fully established.

Study

1. In your reading of this chapter, were there any key words, phrases or verses that stood out in your mind?
2. In David's final charge to Solomon, he exhorts his son to both righteousness of character (2:1-4) and to the execution of justice (2:5-9). What do you think Christians today should learn from this charge?
3. As David's life comes to a close, what strengths and weaknesses can you identify in his leadership as evidenced in the first two chapters of Kings?
4. Why did Adonijah ask for Abishag to be his wife? What were the implications?
5. How might believers today honour or undermine godly leaders?

¹ Questions and notes are drawn from numerous sources. A full bibliography will appear when I get around to completing it!

6. Do you consider Solomon merciful or harsh with his enemies? Why? How does this fit within the context of God's sovereignty?
7. Compare David's words of instruction to those spoken by God to another of Israel's leaders. (Joshua 1:6-9)
 - What similarities do you see in these instructions?
 - How were Joshua and Solomons circumstances similar? Different?

Whole-Bible Connections²

Davidic Covenant. In 2 Samuel 7:12-16, God had promised David that one of his offspring would rule on his throne, that he would build a house for God, and that God would establish his kingdom forever. First Kings 1-2 establishes God's fulfillment of this promise with the accession of Solomon, who will eventually build the temple (1 Kings 5-8). Nonetheless, Solomon's disobedience leads to the Lord's discipline and the division of the nation (1 Kings 11:9-13). Ultimately, 1-2 Kings leaves the reader with an expectation of a future Davidic King who will usher in an everlasting kingdom and rule over God's people in righteousness. In the New Testament, the apostles proclaim Jesus Christ as this promised Davidic King, and his resurrection and ascension to heaven function as his royal enthronement (e.g., Acts 2:29-36, 13:32-37). Today Jesus is reigning from his heavenly throne and advancing his kingdom, and one day he will return to consummate his everlasting kingdom in the new heaven and new earth.

Personal Reflections

- In what ways did this week's study encourage you?
- What challenges are you facing in regard to your walk with God?
- How might you be able to put into practice some of the things learned in our study?

² Dane Ortlund "Knowing the Bible - 1,2 Kings"