



## The Future Belongs to God (1 Kings 1:5-35) Truth to Power (Part 1)

### THE BIG IDEA

Our world acts as if history is written by the winners and the future belongs to the bold, but the truth is that our future belongs to God.

### OPENING

- What comes to mind when you hear someone say, “*History is written by the winners*”?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- First and 2 Kings are filled with stories of Israel and Judah’s kings (and a few queens) doing terrible things to try to come out on top. Although these Old Testament books are called 1 and 2 Kings, the real focus is on the prophets. According to Peter Leithart, “*Jews have long classified the book of Kings among the Former Prophets, and this understanding, though more subtle than the typical Christian one, is suitable to the book’s contents. The book of Kings is prophetic in the obvious sense that it centers attention on the words and works of Yahweh’s prophets.*”<sup>1</sup> How does this reframe how we understand these books?
- Read 1 Chronicles 17:11-13 and 22:7-10. According to this account, who was God’s choice to succeed David as King? How did Nathan know this?
- Read 1 Kings 1:6-10. How did Adonijah strategize in his effort to become the king? What allies did he find?
- Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. What was required of Solomon for God to bless his reign as king and his descendants to follow him?

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<sup>1</sup>Peter Leithart, *1 & 2 Kings Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible* (Brazos Press, 2006), p. 17.



- Read 1 Kings 11:1-4. How well did Solomon keep his covenant promises to God? What was God's response to Solomon's failure in 11:10-13?
- Read 1 Peter 2:21-23. How does the life of Jesus contrast with the conniving and strategizing of the kings we read about in 1 and 2 Kings? According to v. 21, how should Christians view his example?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- What's one area of your life where you're tempted to try to force your way? Where is this temptation coming from? What fears underly this temptation? Spend time in prayer this week, asking God to expose the root of this fear and surrender it to God.
- Pray this prayer each day this week:  
*My Lord God,  
 I have no idea where I am going.  
 I do not see the road ahead of me.  
 I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
 nor do I really know myself,  
 and the fact that I think I am following your will  
 does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
 But I believe that the desire to please you  
 does in fact please you.  
 And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
 I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
 And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
 though I may know nothing about it.  
 Therefore will I trust you always though  
 I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
 I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
 and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.<sup>2</sup>*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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<sup>2</sup>Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude* (Farrar, Straus and Girou, 1999).