



Advent Day 13 (written by Deb Bakken)

Crown

1 Kings 2:1-4

When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a care to Solomon his son. "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with

all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' " (NIV 1984)

Have you ever played "King of the Mountain?" In this game, one person has to keep all the other players from knocking him off the top of the mountain. It's fun to be king in this game—for awhile. It doesn't take too long, though, for it to become quite tiring to fight off everyone. God promised David's family they could be kings forever—if they would walk faithfully before God with all their heart. The trouble was, everyone else, it seemed, was trying to drag them down. Friends, family, and enemies all tried to tempt David's sons away from following God faithfully. We are in a game of "King of the Mountain" every day. The devil, the world, and our sinful self try to drag us down and make us unfaithful to our Savior. It is tiring to fight them off. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit in God's Word can we get the strength we need to stay on top. Some of David's descendants "fell off the mountain." David's sons no longer rule. God always kept a few faithful children, so that the Forever-King Jesus could one day come and rule his people.

Prayer: Thank you for keeping your people faithful. Help us to walk faithfully before you with all our heart. Amen.