

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 53 – “Who Shall Sit On The Throne?” – 1 Kings 1:1-53

I. SUCCESSION OF THE THRONE

- Seeing that there was no pattern for accession established yet in Israel, this section will provide the answer to the question, *who shall sit upon the Throne?* Or better, *who will succeed David?*
- David's first three children, Amnon, Absalom, and the unnamed child from 2 Samuel 12 are dead, so Adonijah is next in line for the throne.

A. THE INTERRUPTION OF DAVID BY ADONIJAH v1-10

1. DAVID'S FEEBLENESS v1-4

- Because of David's failing health, and his inattention to the matters of the Kingdom, the question of a successor rises urgently to the surface.
- David's infirmed condition is emphasized by the calling of Abishag to nurse the king and serve as his bed-warmer.

2. ADONIJAH'S FORWARDNESS v5-10

a) Adonijah's Character v5-6

- As the King's condition weakens, Adonijah, David's oldest surviving son, moves forward to take the throne.
- An aggressive, self-possessed man, Adonijah “*exalted himself*” (lit. “lifted himself up”), by emphatically declaring, “*I will be king! I will reign!*” cf. 2 Sam. 15:1 - Absalom-like!

b) Adonijah's Council v7-8

- Adonijah is able gain the support of a some influential members of his father's government, including Joab and Abiathar. cf. 2 Sam 2:13; 1 Sam. 22:20; 1 Ki. 2:26-28

c) Adonijah's Coronation v9-10

- Adonijah celebrates his self-appointment with a select group of supporters at En-Rogel, south of Jerusalem. 2 Sam. 17:17

B. THE INTERVENTION OF NATHAN AND BATHSHEBA v11-31

1. NATHAN'S CONSTERNATION v11-14

- Sensing the approaching peril, Nathan engages Bathsheba to join him in a counterplan to secure the throne for Solomon.

2. BATHSHEBA'S COOPERATION v15-21

- Bathsheba enters before David (and Abishag) and informs the King of Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne.

3. NATHAN'S CONFIRMATION v22-27

- As planned, Nathan arrives to affirm the facts, and skillfully questions if David had done something in secret.

4. DAVID'S CONCLUSION v28-31

- Reiterating his promise, David moves forward without hesitation to enthrone Solomon before the people. cf. 1 Chron. 28:5
 - > David repeats his promise to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother.
 - > Solomon is to be placed on the king's own mule. 2 Sam 13:29
 - > Zadok and Nathan will anoint him, showing Divine approval.
 - > Solomon will be placed upon David's throne as a coregent.
 - > Benaiah, one of David's mighty-men will stand-by, showing enthusiastic military support. cf. 2 Sam. 23:30; 1 Chron. 27:14

C. THE INTERACTION BETWEEN SOLOMON AND ADONIJAH v32-53

1. THE SUCCESSION IN SOLOMON v32-40

- The placing of Solomon on the throne, and the transition of power from father to son, signals the beginning of the Davidic dynasty. cf. 2 Sam 7:7-17; 2 Chr. 21:7; Is. 9:7
- This is the royal lineage that would ultimately lead to the Promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. cf. Matt. 1:1; Rev. 22:16

2. THE SUBMISSION OF ADONIJAH v41-53

a) The Rehearsing of the News v41-48

- As Adonijah's feast is finishing, Jonathan arrives with the news that everything has turned against them.
 - Jonathan is Abiathar's son. cf. 2 Sam 15:36; 17:17,20

b) The Dispersing of the Crowd v49-53

- It is now, *every man to himself* as Adonijah's supporters quickly scatter! Finding himself alone and in fear, Adonijah flees to the altar, lays hold of its horns (projecting corners) and begs for his life. cf. Ex 21:12-14; 27:2
- In mercy, Solomon spares his life, with the stipulation that Adonijah he prove himself to be a "*worthy man*;" meaning that he renounce any rival claim to the throne, cease from any seditious acts, and whole-heartedly support Solomon's rightful rule over the Kingdom.
- Unfortunately, Adonijah is unable to maintain his worthy walk and afterwards makes a second attempt to gain the throne by requesting to marry Abishag; a request that will result in his being put to death. cf. 1 Kings 2:13-25

II. INTERCESSION AT THE ALTAR

- Since God has made Jesus Christ, David's greater Son, "Lord," the enthroning of any other is pure rebellion. cf. Php. 2:9-11
- Man's only hope is to "*lay hold of the horns of the altar*" and to place himself under the saving grace of God which wipes away sin and therefore, absolves punishment. cf. Heb. 13:10-12
- Once forgiven, man is to walk worthy before The LORD. cf. Eph. 4:1