

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 1

We just completed Haggai –

And we are now going to do 1 Kings for the next few months.

Now, 1,2 Samuel, 1,2 Kings and 1,2 Chronicles are historical books that detail the reign of the Kings of Israel from King Saul until the time of captivity.

So pretty much, we have the story of the rise and fall of Israel

But besides history – we also have a lot of theology in these books – especially when it comes to the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises and the sovereignty of God as He uses nations for His purpose and the holiness of God as He brings correction to His people that turned their backs on Him.

So in our study this evening - we are now going to see the transition from David's reign to his son.

The question will be – who will it be??

The interesting thing about this question is that it will be something we see over and over again in 1 Kings -

Let's pray...

David is old now –

2 Samuel 5:4 tells us that David became king when he was 30 years old and that he reigned as king for 40 years.

So he is in his 70's

And when one reads 1 and 2 Samuel – we find out that David has lived a very long flourishing life filled with tremendous highs but also some very difficult lows and everything in between.

So here at the beginning of verse 1 – we find David on his death bed and as we will see, there is uncertainty in the kingdom as to who will take over the throne.

[1Ki 1:1-53 NKJV] 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.

So David's servants can't seem to keep David warm – they tried throwing blankets on him – to no avail

They couldn't simply turn up the thermostat in the palace -

And so they came up with an idea – they brought this beautiful young woman, Abishag, to take care of him.

She was there to be a nurse to David.

And I had you note that David did not become intimate with her – it was just a custom that was done during this time.

By the way – she is going to be an important figure later on in our study -

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.)

Adonijah is the 4th oldest son of David

Amnon was the oldest – but he was killed by Absalom after Amnon raped his sister.

Kileab or Daniel was the second oldest – but the scriptures never tell us what happened to him.

Absalom was #3 and he was killed by Joab when he made himself king

So Adonijah is #4 –

He is the oldest surviving son - In his eyes, he should be the next one to reign, making him the typical (next in line) for the throne.

And knowing his father is dying - he feels it's time to do something – it's time to make his move. So he assembles a bunch of guys to declare to the people “look at me – your king”

But notice that the author mentions that David had never rebuked him.

- When studying the life of David - This is one of the weaknesses or failures in David's life – his parenting.
- He doesn't deal with the rebelliousness of his kids.

And as a consequence of his inactions – here is David in his deathbed and another son is rebelling against God.

Why did I say that he is rebelling against God?

Turn to 1 Chron 22

[1Ch 22:7-9 NKJV] 7 And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; 8 "but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great

wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. 9 'Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.

So Adonijah was not walking with the Lord – he was rebelling against God's will.

David was going to suffer the consequences of his son's rebellion.

And church – that is what spiritual warfare is

People's rebellion against God – and who takes the brunt of it?

We do.

We suffer the consequences of people's sinful decisions.

7 Then he (Adonijah) conferred with **Joab the son of Zeruah and with **Abiathar** the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.**

Adonijah begins to feel out the people – see where they stand.

And he finds two people that had been loyal to David.

Joab and Abiathar

Now, Joab was David's general for most of his reign. He did not leave David's side when Absalom rebelled against him and proclaimed himself king.

Abiathar was a priest that was by David's side for the longest time

And here – both of them are going with Adonijah.

I don't think they were interested in betraying David – I think they were simply opportunists – they knew David's time was almost up, they were only looking out for themselves.

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 Zoheleth, 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.

So as Adonijah is ready to make pronounce himself king – he throws a bar be que

And we are told that these individuals were not at the bbq

In fact – when you look at verse 10, they were not even invited.

Church –

Where there is conflict between two people, there are always going to be people like Adonijah who will want to recruit us to pick their side, to join them and agree with them that it was the other person's fault.

They will try to persuade us by bad mouthing the other person.

Why do they recruit us? Because they think that they can persuade us.

But as a believer – we want to be like Nathan

We don't want to be invited to the bbq to pick a side.

Everyone wants us to pick a side

Joshua – when he was scoping out Jericho in Josh 5 – he comes face to face with
Jesus (Commander of the Lord's army)

What does Joshua ask?

Are you on our side or the enemies side?

The response – Neither – I come here representing the Lord

Nathan was not invited because Adonijah knew he was not going to budge.

They knew his reputation

Nathan wasn't going to be sad that he didn't invited.

Paul tells us in Rom 16:19 – but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

So – we don't get ourselves in drama.

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."

God moved Nathan to do something about what was going on.

So he tells Bathsheba – “Go to David and tell him what is going on – and then, I will come and conform what you said”

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?"

So Bathsheba and Nathan go to David and tell him what Adonijah is doing.

Now, why did they both go?

Why couldn't Bathsheba go by herself or Nathan?

Because what Adonijah was doing was treason and the penalty for treason is death – and according to the law, **[Deu 19:15 NKJV] 15 "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**

Jesus says the same thing – Matthew 18:15-16 as he stresses the importance of two people dealing with problems among believers

Paul speaks about the same thing - **[1Ti 5:19 NKJV] 19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.**

This is why we don't gossip – you have an accusation against anyone – bring another witness who is going to corroborate your accusation.

There needs to be confirmation by two independent witnesses because the bible has established it.

And if someone shows up with an accusation that is not established by two or three witnesses, the bible says, reject them.

Now – in verse 27 –

Nathan asks David the question – You told me that the Lord told you that Solomon was going to be king –

Nathan asks, 'Have you changed your mind and didn't tell me?'

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.

Notice, the very men who were not invited to Adonijah's bbq in verses 8-10, are now called by David.

They miss the bbq but will now be used and therefore honored by 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.

Why does David have Solomon placed on his mule and not his horse?

Symbolism –

The mule or the donkey was the animal of peace and also of servants

The horse was the animal of conquest

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a ?

donkey – because He offered Himself as the Prince of Peace.

He is coming back on a horse

But to the cross, he came on a donkey

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.

I had you highlight verse 40

And next to it you write – this is always the result of the will of God

What was the will of God – Solomon to be the next king

And what was the result of the will of God

The people to go up

Played the flutes and rejoiced greatly

So Solomon is anointed -

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.

Before the BBQ was even finished – the people in Adonijah's camp heard the news that Solomon had been anointed king – and upon hearing the news, the abandoned Adonijah.

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."

So when everyone bails on Adonijah –

He runs and grabs hold of the horns of the altar.

[Exo 21:12-14 NKJV] 12 “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. 13 “However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered [him] into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee. 14 “But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

In the Old Testament – if someone was accused of manslaughter – meaning they accidentally or their actions inadvertently resulted in someone getting killed – they could go to a city of refuge to await trial or they could grab onto the horns of the altar.

This was a way to ask for mercy

That is why in Exodus – it says, if it was premeditated – he or she cannot ask for mercy, they must pay for what they did.

Adonijah is asking for mercy from Solomon.

Keep in mind that if Adonijah had become king – he would have executed Solomon along with Bathsheba – he would have taken away anything may cast doubt on his right to be king.

So there was already premeditation on Adonijah’s heart.

But Solomon still shows mercy to Adonijah

in order for that mercy to continue, it would need to be seen that Adonijah had altered his behavior in light of it.

Any further attempts to cling to a position from which he could make a claim on the throne would prove he abused the mercy he'd been shown & death would soon follow.

Solomon lets him go but he is going to keep his eyes on him.

And we will find out next week whether or not Adonijah abused the mercy that was bestowed upon him.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.!



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