

1 Kings 1 - Thursday, August 20th, 2015

- Having completed the books of first and second Samuel we now begin in the book of Kings, which at one time was one book.
- Though divided into two books, Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles are a continued narrative of the history of the nation of Israel.
- It's believed that Jeremiah authored the books of first and second Kings, which records about 400 years of Israel's kingship.

1 Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. 2 Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm." 3 So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. 4 The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

- If you're anything like me, and I suspect you are, it's a little difficult and sad to see David in this condition now that he's older.
- I suppose it's like parents who are older and unable to care for themselves, but you still want to see them as young and strong.
- I would much rather see David my hero as a king with a sling or a sword in his hand, than I would this young woman in his bed.

- It's important to understand that this would not have been inappropriate in any way; rather, it was medicinal back in that day.
- One has suggested that David's servants in verse two are actually David's personal physicians who are prescribing this for him.
- Be that as it may, it's becoming quite clear that David is on his deathbed, as it were, which explains what we'll see happen next.

5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)

- If this seems like a deja vu all over again, that's because it is. Here we go again with another son of David launching a rebellion.
- It's interesting to note some of the details we're given in verse 6, about the father son relationship that David had with Adonijah.
- Namely, it was not a good one, such that, David never trained or disciplined his son, and that he was also very good-looking.

- Whenever the narrative provides us with details like this there's a reason for it. There are things that all of us can learn from it.
- One of the things that we can learn is how important it is for fathers to train and discipline their children in the things of the Lord.
- I don't know if it's possible to overstate just how critical this one principal is and the book of Proverbs among others bears it out.

Proverbs 13:1 (NKJV) — 1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 13:18 - Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV) — 24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Proverbs 15:5 (NKJV) — 5 A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent.

Proverbs 19:18 (NKJV) — 18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

Proverbs 29:17 (NKJV) — 17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

- Another thing we can learn from this, though not easily seen at first read is outward beauty is not always an asset but a liability.
- When a man or woman is handsome or beautiful it has the tendency to puff them up with pride, they become full of themselves.
- It seems that Adonijah never having been disciplined and being very good-looking would form the perfect storm of rebellion.

- There's one more detail that I would like to point out and it's where we're also told in verse six that this was Absalom's brother.
- The reason I point this out is because Adonijah, as the younger brother of Absalom, is sort of following in his brothers footsteps.
- The point being is that younger siblings have the propensity to repeat the folly of their older siblings, which is what we see here.

7 Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah. 9 And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zohelath, which is by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants. 10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

- For those of you who remember Absalom's rebellion this is textbook in the sense that when one rebels they must also recruit.
- Notice however we're told that Nathan the prophet, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David did not join in the rebellion.
- To me this speaks to the character and loyalty of those possessing discernment, and as such, they know when it isn't the Lord.

- I would suggest that godly men and women possess such discernment by virtue of how only God promotes and exalts not man.
- In other words, men like Nathan the prophet, and David's mighty men know that Adonijah is not the one that God has anointed.
- Men like Adonijah are quintessential self-promoters. They exalt themselves and jockey for positions God has not called them to.

Psalms 75:6-7 (NKJV) — 6 For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another.

Proverbs 25:6-7 Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; 7 For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

11 So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it? 12 Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. 13 Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' 14 Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words." 15 So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.) 16 And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?" 17 Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' 18 So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it. 19 He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited. 20 And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. 21 Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders." 22 And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. 23 So they told the king, saying, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. 24 And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? 25 For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest; and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, 'Long live King Adonijah!' 26 But he has not invited me—me your servant—nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon. 27 Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?" 28 Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. 29 And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, 30 just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day." 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!" 32 And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king. 33 The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. 34 There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah." 36 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. 37 As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David." 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon. 39 Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" 40 And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound. 41 Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, "Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?" 42 While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news." 43 Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king. 44 The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king's mule. 45 So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard. 46 Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom. 47 And moreover the king's servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, 'May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.' Then the king bowed himself on the bed. 48 Also the king said thus, 'Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!' " 49 So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way. 50 Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. 51 And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'" 52 Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." 53 So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

- While this may be a genuine repentance on the part of Adonijah, in spite of being shown unspeakable mercy he tries this again.
- Actually, in the next chapter he will make another move for the throne, and Solomon will have him executed. Also, David dies.