

1 Kings 2:1-10

Common English Bible

David's time was coming to an end. So he commanded Solomon his son, ²“I'm following the path that the whole earth takes. Be strong and be a man. ³Guard what is owed to the LORD your God, walking in his ways and observing his laws, his commands, his judgments, and his testimonies, just as it is written in the Instruction from Moses. In this way you will succeed in whatever you do and wherever you go. ⁴So also the LORD will confirm the word he spoke to me: ‘If your children will take care to walk before me faithfully, with all their heart and all their being, then one of your own children will never fail to be on the throne of Israel.’ ⁵You should know what Joab, Zeruiah's son, has done to me and what he did to the two generals of Israel, Abner, Ner's son, and Amasa, Jether's son. He murdered them, spilling blood at peacetime and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet. ⁶So act wisely: Don't allow him to die a peaceful death. ⁷As for Barzillai's sons from Gilead, show them kindness. Let them eat with you. When I was running away from your brother Absalom, they came to me. ⁸Now as for this Shimei, Gera's son—a Benjaminite from Bahurim—who is with you, he cursed me viciously when I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, ‘Surely I won't execute you with the sword.’ ⁹But you don't need to excuse him. You are wise and know what to do to him. Give him a violent death.”

¹⁰Then David lay down with his ancestors and was buried in David's City.

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Common English Bible

These are David's last words:

This is the declaration of Jesse's son David,
the declaration of a man raised high,
a man anointed by the God of Jacob,
a man favored by the strong one of Israel.

²The LORD's spirit speaks through me;
his word is on my tongue.

³Israel's God has spoken,
Israel's rock said to me:

“Whoever rules rightly over people,
whoever rules in the fear of God,

⁴is like the light of sunrise
on a morning with no clouds,
like the bright gleam after the rain
that brings grass from the ground.”

⁵Yes, my house is this way with God!
He has made an eternal covenant with me,
laid out and secure in every detail.

Yes, he provides every one of my victories
and brings my every desire to pass.

⁶But despicable people are like thorns,
all of them good for nothing,
because they can't be carried by hand.

⁷No one can touch them,
except with iron bar or the shaft of a spear.

They must be burned up with fire right on the spot!