

David
Part 26
“David’s Successor”

1 Kings 1

When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. **2** So his attendants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.”

3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. **4** The woman was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no sexual relations with her.

- This is very close to the end of David’s life. He is now so old we get a picture that he was most likely bed ridden, unable to keep warm and separated from the daily tasks of leading the nation.
- With David was unable to keep warm a young virgin is given the task of laying next to the king for the sole purpose of keeping him warm.
- In studying this; commentators say - In the ancient world this was common and proper and was a recognized medical treatment.
- My thought is: this is proof that of all David’s wives none of them were as incredible as mine. Abigail would definitely keep me warm, and if not she would build a bonfire under my bed before allowing something like that.
- I appreciate that scripture makes it clear in Vs. 4, “the king had no sexual relations with her”, guarding David’s integrity.

The fact the first four verses of this chapter opens showing David’s condition brings light to the need for a successor to be chosen and positioned. David’s lack of tending to this detail didn’t help the situation and left room for unrest and possible bloodshed.

Vs. 5-10

5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, “I will be king.” So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. **6** (His father had never rebuked him by asking, “Why do you behave as you do?” He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

7 Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support.

8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David’s special guard did not join Adonijah.

9 Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king’s sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, **10** but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

- 2 Samuel 3:2-5 it lists the first four sons of David (**Amnon, Absalom, Chileab and Adonijah**). We know the first two are dead. Chilean the third son was either also died or was unfit to be king because he is never mentioned. Adonijah after him would be considered the natural heir to the throne. But even as David was not the oldest son of Jesse; the throne of Israel was not left only to the rules of succession; God determined it’s king.”

Vs. 5

Now Adonijah... put himself forward and said, “I will be king.”

- This thing of self promotion never seems to go well in God’s economy.

Jesus said in

Luke 14 NIV

8 “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.

Psalms 75 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.

- The story of Adonijah seems all too familiar to Absalom's. Adonijah like Absalom gathered for himself chariots and horses, along with fifty men to run ahead of him. Like Absalom, Adonijah was also handsome and persuasive since he gathered a crowd to follow him including Joab and Abiathar the priest.

Vs. 6

(His father had never rebuked him by asking, “Why do you behave as you do?”

- This is another indicator that David seemed to avoid certain responsibilities as a father with his own children that would later come back to haunt him.
- Scripture allows us the opportunity to learn from David not only the what we admire about him, but also what we don't want in the areas he lacked.

Proverbs 29:17 NKJV

Correct your son, and he will give you rest;
yes, he will give delight to your soul.

Proverbs 19:18 NLT

Discipline your children while there is hope.
Otherwise you will ruin their lives.

- At the end of David's life when he hoped his children would be a blessing and refreshing to him, Adonijah only caused him grief.

Vs. 11-21

11 Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king, and our lord David knows nothing about it? **12** Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. **13** Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'

14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and add my word to what you have said."

15 So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him. **16** Bathsheba bowed down, prostrating herself before the king.

"What is it you want?" the king asked.

17 She said to him, "My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the Lord your God: 'Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.' **18** But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it. **19** He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant. **20** My lord the king, the

eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. **21** Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his ancestors, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals.”

- In verses 22-27 (Nathan comes in and echoes the words of Bathsheba)
- Nathan the Prophet is in a familiar place with David. He's faced with the responsibility to tactfully and convincingly communicate with the king.
- The kingdom, again, is in great jeopardy and time is of the essence. This situation not only dictates the future of Israel but also the future of those who chose one side or the other. For those who willfully did not follow Adonijah they could lose their lives.
- When David receives the news of what's going on he has to think in his heart, I can't believe this is happening again.

David, once again on his death bed, experiences disappointment from three people he has greatly trusted, Adonijah, Joab and Abiathar the priest. In this moment David reminds himself of God's faithfulness in Vs. 29.

Vs. 28-37

28 Then King David said, “Call in Bathsheba.” So she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

29 The king then took an oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, **30** I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place.”

31 Then Bathsheba bowed down with her face to the ground, prostrating herself before the king, and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

32 King David said, “Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” When they came before the king, **33** he said to them: “Take your lord’s servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. **34** There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ **35** Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah.”

36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it. **37** As the Lord was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!”

- Once again Adonijah’s attempt to the throne was marked with only blood sacrifices, but David calls for the anointing to be placed upon Solomon.
- Adonijah may have had a lot of things going for him. He was handsome, he was the heir to the throne, he had the support of some. But David still had the anointing, David had the Authority, and David had the understanding of what was needed.

At the coronation of Solomon there were a total of three working together in cooperation: The Prophet, The Priest and the King.

- These three are still needed today in God’s appointment and ordination over a person’s life. Jesus is the one who fulfills all three; the Prophet, Priests and King and he is present to anoints every person that is called and appointed to serve him.

David said there 5 things needed for Israel to recognize their new king:

- **He must Ride in on my mule.**
 - **Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him.**
 - **Blow the horn.**
 - **Say, “Long live King Solomon!”**
 - **He shall come and sit on my throne.**
-
- It was understood that what belonged to the king was forbidden for anyone else. For anyone other than the King to ride David’s mule, or sit on David’s throne without the king’s approval would have been sentenced to death.
 - Now all Israel knows David has relinquished his place as king of Israel and Solomon is now the king.

38-43

38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon mount King David’s mule, and they escorted him to Gihon. **39** Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, “Long live King Solomon!” **40** And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, “What’s the meaning of all the noise in the city?”

42 Even as he was speaking, Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest arrived. Adonijah said, “Come in. A worthy man like you must be bringing good news.”

43 “Not at all!” Jonathan answered. “Our lord King David has made Solomon king.”

Vs. 40

And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

- David knew the order...
- David knew the Prophet, Priest and King were needed...
- David knew, as when the Prophet Samuel chose him, the horn of oil and the anointing was needed...
- David knew the entire nation needed to be alerted by the sound of the trumpet...
- David also knew they needed to be a unified agreement and declaration from the people, "Long live King Solomon"...

When all these things took place the ground shook with the sound.

Perhaps this is a foreshadowing of the coming of the Lord.

- Things will be in order and the Bride will be made ready.
- The Father, Son and Holy Spirit will all three be present.
- The Anointed one will appear
- There will be a sound of a Trumpet Call. 1 Thessalonians 4:16
- The ground will shake as the dead in Christ will rise and we will be united with the Lord in the air.

Vs. 49-53

49 At this, all Adonijah's guests rose in alarm and dispersed. **50** But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar. **51** Then Solomon was told, "Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and is clinging to the horns of the altar. He says, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

52 Solomon replied, “If he shows himself to be worthy, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he will die.”

53 Then King Solomon sent men, and they brought him down from the altar. And Adonijah came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon said, “Go to your home.”

- Adonijah knowing that his life was at risk ran to the altar. It was unlawful for anyone to be killed at the altar of the Lord so Adonijah took hold of the horns of the altar as a means of refuge.

Solomon warned Adonijah:

Vs. 52 ...“If he shows himself to be worthy, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he will die.”

Solomon gave Adonijah a limited reprieve. This went against all custom in the ancient world. It was common, even expected, that when a new king assumed the throne, he would execute every potential rival.

Solomon not only let a potential rival live, but one who openly tried to subvert his reign. This was a large measure of grace and mercy on the part of Solomon, and a good start to his reign. (Guzik)

- Solomon’s grace continued until Adonijah asks Solomon for Abishag the young virgin who tended to King David.
- This was Adonijah’s attempt to gain something belonging to the king. Solomon calls for Adonijah’s to be killed as a result.

Closing:

In **2 Samuel 12** - Nathan the Prophet confronts David after his affair with Bathsheba and having Uriah her husband killed.

Nathan by the Holy Spirit goes to David and tells him a story about a rich man who had many lambs taking the one lamb belonging to a poor man.

Vs. 5 “David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! **6** He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

- The word of the Lord to David is you are the man. Then the Lord says **Vs. 10** Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ **11** “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you.
- The consequence David suffered as a result of his impulsive disobedience (With Bathsheba) and willful disobedience (having Uriah murdered) caused him both immediate and lasting consequence.
- God promised that from that day forward David would know violence and bloodshed among his own family members.
- David demanded fourfold restitution from the rich man in Nathan’s parable. That’s exactly what God required from David; four-fold restitution:

The First - Bathsheba’s child

The Second - Amnon

The Third - Absalom

Fourth - Adonijah

- As we reflect over the OT account of David and the consequences that he suffered for his own sin. I am reminded of the blessing that we have in Christ; because he bore the curse of sin for us. When

Jesus went to the cross he took the cruel punishment that our sins deserved.

Galatians 3:13 NIV

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

Isaiah 53 NIV

Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Communion