

No Heroes Amongst Sinners

1 Kings 1-2

Introduction

In First Kings 1 and 2, the passage emphasizes the importance of trusting God's way and following His expressed will. It encourages readers to discern God's will in their lives and make the decision to follow it wholeheartedly. In the introduction to the story of the Kings, David is in the latter years of his life, and a crisis has arisen in the kingdom. Despite the kingdom being the kingdom of God, it looks like any other kingdom with assassinations, murders, insurrection, and squabbling. The writer explains why Israel is in such a mess hundreds of years later: they would not consider their ways, whether they were in alignment with God's will.

1. Consider Your Way.

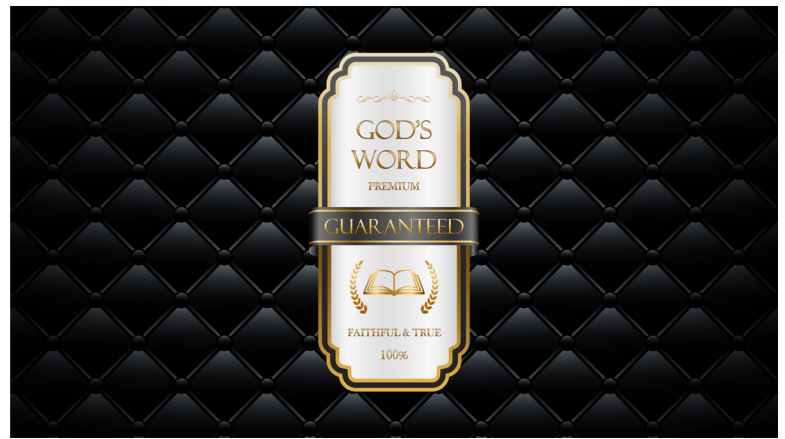
2. Consult His Word.

3. Consecrate Your Walk.

The story begins with the introduction of Abishag to illustrate the idea that people should not accept the conventional wisdom of the world. Adonijah is then introduced as the one hosting a feast at the "crawling place". Adonijah has all the qualifications to be the next king of Israel according to conventional wisdom, as he is the oldest son of David, has natural abilities, and has many people in his court. However, God has already decreed that Solomon is to be the one to take the kingdom from David, making Adonijah's campaign for the throne futile. Joab appears to be a faithful companion to David, but his true intentions are revealed when he twice mercilessly kills people.

David's fear of man led him to make decisions that seemed wise from a human perspective but caused many problems. This left Solomon with the task of dealing with the consequences of David's actions. Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, requests that he allow Adonijah to marry Abishai, which Solomon refuses due to the political ramifications. Solomon has Adonijah and his accomplice, Joab, killed. By exiling Abiathar, Solomon fulfills a prophecy to the house of Eli. He gives Shimei strict boundaries to inhibit his ability to whip up a resistance force. Shimei breaks the agreement, resulting in his death.

David, in a state of decline, is manipulated by his



courtiers to recognize Solomon as the next king of Israel, despite his lack of experience. This is in accordance with God's will and is celebrated with great joy, causing the earth to "split open" with the sound of the celebration. The people of Israel are overjoyed at the chosen King and they are filled with renewed hope. David blesses Solomon as the new King and charges Solomon to rule with justice and righteousness. The people of Israel acclaim Solomon as their King, and the whole nation celebrates with great joy and gladness.

David gives Solomon his special words of wisdom, encouraging him to keep the Lord's charge, obey His commandments, and walk in truth with all his heart and soul so that there will always be a man on the throne of Israel. He advises Solomon to take heed to their ways and consult God's word to do what is true so that their hearts will follow God's precepts, statutes, and judgments. He encourages Solomon to trust that God's way is perfect and set the kingdom's course accordingly. Solomon eventually comes to the end of himself where he realizes he needs something else and God meets him, transforming his life.

Conclusion

Solomon's reign as king of Israel is presented in the first chapters of Kings, where he is seen to be assassinating people in order to secure his kingdom. However, David's advice to Solomon is to take heed of his ways and to walk before God in truth, trusting in God's word to ensure a successful reign. When Solomon reaches a breaking point, God appears to him and offers him a listening heart so that he can discern what is right and wrong. In today's world, it can be easy to get overwhelmed by the lies, corruption, and mess of life, but God calls us to surrender and follow Him, loving mercy and walking humbly. This is the only way to truly be set apart from the world and experience the glory of God.