



Meaning Strengthen Your Heart And Behave Like A Man 1 Kings 2:2

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ABSTRACT

The behavior of God's people in interpreting words often results in misinterpretation, so that this causes mistakes in interpreting certain words in the Bible. However, this is only a misunderstanding, because the Bible is never wrong, but human thinking does not reach the contents of the Bible. This study aims to provide a deeper understanding so that readers can understand the meaning of words like "man" in Book 1 Kings 2:2, so as not to misinterpret these words. This study uses qualitative methods, namely interviews and literature. The informants in this interview were: 1. Erika Dame Simorangkir 2. Sondang Lubis 3. Bintahan Harianja, M.Th. 4. Bill Dubois 5. Tiorinta Siboro. Thus, the conclusion of this research is "behave like a man" in Book 1 Kings 2:2 is a figurative word for Solomon to act decisively as a leader.

KEYWORDS

Act like a man, Interpretation, 1 Kings 2:2.

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INTRODUCTION

The Book of Kings is a historical continuation book recorded in 1 and 2 Samuel. Key ideas contained in the Book of Kings are kings – good and evil, the prophetic voice as the conscience of the kingdom, worship – Yahweism vs Baalism, Covenant blessings (repentance and restoration) and curses (punishment and exile). The Book of Kings continues the story of the royal office that began in Samuel, and its main purpose is to record the "failure of the covenant" of the united Hebrew nation and divided kingdom. The Bible story indirectly balances the emphasis on God's sovereignty and the reality of human freedom and asserts that God was just in abandoning His people because of the failure of the kings of Israel and Judah to live up to the ideals of the Davidic covenant. The Book of Kings sums up the history of Israel that comes from the family of Abraham. The Book of Kings documents the history of the covenant of Israel from the death of King David and Solomon's

succession as king to the fall of the kingdom that broke apart from Israel and Judah.

The Nas that we have chosen is David's final advice to his son, especially in relation to loyalty to the agreement. At that time, Solomon had to honor God like what David had done, and he had to act like a man, with this he would succeed in becoming king. This can guarantee that the descendants of David will continue to occupy the throne.

From the statement "I will walk in the way of all that is mortal", it shows that David's assignment to Solomon can be considered as an exhortation to obey the law of Jehovah, and an exhortation to deal wisely with David's enemies and friends according to their due rewards. Furthermore, the statement "strengthen your heart and act like men", this shows that the enforcement of justice and order must exist among state officials. The task of a king or a man is to shepherd his people guided by the Torah Law. So that David's message to Solomon is useful for us, where we are in a leadership

position, may God help leaders to become true and just leaders, based on the fear of God, and this refers to souls like men who are firm, just, and responsibility, which is to be a leader like God wants.

METHOD

This journal has been prepared using systematic methods and steps to make it easier for writers to complete the journal. In this journal, the author uses qualitative methods. Qualitative method is a research method that refers to aspects of view/opinion or way of understanding social society in general. Namely by interviewing several sources, namely 1.E.S, 2.S.L, 3.B.H., 4.B.D, 5.T.S.

The author also uses the literature method by first collecting study materials and materials from various sources, namely books and journal articles related to 1 Kings 2:2. In addition to collecting materials from books and journal articles, the author also obtains material materials through material that has been explained by the supporting lecturer, Mr. Sandy Ariawan in the Biblical Theology course. After this material is collected, it is then studied and provides conclusions from the results of the analysis of the study material.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Literature Review

1 Kings 2:2 "I will walk the path of all that is mortal, so strengthen your heart and act like a man"

In the report in 1 Kings David is described lying on his deathbed while delivering his last messages to Solomon. He advises, "Strengthen your heart and act like a man (verse 2)". He commissioned Solomon to administer justice to Joab, to avenge Shimei who lustfully

cursed him, and to repay the benevolent sons of Barzilai.

The meaning of "Behave like a man" means to be brave and strong. Dare to lead, dare to act, dare to make decisions, dare to defend justice for the nation. The definition of a leader here is someone appointed by God as "His representative" to oversee God's people; where it is God's will that is done in the task of leadership.¹ Not only that, a man must have the character of Christ. The character of Christ is one that is animated, sacrifice, patient, polite, courageous and peaceful. The character of Christ must be a reference for believers in Christ in acting and interacting with fellow humans and the surrounding environment.² The life of a Christian youth who also has Christian morals will be seen in several matters that concern him, namely, Christian faith, norms, conscience, law, and sin in his youth.³

Because if Solomon was weak and not brave, he would compromise with sin, which in the end he would be far from God. A Christian leader is someone by God to lead; he leads with and through a christlike character; and demonstrate the functional capabilities that enable effective leadership to occur. The main task of the leader is to influence God's people to carry out God's plan. David was a leader who was able to influence other people and his own son, Solomon (I Taw. 28:8-10).⁴ This verse explains that Solomon must be able to rule with firm efficiency. Solomon is a leader who can be exemplified in his leadership that relies on God, so this must be applied in Christian leaders to achieve a leadership that is pleasing to God. However, there are often some leaders who do not follow Solomon's leadership style so they follow the desires of the flesh and worldly desires which cause weakness during their leadership. This is what will be discussed in the following article in order to evaluate the mistakes made by today's Christian leaders.⁵ As well as for Solomon to carry out his obligations as king to replace his

¹ Silalahi, A. (2022). PERAN KEPEMIMPIN BAPAK DALAM PEMBINAAN SPIRITAL KRISTIANI. *Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial dan Humaniora*, Vol.1, 4-5.

² Marpaung, R. PAHLAWANKU TELADANKU PENGUATAN KARAKTER DAN ETIKA MENUJU GENERASI MUDA TANGGUH. *JURNAL JURDIKBUD*, 2, 286-290.

³ Simanjuntak, E. R. (2022). GENERASI MUDA YANG BERKARAKTER DAN BERMORAL: WHY NOT? *Ta'rim: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Anak Usia Dini*, Vol.3, No.4, 64-65.

⁴ Tubagus, S. (2020). Makna Kepemimpinan Daud Dalam Perjanjian Lama. *Jurnal Kepemimpinan Kristen dan Pemberdayaan Jemaat*, Vol 1, 56-57.

⁵ Padang, A. M. (2023). ANALISIS KEUNGGULAN DAN KELEMAHAN KEPEMIMPINAN RAJA SALOMO TERHADAP PEMIMPIN KRISTEN. *Pediaqu: Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial dan Humaniora*, Vol 2, 862-875.

father, namely David, so that he can act justly, wisely, be responsible for Israel and be faithful to the Lord God, where God created him to fulfill his life's calling to glorify Him in all aspects. In Christ, God calls him to be his co-worker through all good and righteous deeds (cf. Ephesians 2:10, Titus 2:14).⁶

Solomon proved that he was a very wise young man even before receiving supernatural wisdom from God. The scriptures report, "And Solomon showed his love for God by living according to the statutes of his father David. This means, desiring to give life to Him, and to offer all to serve Him, and to live with Him, and to die at His bidding.⁷ Solomon showed his cunning and wisdom by making treaties with neighboring nations, and in this way greatly strengthened his work.

Before he died, David gave his advice to Solomon so he could act like a man, meaning a man. Because in reality it was men who were stronger than women and at that time the leadership of a king was more in the hands of men meaning men were more powerful. It is men who are generally known as leaders, not whiny ones who are better known to women, so that Solomon's kingdom can become strong. A man who cannot bear responsibility will live in a very shameful way.

Because men are leaders who set an example. David's advice was for Solomon to have the courage to bear what he needed to bear as king. David will die soon and Solomon cannot depend on David, meaning that he can act alone and can make his own decisions that can be of benefit to others but not to the detriment of one party to the decisions he makes. He had to be strong and begin his calling to become a king even without David's presence. Because David, as we have explained, was old and was nearing his death. So that Solomon wanted David to be a leader and serve his people by having characters that are pleasing to God. To be able to serve well, it is necessary to have characters that are easily submissive to Christ, meaning that in every

aspect of a person's life reflects a good servant and truly surrenders fully to Christ.⁸

B. Interview

1. Resource person: E.S (GSM at Simorangkir Siatas Barita)

Sources' Answers to 1 Kings 2:2;

From nas 1 kings 2:2 it is very clear that this is an order or an advice, namely David's advice to his son Solomon. Which is advice to strengthen and obey or obey what David taught. As a concrete example, as a child, children must carry out their obligations faithfully to the advice of their parents. If we have carried out our obligations as children, what is instilled by parents will have a very positive effect on life as a child. This phrase or verse is very influential for his child. Because this is a request or request from King David For God so that his child will be blessed.

2. Resource person: S.L (Student of IAKN Tarutung, Theology Study Program)

Sources' Answers to 1 Kings 2:2;

The implementation of this text is: the meaning of behaving like a man means having courage, the attitude that a believer must have is being on guard. Being on guard means having vigilance, being ready to face a situation that comes suddenly or unexpectedly. The Bible describes this watchful attitude as a night guard or patrol officer, where he must also have courage because thieves or bad people can come at any time. Men are also synonymous with strength. The word strong means having endurance, not easily broken, not easily shaken, not easily affected, firm in your stance, firm in your faith. firm in the faith, not tolerating or compromising with things that deviate from the truth.

3. Resource persons: B.H (Pastor)

Sources' Answers to 1 Kings 2:2;

In general, it is a martriahan culture from Israel, during the Jewish period, it means that men are put forward. Men are considered to be the seat of

⁶ Marbun, E. R. MEMILIH UNTUK MENJADI DEWASA PEMANTAPAN PENDIDIKAN AGAMA KRISTEN. Khatulistiwa: *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sosial Humaniora*, Vol 2, 136-140.

⁷ Tarigan, S. I. (2022). Hukum Kasih Sebagai Fondasi Hidup Kristen Sejati. *Jurnal Teologi Cultivation*, Vol.6, No.1, 143-160.

⁸ Manullang, L. d. (2022). PEMBENTUKAN KARAKTER GENERASI MILENIAL: UPAYA MENDIDIK DAN MENDEWASAKAN. *Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial dan Humaniora*, Vol.1, No.4, Hal 65.

government, not only to lead the Israelites, but also to lead the household. That was David's last message when he was about to enter the world. mortal, he will leave his message to his son Solomon. So if you say act like a man, it means that even if you lose a father, he must take an expert. to be patriotic, to be a hero who leads his nation to move forward even though his father is gone. So the male symbol is a symbol of a leader who can't be a crybaby, can't be upset, can't be heartbroken even though he's broken up, even if he's left by his girlfriend, but he must stay at the forefront to be a pioneer, clear vision and mission so that in the end all the people will be brought to a change, so that men are symbols of leadership, may no longer look back, but move forward.

4. Resource person: B.S (Lecturer of IAKN Tarutung)

Sources' Answers to 1 Kings 2:2;

The advice given by King David to his son Solomon, must behave like a strong man, but if you have to be like a woman it doesn't matter, because it won't be seen as bad, and if you have to behave like a woman it doesn't matter.

5. Resource person: TS (Student of IAKN Tarutung / PAK Study Program)

Sources' Answers to 1 Kings 2:2;

A message that is not only about how he behaves but especially about loyalty to God. Faithful to God is what we need to do in our lives. As believers, we are invited to hold fast to Him as the source of our life. In Christ's work on earth, the Pharisees and scribes, even though they had heard His teachings, and seen His works, still asked for a sign. As believers, do we still ask God for a sign, ensure that He will help us, determine that if God helps, He will SURELY do what we want. Are we still like that? We believe not because of the evidence we demand from Him, but because we know: He is a God who deserves to be worshipped.

CONCLUSION

A. Conclusion of Literature Review

We can conclude from a review of the literature that the meaning of "Act like a man" means to be brave and strong. To be brave in leading, to be brave in acting, to be brave in making decisions, to be brave in defending justice for one's nation. In 1 Kings 2:2 this explains that Solomon must be able to rule with firm efficiency. And so that Solomon carries out his obligations as king who replaced his father, David, so that he can act justly, wisely, be responsible for Israel and be faithful to the Lord God. David's leadership teaches that Christian leadership is not just about charisma or great personality, because it can also be just appearance. Therefore, leadership must be based on what God says to leaders, not conscience to make leaders.⁹

Solomon proved that he was a very wise young man even before receiving supernatural wisdom from God. Because in reality it was men who were stronger than women and at that time the leadership of a king was more in the hands of men meaning men were more powerful. Men were generally known as leaders, not whiny. Christian leadership is the ability given by God to a person or group to guide, direct and move according to God's plan and purpose, namely to be a blessing to the world and its environment. (Saragih, Jahanos. 2009. p. 118).¹⁰

B. Interview Conclusion

We can conclude from interviews in the field from the book 1 Kings 2:2 "Act like a man" is the same as the literature review that we got and we made that if it is said to act like a man, it means even if you lose a father, he has to take an expert. So nowadays, he says he's a real man, and men can't be whiny, men have to keep thinking ahead, men have to be patriotic, become heroes who lead their nation to move forward even though their father is gone. So, the male symbol is a symbol of a leader who can't be a crybaby, can't be upset, can't be heartbroken even though he's broken up, even if he's left by his girlfriend,

⁹ Yulianti, H. (2022). PERANAN PAK DALAM MEMBENTUK MORALITAS PEMUDA. Pediaqu: *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sosial Humaniora*, Vol1, 129-133.

¹⁰ Saragih, D. (n.d.). Implementasi Kepemimpinan Kristen. Garuda .

but he must stay at the forefront to be a pioneer, clear vision and mission so that in the end all the people will be brought to a change, so that men are symbols of leadership, may no longer look back, but move forward.

C. Conclusion

That the discussion on 1 Kings 2:2 from books and journal articles with interviews conducted with informants about the meaning of the word "behave like a man" is the same. That the meaning of "Act like a man" here is that men are generally stronger, braver, firmer, more authoritative to become leaders than women. Because the position of a man is actually higher than a woman. A man cannot be weak in leading. Because he is the leader.

Thus, it can be concluded that the meaning of the word "Act like a man" in 1 Kings 2:2 is a figurative word for acting decisively, with authority, like a wise leader to lead his people. Because at that time women were still below men's position. Women only served at home. For ordinary people without understanding theology, it might be assumed that Solomon's words were as if David was not a real man. Why should David tell Solomon to act like a man when Solomon is clearly a man. But that's just a misunderstanding, because the Bible can never be wrong, but our thinking doesn't reach the contents of the Bible in this case especially what we discussed 1 Kings 2:2. So that we can conclude that there is no misinterpretation in 1 Kings 2:2, but there are misunderstandings from readers and listeners who read and hear about this verse.

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