12. Joseph then removed them from his knees, and bowed down before him to the ground. 13. Then Joseph took the two of them, Ephraim with his right hand to Israel’s left, and Manasseh with his left hand to Israel’s right, and he brought them close to him. 14. But Israel stretched out his right hand and placed it on Ephraim’s head, even though he was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, crossing his arms, though Manasseh was the first-born. 15. He then blessed Joseph, saying, “The God before whom walked my fathers Abraham and Isaac, the God who has shepherded me ever since I came into being until this day—16. the angel who has rescued me from all harm—bless these lads! Through them let my name and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac [ever] be recalled, and let them greatly multiply within the land!” 17. When Joseph saw that his father had placed his right hand on Ephraim’s head, it seemed wrong to him, so he took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head onto the head of Manasseh. 18. Joseph said to his father, “Not that way, Father! This is the first-born; put your right hand on his head.” 19. But his father refused, saying, “I know, my son, I know! He too shall become a people, and he too shall be great. Yet his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.” 20. So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you shall [the people of] Israel give [their] blessing, saying, ‘May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.’” And he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.
When the time came near for David to die, he gave this instruction to his son Solomon: 2: “I am going the way of all the earth; you must now be strong. Show yourself a man 3 and keep faith with the Eternal your God, walking in God’s ways, carrying out the laws, commandments, rules of justice, and directions of God—as written in the Torah of Moses—so that you may succeed in all that you do and whatever you turn to. 4 In that way the Eternal will see to it that the promise about me comes true. As God said, ‘If your children are careful how they live, and walk before Me faithfully with all their heart and soul, one of your descendants will always rule Israel.’ 5 Moreover, you know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s army, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether, killing them, shedding war-blood in peacetime, and spilling war-blood upon the girdle hitched over his loins and upon the sandals on his feet. 6 Do what you know is wise, and do not allow his gray head to descend in peace to Sheol. 7 But be kind to the family of Barzillai of Gilead, and let them be among those who eat at your table, because they showed me friendship when I had to flee from your brother Absalom.