

King David

Twilight

1 Kings 1

October 6, 2019 am

HDBC

Please open Bibles to 1 Kings 1. We are now moving toward the end of David's life, and with that, the end of this series. But, before David's death, there were some things that he needed to take care of. Every era in a person's life is important, birth and early childhood, youth and young adult years, middle age and older age. And then there is that time when death is becoming imminent.

Twilight is that time at the end of the day when the sun has dipped below the horizon, but the darkness has not completely come. Last moments of the day. We can also speak of the last few months or years of a person's life as twilight of life. Time when life is slipping away, but has death has not yet come.

This morning, we look at the twilight of David's life. He was close to death but still had some things to do. I suppose the closer one gets to death the more pressing certain things become; words that need to be said, forgiveness that needs to be offered, assurances that need to be made. 1 Kings 1-2 deal with David's last days. So, let's look at the twilight of David's life. As we do, we can learn some things that will help us as we experience the twilight of our own lives.

1. The Condition of David (1-4)

Read vs 1. Sad words about a man who's courage, vitality and faith saw him through some big ups and downs. Now, to see him in this condition is really sad. But it also points to our own future.

Unless you die young, you will experience the frailty that comes during the twilight of your life. Not only was David **old and advanced in years**, but he was cold. He could not get warm. The one who had spent cold nights watching his father's sheep now lay under layers of blankets, but could not shake the cold that ran deep into his body. This is the man who thundered onto the field of battle against Goliath with a sling and some stones, and his faith in God. But now . . . he struggles just to stay warm.

Makes me think of Paul in the N.T. when he wrote his last letter to Timothy. He encouraged him to bring his Bible, his books and his coat. And he implored Timothy to **come before winter**.

Many of us have seen that in people we love. I watched my father go through that. When he was young he could withstand cold nights with ease. But when he entered the twilight of his life, he could not get warm.

Just to be clear, we did not do for my dad, what they did for David. They found a beautiful young virgin and brought her to cuddle with David in order to make him warm. The Bible makes it clear that there was nothing sexual about this relationship.

2. The Rebellion of Adonijah (5-10)

Recognizing that his father would soon be dead, the oldest living son of David took the initiative to declare himself to be the successor to the throne. Joab and Abiathar the priest supported him. **Read the text.**

The stage is set for another civil war. Once again, a son of David has declared himself to be king. Once again the people are divided in their loyalty. Some leaders went with Adonijah. Others including the prophet, Nathan and David's mighty men, rejected Adonijah as the new king. They recognized that the true king had not spoken. This was not David's doing.

Interesting note in verse 6. David never challenged Adonijah. Two other things of note in that verse. He is declared to be a handsome man and he was born after Absalom. Both of those statements tie him to Absalom. Both set themselves up as kings of Israel in opposition to their father's authority and will. These two brothers had much in common. Both had a rebellious spirit that ultimately led to their deaths.

3. The Intervention of Nathan (11-27)

After a long absence in Scripture, Nathan's name pops back into the narrative. He was the faithful friend who was willing to wound David with important words of confrontation after his adultery with Bathsheba. Here, once more, we find him stepping into David's life to offer needed advice.

Nathan needed to warn David about Adonijah. But, he needed to be strategic in doing so. He was wise enough to realize that the one person who had David's ear more than any other was Bathsheba. So, he confided in her first. **Read verses 11-12.**

He instructed her to tell David what was happening and to encourage him to act before it was too late. If Adonijah was allowed to remain king, it would put her life and Solomon's life in jeopardy. They would be threats to the new king and he just might have them executed.

He was aware that David had already made a commitment to Bathsheba that Solomon would be the one to succeed him on the throne. Now, that commitment is being challenged. She needed to speak now, before Adonijah consolidated his power. Time was important. She could not delay.

So, she approached her husband (15-21). She reminded him of his pledge to anoint Solomon as king. Then she revealed what Adonijah had done. She also revealed that Joab and Abiathar had given their support to Adonijah. This was a serious threat to his will and needed to be addressed.

While she was wrapping up her argument, Nathan also entered the king's presence. This was orchestrated for maximum affect. He repeated what Bathsheba had just revealed. He then asked the question that he already knew the answer to. **Read verse 27.**

4. **The Appointment of Solomon (28-53)**

Upon hearing from these two reliable witnesses, David knew what he needed to do. He called for Bathsheba to come back into his presence. He repeated his vow to her that Solomon would be the next king.

He then called for Solomon to be officially anointed as the next king of Israel. He chose three specific men to carry this out. Nathan, the prophet. Zadok, the priest. Benaiah, the warrior (one of David's mighty men). So, think about this, among those four men you had a prophet, priest, warrior and king. Jesus fulfilled all of those roles.

They were to blow the trumpet and declare ***long live king Solomon!*** Then

they were to bring him and place him on David's throne. They did. The momentum quickly shifted to Solomon as word spread like wildfire that David had spoken . . . and Solomon was the new king.

When Adonijah got word, he was mortified. So were the guests at his coronation party. Note **verse 49**. They quickly scattered, leaving their leader defenseless. He sent word to Solomon that he feared for his life. Solomon, replied that if he was a **worthy man**, he would be untouched. But, if he was **wicked** he would indeed die. Later that day they brought him to Solomon. He fell on his face asking for mercy. Solomon, in an act of mercy told him to go to his house. He was granted a reprieve.

Spoiler alert . . . he would not take advantage of that mercy. He would soon push Solomon's button one time too many and it would cost him his life.

So, what can we take away from this passage. Many of us will experience our own twilight times. What can we learn from David's experience? Here are four **takeaways** to remember when you think about your own twilight time.

1. **Expect the body and mind to get weaker**

Just realize that our bodies get weaker as we get older. Don't let this surprise you or overwhelm you. Know that it is part of the natural process in this broken world. I want to challenge you to **gracefully accept** that you will have some weaknesses then that you don't have now. It happens to all of us who are given the opportunity to live long enough. Do what you can to stay strong and healthy, but know you are only slowing down the inevitable.

2. **Anticipate that some around you will act selfishly**

As you get closer to death, there may be some who will begin to act in a way that they will benefit the most from your death. I can't think of anything that must have hurt David more, than seeing that one of his sons just could not wait for him to die. There may be some around you who begin to think and act as if you are already gone. Or as if they can't wait. This is sad and wrong, but is sometimes part of this broken world. Shame on children and heirs who grieve their aging parents by acting as if they cannot wait until they die so they can get their inheritance or benefit from their death. Shameful!

3. Accept the help of trusted friends.

Because you will be weaker in body and maybe mind, you will need the help of others. David's mind and body were not as sharp as they once were. He needed the advice and help of others, and he was willing to receive it. He did not assume that he knew everything, or even enough. He listened to the good advice of those whom he trusted.

4. Do the necessary things

Fascinating to see the change from the beginning of this chapter to the ending. It **opened with a feeble, frail David**, just trying to get warm. You get the picture of a man who is no longer in charge. He is simply waiting to die and trying to stay comfortable.

Then he learns that there are some necessary things that only he could do. There were some things he was responsible for. In learning this, it seems to energize him, motivate him and give him renewed vigor. It was his responsibility to **name a successor**. That was not to be left to chance, to the first one to act, or to the one who could raise the biggest army. It was his decision, his job, his responsibility. And, he needed to do it before his death.

So, if you are given a twilight time of your own, think about the necessary things that need to be done. Things that only you can do. Specifically things that can impact the future. Do you . . .

Need to offer forgiveness to someone who has offended you.

Need to seek forgiveness of someone whom you have offended.

Need to share Jesus one more time with a friend or loved one.

Need to establish a will that will impact the kingdom in a positive way.

Need to tell someone just how much they mean to you.

Need to secure your own salvation by trusting Jesus as Lord.

Why wait? You may not have a twilight time, like David. If you will take care of those things now, you can focus on staying warm! We will all face death.

We need to do the necessary things for the future of those we leave behind, but also for our own future. Faith in Jesus is the key.