

Study #24

1 Kings 1:1-2:12

Text:

- v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm ever when they put covers over him.
- v. 2 So his servants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."
- v. 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.
- v. 4 The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.
- v. 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.
- v. 6 (His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)
- v. 7 Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support.
- v. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.
- v. 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 men of Judah who were royal officials,
- v. 10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard of his brother Solomon.
- v. 11 The Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king without out lord David's knowing it?"
- v. 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.
- v. 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?'
- v. 14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said."
- v. 15 So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.

- v. 16 Bathsheba bowed low and knelt before the king. “What is it you want?” the king asked.
- v. 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.’
- v. 18 But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.
- v. 19 He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and he invited all the king’s sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.
- v. 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.
- v. 21 Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals.”
- v. 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived.
- v. 23 And they told the king, “Nathan the prophet is here.” So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.
- v. 24 Nathan said, “Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne.?
- v. 25 Today he has gone done and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king’s sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’
- v. 26 But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite.
- v. 27 Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”
- v. 28 Then King David said, “Call in Bathsheba.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before him.
- v. 29 The king then took an oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble,
- v. 30 I will surely carry out today 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.”
- v. 31 Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face to the ground and, kneeling before the king, said, “May my lord King David live forever!”
- v. 32 King David said, “Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” When they came before the king,
- v. 33 he said to them: “Take your lord’s servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.
- v. 34 There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’

- v. 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.”
- v. 36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.
- v. 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!”
- v. 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David’s mule and escorted him to Gihon.
- v. 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!”
- v. 40 And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.
- v. 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?”
- v. 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.”
- v. 43 “Not at all!” Jonathan answered. “Our lord King David has made Solomon king.
- v. 44 The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites, and they have put him on the king’s mule,
- v. 45 and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon. From there they have gone up cheering, and the city resounds with it. That’s the noise you hear.
- v. 46 Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.
- v. 47 Also, the royal officials have come to congratulate our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make Solomon’s name more famous than yours and his throne greater than yours!’ And the king bowed in worship on his bed
- v. 48 and said, ‘Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.’”
- v. 49 At this, all Adonijah’s guests rose in alarm and dispersed.
- v. 50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.
- v. 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.’”
- v. 52 Solomon replied, “If he shows himself to be a worthy man, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he will die.”

- v. 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."
- chap. 2:v. 1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.
- v. 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man,
- v. 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,
- v. 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'
- v. 5 "Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me - - what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.
- v. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.
- v. 7 "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.
- v. 8 "And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses to me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord; 'I will not put you to death by the sword.'
- v. 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood."
- v. 10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.
- v. 11 He had reigned forty years over Israel - - seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.
- v. 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

Introduction:

Richard J. Foster the author of Celebration of Discipline has written a brand new work that has just been released called Money, Sex & Power: The

Challenge of the Disciplined Life. He says: (pp. 4&5) ‘Thomas a’Kempis: “It is vanity to seek riches that shall perish and to put one’s hope in them. It is vanity also to aspire to honors and to climb to high degree. It is vanity to follow the lust of the flesh.”

Themes of the Centuries

Money, sex, and power are three of the great ethical themes that have concerned human beings throughout the centuries. It was these three things that Dostoevsky dealt with so sensitively in his masterpiece “The Idiot”. In this novel the Christ-figure, Prince Myshkin, is thrust into a culture obsessed with wealth, power, and sexual conquest. But the prince himself has no pride, no greed, no malice, no envy, no vanity, and no fear. His behavior is so abnormal that people do not know what to think of him. They thrust him because of his innocence and simplicity, yet his lack of ulterior motives causes them to conclude that he is an idiot.

Skillfully Dostoevsky weaves the themes of money, sex, and power through the story, contrasting the spirit of the prince with all those around him. Of him, the narrator notes, “He did not care for pomp or wealth, nor even for public esteem, but cared only for the truth!” In a letter, Dostoevsky himself said of the prince, “My intention is to portray a truly beautiful soul.”

The aristocratic society of Dostoevsky’s time could not comprehend an individual like Prince Myshkin, but then neither can modern society. Imagine Myshkin making a guest appearance in a television soap opera. The script writers would not know what to do with a person who had no desire for possessions, no craving for sexual conquest, no need for domination.

Of course, the real question throughout the novel is, Who really is the idiot? Perhaps the true fool is the person whose life is dominated by greed and power and sexual conquest.

Of course, Dostoevsky is only representative of a long line of individuals and groups who have given serious and sustained attention to the themes of money, sex, and power. Virtually every major thinker and every great movement have wrestled with these issues. The ancient monastic vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience were a direct response to the issues of money, sex, and power. Or think of the Puritans, who answered the question with their emphasis upon industry, faithfulness, and order. We can learn much by giving attention to their efforts.

Isn’t it ironic that these three things are left behind when we die.
Money Luke 12:19,20 – “And I will say...”

Sex Luke 20:34,35 – “And Jesus said to them: “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage.”

Power Philippians 2:9-11 – “Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

“Bring forth the royal diadem...”

1 John 2:15-17 – “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lust; but the one who does the will of God abides forever...)

1 Chronicles 29:28

“He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor.” Charles Swindoll calls this “the end of an era.” For forty significant years David has reigned as king over Israel. Although checkered with failure and periodic lapses into carnality, David’s rule was marked mainly by godliness and strength. The young shepherd lad matured into a gallant and handsome warrior, a model of determination, and a never-to-be-forgotten statesman who walked with God. In this study we find David old and perhaps physically stooped. He is facing that inevitable hour through which all must pass. Death is near and real, but so are the memories, so are the emotions. Surrounded by his son, the king-elect Solomon, and an assembly of loyal followers, King David dreams, rejoices, gives advice, prays, and finally dies, ending an era that would never again be duplicated in the annals of history.”

Acts 13:36

“For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep. He was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.”

When a man of God dies, nothing of God dies with him. And when a man of God dies, none of his principles dies.

David dies full of years, full of riches, and full of honor. That is the way he died. Every day brings you closer to it. You live one day at a time. The trouble with life is that it is so daily. If life came in years, it would be a snap, but it is every day. What are you doing with your life? What is the purpose of your life? To serve God in your generation.

Margaret N. Barnhouse in her book That Man Barnhouse says, “Dr. Barnhouse, when he spoke of Psalm 23 said the following: “Suppose a mother has a son in the service. She doesn’t know when he’ll be home, but she goes about saying, ‘When John comes home, he’ll dig the garden.’ ‘When John comes home, he’ll fix the window shade.’ ‘When John comes home, he...’ ‘When John comes home, he...’ Then one day there is the sound of a step on the stair, the door is flung open, she looks up and cries, ‘John! You!’ Now, why did she change from ‘John he...’ to ‘John, you...’? Because John had come in the door. Now listen: ‘The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want, he maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.’ But [and at this point Dr. Barnhouse leaned forward over the pulpit] ‘Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for - -” He stopped, and without a break “Thou!” breathed up from the audience like a prayer. He echoed softly “Thou! ‘Thou art with me.’ Thou hast come for me, oh, my Savior. I do not walk the valley of the shadow of death alone. Jesus Christ comes into the room as a real presence at the moment of death to enfold me in His arms and take me as His own to the Father’s house.” Faces all around me were radiant, although eyes - - including mine - - were blurred with tears. Doug cried out, “I’m afraid!” but at the moment of his death I knew he was afraid no longer, and now I knew why: “Thou!”

1 Kings 1:v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him.

(At my age I don’t even by green bananas!)

The scene of our story opens with the king getting old. He’s about 70 years old in the study before us.

David in his old age evidently was beginning to have circulatory problems, and he could just not keep warm even when they put covers on him.

Hercus points out, “We have arrived at the closing years of David’s life. The evening of his days set in peace. The storm, the tempest, the external tumult, the fiery passion were calmed. In the stillness of a placid old age, he was sinking to his rest.”

We have come to the 40th year of David's reign, and the 70th year of his life. The infirmities of age have crept upon him and enfeebled his body, though his mental vigor was still unimpaired and the song of faith and praise still sounded from his aged lips. Many men, warriors, and statesmen are vigorous and active at this age, but David's life had been abnormally trying. Both body and spirit had passed through extraordinary labors. The hardships of the early days of exile, the military toils of later years and the terrible mental conflicts which he had experienced affected his bodily constitution; and during the last months of his earthly existence, he was confined to his couch.

Psalm 11:7

“For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteousness. The upright will behold his face.”

Psalm 17:15

“As for me, I shall behold thy face in righteousness. I will be satisfied with thy likeness when I awake.”

Psalm 90:12

“So teach us to number our days, that we may present to thee a heart of wisdom.”

- v. 2 So his servants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to attend to the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.”

(The servants knew the old man well and what would please him the most.”
(Insatiable sex drive | Sex Olympics gold medal winner | Pretty girl came in:
saintly minister: Back again | “O make it right, make me a boy again just for tonight!)

Eccles. 4:11

“Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?”

David certainly doesn't argue or resist this suggestion of the servants on this occasion to solve David's chill problem.

Dr. Paul Jorden says, “Now that is a rather earthly way of letting us know the condition of David. His servants, fully aware of his passion and lifestyle, though such a solution would be pleasing and helpful to David. I am not sure what they had in mind with the beautiful and young Abishag serving and cherishing the king but there is no question in that last phrase ‘the king knew her not.’ When we came to the section in the Homebuilder’s Class, I mentioned to my wife Janet about the servants bringing Abishag in to keep David warm. And she said, ‘Isn’t it a shame they didn’t have electric blankets?’

You notice David doesn’t argue. This is kind of like a death wish. What a way to go!

I have told Dr. Knarr that when it’s time for me to go, just hook me up to chocolate syrup and let me go on home to glory.

(I’m going home and ask my wife for a hot blonde to keep me warm when I get the shivers and shakes of old age because I never did like electric blankets!”

v. 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

In my mind’s eye I see that they ran full-fledged MISS ISRAEL CONTEST, with candidates representing all the different cities. Miss Shunam won the contest and was crowned Miss Israel. Miss Jerusalem was first runner-up, and Miss Beersheba was second runner-up.

It reminds me of the words of the Lord through Nathan the prophet in 2 Samuel 12 “And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.”

(God is so good when we let him do it his way!)

The Lord is saying in this final provision for David’s need, “See, I can work thins out to take care of you, and to meet your needs, and to make you happy and fulfilled. You just got into trouble because you acted independent of me to try to satisfy your own needs and make you happy.”

v. 4 The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.

2 Samuel 11:2

“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”

Hercus points out, “In accordance with the medical science of those days, they provided him with a young maiden to act as companion and nurse, one Abishag of Shunam in Galilee, whom subsequent events raised to some notoriety. This girl cherished the old man in her bosom, and with her strong vitality restored warmth to his decaying frame and gave him strength to execute the tasks that still remained for him to do.”

(Gal. 6:7 – Price for letting the temporary have top priority in your life!)
(Money is left! | Sex is gone! | Power is all that’s left!)
(The supreme selfishness of the human heart.)

Eccles. 12:5

“When men are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets, when the almond tree blossoms, and the grasshopper drags himself along and desire no longer is stirred, then man goes to his eternal home, and mourners go about the streets.”

(One last shot with the kids! | On his death bed, they are concerned about who is going to be the next king!)

v. 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.

Adonijah is the 4th born son of David. He, by this time, is probably in his late thirties because David was in his early thirties when Adonijah was born.

Amnon, Kileab, and Absalom are all out of the way, so he is putting himself forward as the prime candidate to succeed the throne of King David. He said, “I will be king.”

So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.

(Saw Absalom do it, so he wants the same!)

2 Samuel 15:1

“In the course of the Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses, and with fifty men to run ahead of him.”

(It's whoever is riding the old mule that's going to make it!)

- v. 6 (His father had never interfered with him. “Why do you behave as you do?” He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

It's interesting that his father never interfered with him. We have noticed in all of the relationships with the children that David never really got involved with them except in a crisis.

It is also interesting that the verse says, “He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.” He obviously was a lot like Absalom.

2 Samuel 14:25

“In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him.”

Adonijah was born in Hebron, as was Absalom and probably is about 35 years old in this scene. He has been through the whole deal with Amnon and Tamar and Absalom, and was a teenager when David had his affair with Bathsheba.

He's just a good looking kid who never lived up to his potential because David never had time for him.

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

Joab represents the military, and Abiathar represents the religious.

These two guys were loyal to David during Absalom's shot at the kingdom. I guess they thought David was dying so they wanted to get in on the ground floor of the new administration.

(Selfishness of the human heart! | James and John, one on the right and one on the left!)

Adonijah is going for the big boys right off the bat.

Absalom just had one chariot and out text tells us that Adonijah had several of them. Here he goes for the key men in David's administration: Joab, and one of the key religious leaders in Abiathar.

(Had a convoy, caravan of chariots!)

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

The 8th verse starts with 'but' which forms the contrast. This is a list of the others who refused to join Adonijah.

- v. 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 men of Judah who were royal officials,

En Rogel is just outside Jerusalem and is easily reached from the city.

On his list he has all of his brothers, the king's sons, and then he focuses on the men of Judah who were royal officials.

- v. 10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

By contrast, these are the folks he did not invite.

It is obvious by the fact that he did not invite Solomon that he had some feelings that perhaps Solomon really was the heir-apparent to the throne and therefore should not be included in this celebration.

- v. 11 Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith has become king without our lord David's knowing it?"

Nathan goes and finds Bathsheba and asks her the question, is she had heard the news that Adonijah had become king without David even knowing it.

- v. 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

Nathan now is going to give Bathsheba some counsel so that she can save her life of her son Solomon and successfully thwart the power play of Adonijah here for the throne.

- v. 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?'

Nathan wants Bathsheba to ask two questions:

1. David, didn't you swear to me that Solomon would sit on your throne after you?
 2. Why has Adonijah become king?
- v. 14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said."

Once Bathsheba is with the king and raises these two questions, Nathan will time his entrance and come in for the purposes of confirmation of the message that's just been given.

Gulston points out, "But with no directive coming from the palace, the natural assumption that the crown would go to the oldest son gained momentum; and the two powerful figures threw their weight behind Adonijah, one from the spiritual realm, and the other from the secular. Both Joab and Abiathar may have acted in good faith. Though some of his behavior in the past may have been arbitrary, Joab had never acted directly against the throne. But it is possible he might have felt his future a little safer with Adonijah than with Solomon. Abiathar, in turn, might have felt himself a little inferior to Zadok in David's eyes, but this is conjecture."

- v. 15 So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.

Needless to say, this was quite an awkward situation.

(She knew David was harmless!)

- v. 16 Bathsheba bowed low and knelt before the king, "What is it you want?" the king asked.

David has learned that when people come into his presence bowing down, they want something. He puts aside all of the niceties and comes directly to the point: "What is it you want?"

(He knew her well!)

v. 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.’

v. 18 But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.

Because David does not get involved with his sons nor does he know what is going on in their lives, and he only operates in their lives during a crisis; he is not aware of what Adonijah has done.

v. 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 you servant.

v. 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.

The people are looking to you, David, so that they might learn who is going to be your successor on the throne.

v. 21 Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals.”

With Adonijah on the throne, Bathsheba and her boy would be in real jeopardy. It would only be by some concession of Adonijah that she and Solomon would have the privilege of continuing to live. I am sure Adonijah bears a lot of resentment toward Bathsheba for coming into David’s life in the first place, and all that went on.

v. 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived.

Nathan is right on schedule while Bathsheba is appealing to the king.

v. 23 And they told the king, “Nathan the prophet is here.” So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.

v. 24 Nathan said, “Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne?”

Nathan addresses David with a similar question, wondering if this has been an order from the Oval Office that has allowed Adonijah to become king and to sit upon David’s throne.

- v. 25 Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

(Dramatic!)

Nathan has been a great one to draw a real graphic picture. We saw this in his confrontation of David in 2 Samuel 12, as he told the parable of the rich man and the poor man.

Here he is describing all of the things that take place when a new king ascends the throne. On top of all of that, they are saying "Long live King Adonijah."

- v. 26 But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite.

Giving David these three names helps him to understand the designs of Adonijah in what is taking place.

- v. 27 Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

Nathan starts with a question and then ends with a question. David, have you done this without letting us know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

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

- v. 29 The king then took an oath; "As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble,

Over these past 40 years David has been delivered from every trouble by the Lord. He faced a similar situation from Absalom and the Lord delivered him from that. And now he knows that the Lord once again will be faithful to deliver him from this trouble.

- v. 30 I will surely carry out today 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."

(Sex is gone | leaving the money | turning over the power!)

“I will surely carry out today.” In other words Bathsheba, I will keep my promise to you this day.

“Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place.”

v. 31 Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face to the ground and kneeling before the king said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

(But I know you won't!)

She is overwhelmed with praise and gratitude for this decision of the king, and so she burst forth with the words: “May my lord King David live forever!”

v. 32 King David said, “Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” When they came before the king,

v. 33 he said to them: “Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.

v. 34 There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’

This statement “Long live King Solomon!” is in contrast to those that Nathan spoke about who were saying “Long live King Adonijah.”

Ethel Barret says, “Moments later, David's officials and Nathan gathered around David's bed and waited for him to speak. He strained forward on his pillows, holding himself on his elbows. His hair was white now and his face was pale, but his eyes were bright and glowing; and for a moment, just for a moment, the grand old man seemed strangely young again. All the old fire was there, and the passions and the hopes and dreams were there. He seemed like the ruddy-faced boy who had played his harp for Saul so many years before. One brief moment he was absolutely in command again. He gave his instructions, and though his voice trembled, his orders were crisp, and they had the zing and the air of authority about them that had always overwhelmed the people all during his reign. Everyone snapped to attention and scattered to do his bidding.”

v. 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.”

Solomon is probably somewhere around 18-20 years of age here in this encounter.

He is ascending to the throne at least ten years earlier than David, and David at the age of thirty was just king over the tribe of Judah. Solomon is going to be king over the whole country.

- v. 36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.
- v. 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!"
- v. 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon.
- v. 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!"
- v. 40 And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing, so that the ground shook with the sound.

I think it would be good at this point for us to go to 1 Chronicles 28 and 29 to hear David's words to his son Solomon:

"King David rose to his feet and said, "Listen to me, my brothers and my people; I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God. And I made plans to build it. But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my name because you are a warrior and have shed blood. Yet, the Lord, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader; and from the house of Judah, he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. Of all my sons (and the Lord has given me many), he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel.

He said to me, 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts; for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.' So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel, and of the assembly of the Lord and in the hearing of our God be careful to follow all

commands of the Lord your God, that you possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to you descendants forever.

And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with whole-hearted devotion, and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches every heart, and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary; be strong and do the work.”

David then gives Solomon the plans for the temple.

“All this is in writing,” David said, “because the hand of the Lord was upon me, and he gave me understanding and all the details of the plan.”

David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous and do the work; do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing man skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.”

“Then King David said to the whole assembly, “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great; for this palatial structure is not for man, but for the Lord God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God gold for the goldwork, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron, and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise stones or various colors, and all kinds of fine stones and marble; all of these in large quantities. Besides in my devotion to the temple of my God, I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: 3,000 talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and 7,000 talents of refined silver for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings; for the goldwork and the silverwork, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord? (Fund raising affair for the temple!)

“Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king’s work gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, and 100,000 talents of iron. Any who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the Lord in the custody of Jahiel the Gershonite.

“The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly.”

“David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly saying, ‘Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours; yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you. You are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. But whom am I and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this. Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are aliens and strangers in your sight, as were all our forefathers. Our days in earth are like a shadow without hope. O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple, it comes from your hand and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you; and give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, requirements and decrees, and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.’

“Then David said to the whole assembly, ‘Praise the Lord your God,’ so they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers. They bowed low and fell prostrate before the Lord and the king.”

Redpath points out, “David’s ambition to build the temple is similar to the ambition that has come into the life of every genuine believer, that he might do great things for the Lord. ‘Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God’ was William Carey’s motto. And to this has been the desire of every one who has come to know Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord to do something for him to extend his kingdom. Somewhere along the line, however, God said no. He says it in different ways, perhaps by putting you on a sickbed for the rest of your life, perhaps by choosing a different sphere altogether for you. If you are living with such a frustrated desire and ambition, which God has cut right across, what have you done about it? When your great dreams of accomplishment lie shattered around you, have you allowed your appetite for the service of the Lord to turn sour, or can you truly say that you are doing your part to build the church of Jesus Christ? I have always found in my life, and I have had to learn this again and again, that one of the hardest things is to give up some cherished ambition of my own. To die to one’s own desire and to accept God’s will is most cruel to the

flesh. There's something in every one of us that the Bible calls self, which always want to initiate something, but God says, I don't want you to initiate anything. I want you to be a channel through which I am going to do everything. If I chose not to put you in the bay window of the church, as it were, to give you work in that popular place where you are in full view; and instead I send you to work in the basement, where you will never be seen, how will you react? Yours or God's? How do you react when you are banished from the place of publicity and put in the place of obscurity? How do you react when you are taken from the place of success and reckoned to failure? How do you react when your early dreams of doing great things for God are shattered? Do you leave the work of the Lord, or can you, like David, do your best at whatever God has given you to do, thankful that you are privileged to share his work."

In 1 Chronicles 22:14 David says,

"I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord."

Redpath says of this, "There has been much opposition to make him feel it wasn't worth while, and many setbacks to make him feel he couldn't go on any longer. But he didn't allow trouble to depress him and make him quit. Am I speaking to one of God's troubled servants today? Do not let that trouble turn you sour, my dear Christian, or let his no make you give up. Remind your heart of the great trouble through which the Lord Jesus went to lay the foundation of his church. Be strong and of good courage, and do it. Fear not nor be dismayed. Learn to enter into the blessing of a frustrated desire, and gladly accept your part in God's plan."

Krummacher says, "We just heard him say to Bathsheba, 'As the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble.' This word opens up a clear view into his inmost soul. We here see that it is bright day with him. He looks back upon his 70 years pilgrimage, and what a series of dangers, distresses and trials, and alas, also, of mistakes, wanderings from the right path and sins rise up before his memory. He is overpowered by adoring wonder, as all the pilgrims of God will at last be overpowered at the close of their earthly journey.

(1. David 2. Abishag 3. Adonijah 4. Solomon.)

v. 41 Adonijah and all the guest 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?"

Just as everybody is getting through eating, they heard this tremendous roar from inside the city. Joab then raises the question, "What's the meaning of all the noise in the city?"

(Sounds like somebody has just scored a touchdown or sunk a putt.)

- v. 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."

(Surely our team won! What was the score?)

This is exactly what David thought when Ahimaaz was coming back from the field of battle. He was a good man, so he should be bringing good news. He was bringing good news, but also bad news. The good news was they won the war, but the bad news was the Absalom had died in the battle.

- v. 43 "Not at all!" Jonathan answered. "Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

Jonathan makes it quite clear very quickly by a brief message: "Not at all! Our lord king David has made Solomon king."

- v. 44 The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites, and they have put him on the king's mule,

- v. 45 and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon. From there they have gone up cheering, and the city resounds with it. That's the noise you hear.

- v. 46 Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.

(Inauguration Day up there in the city!)

You can just sense the silence and the fear and the tension rise as everyone strives to hear every word that Jonathan speaks.

- v. 47 Also, the royal officials have come to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make Solomon's name more famous than yours and his throne greater than yours!' and the king bowed in worship on his bed,

v. 48 and said, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.'

(Genesis 48:11 – "Israel said to Joseph, I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.")

After this very sobering report given by Jonathan, we get the normal response of the next verse:

v. 49 At this, all Adonijah's guests rose in alarm and dispersed.

It's like the CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE, when the Lord comes in, tipping over tables, whipping the beasts - men began to scatter and take off in every direction; and Don Meredith begins to sing "Turn out the lights; the party's over."

We can be so grateful this time that we did not have to go to war to determine a winner like we had to do a couple of times during David's reign.

v. 50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

v. 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.'"

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

v. 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."

Paul Jorden points out, "Solomon, the son of David and Bathsheba, was now on the throne of Israel. Although David and Bathsheba, along with the entire nation, had paid dearly for their sin, God in his grace and mercy, permitted and even chose their son to be the third king of Israel. Though we make tragic errors and sin greatly, if we are truly penitent, our lives can be reestablished and God's purposes for our lives accomplished."

1 Kings 2:1

"When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son."

Davis points out, “David’s final admonitions to his son Solomon were, first of all, spiritual and theologically oriented. David made it clear that obedience to the word of God was the key to prosperity. Following this admonition, he cited certain individuals who should be removed from the royal court in order that further trouble should not develop.”

Krummacher says, “He sent for his son Solomon to come near to his sickbed, that he might deliver to him his last fatherly counsels and charges. Far from making this solemn act a scene of tender weeping or showing even a trace of sorrow at the laying aside of the robes of his earthly glory, which he was soon to do, he is calm, cheerful, and trusting in his God, and joyfully prepared to exchange the purple rags which adorned him here below for the garments of light worn by the harpers before the throne - The fragile scepter of his earthly kingdom for the palm of triumph of the heavenly conquerors. I go, said he, the way of all the earth.”

v. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “Sp be strong , show yourself a man,

I am sure both of these commands are given in light of the fact that Solomon is such a young man. “Be strong, show yourself a man.”

(Convictions, character, courage | discipline, desire, dedication | no self-pity, thinking of Solomon and the future kingdom!)

v. 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires; Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,

Joshua 1:8

“Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Psalms 1:1-3

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord. And on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

(Tree in Colorado weathered or withered!)

Jorden says, “The best legacy a man can leave his son is what David left to Solomon to follow the word of God. I wonder how many Christian fathers really challenge their sons in this way, or ever consider such a challenge. If your children are to succeed, they must be admonished to keep the commandments of God. There is no better foundation upon which to stand. As your children get older, you need to consistently challenge them about service for God. If you do this, you can confidently tell them you will succeed in your life if you seek the Lord and follow his word.”

1 Chron. 28:9

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion, and with a willing mind. For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.”

Redpath points out, “He did not say, ‘Solomon, know the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ One day you also will have to say good-bye to your children for the last time until you meet in heaven. I wonder if you will be able to say to them when that day comes, ‘Son, daughter, I want above everything else that you may know the God of your father, my God.’ Yes, that mattered most to David. In the midst of all the storm and turmoil, he had learned to know God, to understand his times and his way with him. What a benediction it was to look back.”

Krummacher says, “David continued addressing his son, “Be thou strong and show thyself a man.’ A brief explicit, impressive charge, but significant and comprehensive enough for Solomon. ‘Be strong,’ that is, rely upon thy God. ‘Be a man,’ that is walk with God and take firm and sure steps in his word. ‘Keep the charge of the Lord thy God.’ David further says, ‘Hold fast by all that the Lord has commanded, and in his ordinance and institutions; see the rule and the bounds of thy future government.’ In truth, an admirable farewell charge of a dying prince to the heir of his throne. Oh that everywhere and in all times similar counsel were addressed to the successors to thrones. When the divine direction strikes on the ear of a ruler, put off thy robes and lay aside thy crown, for thy mayest be no longer king.”

- v. 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me; ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’

Thus ends the charge of David to his son Solomon.

There are a number of personal matters that have been left unattended by David that now must be discharged by Solomon the new king.

(Same last minute details!! The law needs to be administered in these areas!)

- v. 5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me - - what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet.

It is interesting that he doesn’t mention Absalom at this point also.

- v. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

Krummacher says, “According to the express command of this law, he was unconditionally bound to avenge the death of his captains Abner and Amasa. And Joab had treacherously put them both to death.”

At this time it had become notorious throughout the whole land that the crimes of Joab and of Shimei were unavenged. And this threatened to bring the law into great discredit. And who was to blame for this? David was fully conscious that it lay with him. On his deathbed he directed his son how to act in the words to which we have just listened.

- v. 7 “But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai of Gilead and let them be among those who eat at your table. They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

Barzillai, when he went back north to Rogelim, after saying good-bye to David at the Jordan, sent his sons to be with the king. Now the king makes provision for these sons just like he has done for Mephibosheth, that they could eat at Solomon’s table.

The reason for this provision: “They stood by me when I fled from your brother Absalom.”

- v. 8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord; ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’

- v. 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do with him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.”
- v. 10 Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David.
- v. 11 He had reigned forty years over Israel - - seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem.
- v. 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

2 Chron. 1:1

“Solomon, son of David, established himself firmly over his kingdom; for the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.”

Krummacher says, “David’s life-course remains as the most splendid memorial of the free grace of God. Who could number the souls which for almost 3,000 years have comforted, strengthened, and raised themselves up in their conflicts and their heart anxieties by contemplating it. Whoever seeks a God with whom there is plenteous redemption, who hears prayers, who numbers the very hairs on the heads of his people, has an unchangeable love for them, and as a protector who neither slumbers nor sleeps, is by their side at every step, will met with such a God in the experiences of David, the king of Israel.”

F. B. Meyer says, “It is beautiful to find that word ‘sleep’ used of David’s death. His life had been full of tumult, storm, and passion; of war and blood. Many a revolt had cast its foam in his face. But rest came at last, as it will come to all. Like a tired infant’s, those aged eyes closed in the last sleep and the spirit joined the mighty dead.”

Vos says, “Attention in these two books focuses especially on David, who in Acts 13:22, is called ‘A man after God’s own heart.’ Many sneer at the description and ask how it can be so when he was guilty of adultery and murder. The answer must lie first in the consideration of the context. Saul had been disobedient in his public policies. He had failed God, and later had even sought to kill God’s anointed David. Therefore, God had rejected him. The same point is made in 1 Samuel 13:13,14. Saul did not honor God in his public policies, so God sought out a man after his own heart to lead his people. David always was faithful to God in his public pronouncements and actions. He respected the anointed of God, Saul, and refused to kill him even

under the great duress. In his early warfare, which is all that is described in any detail, he sought God's instruction about going into battle. He made the sanctuary of God prominent in Jerusalem at the center of the affairs of state and sought to build a house for God. When denied the privilege, he amassed quantities of precious metals for the purpose, instead of collecting them for himself, as other Oriental potentates did. He organized the worship of Israel and honored God in prayer in the presence of the whole assembly. Moreover, he wrote many psalms, some of which were adapted for the ritual of public worship. Second, David was a man after God's own heart, even in his private or inner life. He meditated on the word of God, and generally had a beautiful devotional life, as the psalms he wrote indicate. To be sure, he sinned and sinned grievously, and he paid dearly for his failures; but what matters especially is what he did about his sins. He had a heart tender toward God. When he realized his sins, or was confronted with them, he demonstrated a broken and contrite heart, and sought God's forgiveness. His was the faithful struggle of an earnest, human soul, to know God even though he suffered shipwreck as he sailed the seas of life. By the grace of God he never went down for the third time. Modern believers may identify with him as they struggle against heavy seas, and by grace they may experience the same rescuing and sustaining hand of God."

Gulston says, "The full portrait is as old as it is realistic, and it does not omit the blemishes. In David we are gathered all of life's joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats. He was a man of strong passions and unexpected weaknesses. But he has found with Enoch and Noah and Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, Joseph and Moses and Gideon and Samuel - - heroes of the faith who subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of the lions, waxed valiant in the fight. It is in the portrait of himself in the psalms, however, that David shines on like the stars. It is here that we see beneath the surface, beneath the stern exterior of the soldier, the expediency of the statesman, deep into the recesses of a human heart. Nor does there seem any reason to question the long-held belief that David was the main writer of what Luther calls 'the Bible in miniature,' and Gladstone calls 'a book more wonderful than all the wonders of Greek civilization heaped together.' Seventy-three of the psalms possess titles ascribing them to David, and these credits appear in the oldest manuscripts. In many instances the content of the psalms parallels his experiences. The Davidic authorship is confirmed in the New Testament."

Redpath says, "David's lifework was over. His years of leadership and service at an end. At the conclusion of the journey, he had the opportunity of surveying his progress and asking himself how much of it had been permanent, vital and effective. As he looked back, he recognized that he had only one thing to face: his accountability before God. That was a tremendous

moment in David's life, and it will be an equally great moment in your life when it comes, as it surely will for us sooner or later. Only God knows just when because our times are in his hands. One day our last sermon will have been preached, our last testimony will have been given. Our last piece of service will have been rendered. But there is even now the opportunity to ask ourselves has my life been worthwhile. Has it brought heaven an nearer? Has it made the Lord Jesus more real and more precious to other? How much of my work can stand the test of judgment before a Holy God? Has any of it been gold, silver, precious stones, or has it been only wood, hay, and stubble?"

(One thing to face: accountability before God money, sex, power gone!)

With David it was the times that went over him. What times? He was a shepherd, a soldier, an outlaw, a king, a fugitive, a sinner, a saint, a poet. As he said, 'All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me' (Psalm 42:7) and 'My times are in thy hands' (Psalm 31:15). His experiences were the writing of God upon his life making him into a man after God's own heart. Because they were God's times, the waves never overwhelmed him. The hurricane never uprooted him; the floods never drowned him. They were God's times, and by them he wrote upon David's soul all the pattern of his will and purpose. That was heaven's reward for the acceptance of a frustrated desire. That was the benefit of it in David's life. It wasn't always easy to take, but it was what the Lord desired to do. 'The people of Issachar were men that had understanding of the times' (1 Chron. 12:32). That is a good thing to have. I am glad to have an understanding of what is going on in the world, for I know the Lord is on the throne, no matter what the situation is. But above all, I want an understanding of God's times in my life - - times of bereavement, times of temptation, times when his billows go over me until I feel I can take no more. I want to be able to say, 'Lord Jesus, my times are in thy hand.' When I suffer pain, affliction, loneliness, misunderstanding, persecution, joy, blessing, victory - - they're all God's times. Let them all come because they come from his hand, but the waves will never overwhelm, the hurricane will never uproot. The floods will never drown because my times are in his hand."

Krummacher says, "As the past, with its thousands of footprints of the mercy of God, so also the future, even to the latest year of his life, opened itself before him, irradiated by the light of another world. In David's appearance we see here shadowed forth the transformation which all true believers have undergone, when it can be said of them, 'Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.' All the dross which had accompanied the process of his development toward the kingdom of heaven lies behind him, and only the pure gold remains. All his transgressions have disappeared before the grace of the Almighty like a cloud, and only the righteousness which has been

wrought in him by the Holy Spirit remains before us in fair and symmetrical unfolding, victoriously delivered from all the darkening and disfiguring clouds which it encountered. For this world the divine work of educating David was terminated.”

Conclusion:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: God graciously provides for David’s needs even in his old age.

Lesson #2: Adonijah put himself forward, and David always waited for the Lord to promote him (Psalm 75:6,7).

Lesson #3: David never really did know what was going on in the lives of his children.

Lesson #4: David takes immediate action so he can be faithful to fulfill his promise.

Lesson #5: Adonijah found that he was “weighed in the balance and found wanting.”

Lesson #6: David focuses upon obedience to the word of God in his final charge to Solomon.

Lesson #7: Prosperity results when we are obedient to his word.

Lesson #8: David teaches us how to die.

Psalm 78:70-72

“He also chose David his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds, from the care of the ewes with suckling lambs. He brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.”

Psalm 79:13

“So we thy people and the sheep of thy pasture will give thanks to thee forever. To all generations we will tell of thy praise.”

Psalm 71:19

“For thy righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens. Thou who has done great things, O God, who is like thee?”

Psalm 118:23,24

“This is the Lord’s doing. It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 1266:5,6

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalm 128:1,2

“How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his way. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, you’ll be happy, and it will be well with you.”

(David after he finished speaking to Solomon said: Bring me my pen, I feel a psalm coming on! Bring me my harp, I think we can sing this one..)

I think it would be altogether fitting as we conclude our series in the life of David to meditate upon the phrases of the 23rd Psalm:

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD”

Even when I fled into the land of the Philistines and lived in Ziklag.
Even when I tried to find my own happiness with Bathsheba on the roof of the palace.

“I SHALL LACK NOTHING”

He has abundantly met my needs at every turn!
“And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.”

“HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES”

You gave me a kingdom, a palace, a capital city, and the ark of God.

“HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE QUIET WATERS”

There would have been more of these times if I had just been more patient and let you lead.

“HE RESTORES MY SOUL”

When you sent Jonathan to me and sustained me in the ashes of Ziklag, and forgave me of my sin.

“HE GUIDES ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

“The steps and stops of a good man are ordered by the Lord” and a lot of times I want to stray.

“FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE”

By doing this, you have made the enemies of the Lord show utter contempt. To you be the glory! Great things you have done!

“EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH”

I sure was here a lot with the deaths of four of my children, and the desires of Saul and Absalom to kill me. (Samuel, Saul, Jonathan)

“I WILL FEAR NO EVIL”

Because you “work all things together for good” in our lives.

“FOR YOU ARE WITH ME”

And that should have been enough, but a lot of times I felt all alone down here and didn’t realize your presence.

“YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF THEY COMFORT ME”

During the times I let you lead and sensed your guidance in my life.

“YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESECE OF MY ENEMIES”

It was so great of you to send Shobi, Makir, and Barzillai with all that food and supplies when we got to Mahanaim, fleeing from Absalom. (You sent Abigail with all those supplies!)

“YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL”

Three times: When I was 16, by the hands of Samuel. At 30, by the elders of Judah. And 37(1/2) by both Israel and Judah.

“MY CUP OVERFLOWS”

Especially the day we brought the ark to Jerusalem and I danced with all my might before the Lord. (What can I say? You are wonderful! I am richly blessed! You are so good!)

“SURELY GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME”

They have for 70 years, and I know he won't stop now.

“ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE”

“So teach us to number our days and to apply our hearts to wisdom.” (I had my 3 score and 10!)

“AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER”

This is where his road leads, and I sure want to go there.