

## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

### STUDY NUMBER TWO — 1 KINGS 1:1-53

#### TEXT:

v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even 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 Zeruiah 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 or his brother Solomon.

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?"

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 has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.

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 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!'

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."

## INTRODUCTION:

(Finishing Strong: Finding The Power To Go The Distance by Steve Farrar)

A dog walked into a Dodge City saloon and ordered a root beer. The barkeep snickered, "We don't serve dogs or root beer in this saloon."

The dog said, "I've got money and my money is as good as any man's. Give me a root beer!"

The bartender was tired of talking so he reached under the bar, pulled out a gun, and shot the dog in the foot. "Now get out of here and don't ever come back."

A week later, the dog came back, this time wearing his gun belt that holstered two guns. Not seeing the man who shot him behind the bar, he walked up to the new bartender, looked him squarely in the eye, and said very slowly and very deliberately, "I'm lookin' for the man who shot my paw." p. 23

(I'm So Glad You Told Me What I Didn't Wanna Hear by Barbara Johnson)

Dear Barbara,

Lately I have had several fears that I may be going off my rocker. How can I know if this is what is happening to me?

Fearful in Fayetteville

Dear Fearful,

We know that one out of every four people in this country is mentally unbalanced. So, you just think of your three closest friends. . . . If they seem to be okay, then you're the one!

p. 4

First, men forget names.

Then they forget faces.

Then they forget to pull their zipper up.

And then they forget to pull their zipper down!<sup>5</sup>

5. *Old Age Is Not for Sissies*, Lois Kaufman, comp. (White Plains, N.Y.: Peter Pauper Press, 1989). p. 180

(I'm So Glad You Told Me What I Didn't Wanna Hear by Barbara Johnson)

Men have three basic hairstyles:

Parted

Unparted

Departed

As a man ages, his hair usually turns gray.

Then it turns loose.

p. 182

AS THE SCENE OF OUR STUDY OPENS today, King David is about seventy years old and very near the end of his tenure of service here on earth.

J. Vernon McGee says:

David is now an old man. It is difficult to conceive of him as an old man. We always think of David as a shepherd boy. It is hard to picture him as an old, senile man, who needs nursing care. His son, Adonijah, takes advantage of him in this condition. He attempts to put himself and the throne and make himself king. Of course, that is not going to fit in with God's plan. A great deal of intrigue goes on. Intrigue is one of the things that characterizes the reign of David.

p. 246

Speaking of David's successor, Solomon, whose life we are studying on this occasion, Lockyer observes:

". . .The story of Solomon is the story of one whose heart was perverted and his will enervated by luxury and pride." . . .

'Tis but the moral of all human tales,  
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past:  
Wealth, vice corruption—barbarism at last.

Lockyer says further:

Solomon's grievous fall provides a striking instance of the insufficiency of the highest endowments to preserve man from the grossest folly and sin (John 15:5). The apostasy of Israel's illustrious king was the more glaring, contrasted with God's goodness in appearing to him twice, blessing him so greatly, and warning him so plainly. He came to learn as all transgressors do, that their way is hard (1 Kings 11:14, 21, 26).  
p. 114

Baxter points out:

Solomon was very young when he came to the throne. His own word is that he was "but a little child" (iii.7). Eusebius says he was twelve. Josephus says he was fifteen. We may safely say he was not more than twenty. His early accession was precipitated by a conspiracy of Adonijah, David's eldest surviving son, who aspired to the throne. Adonijah apparently judged that he could bring off his *cou d' état* on the threefold ground of David's enfeeblement through old age, Solomon's disqualification through immaturity, and his own eminent suitability as being a favourite son of David, and a very attractive person (i. 6). He was backed up by Joab, the head of the army, and Abiathar, head of the priesthood, both of whom presumably sought their own interests—Joab to retain his leadership as under David, and Abiathar to oust his rival, Zadok.  
p. 97

McNeely summarizes this section we are studying by saying:

The section from 1:1 to 2:12 presents a synopsis of the events that ended David's reign and secured the throne for Solomon. The account begins with the rather strange situation of the service of a Shunammite, moves through Adonijah's attempted coup d' état and his request to marry the Shunammite, his death, and the Solomonic party's victory over the rivals.

p. 22

LET US DIG INTO THE TEXT NOW AND SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS PARTICULAR STUDY:

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

(Rainbows: The Book of Hope edited by George W. Humphreys)

AGE

Age is a quality of mind.  
If you've left your dreams behind,  
If hope is cold;  
If you no longer look ahead,  
If your ambition fires are dead,  
Then you are old.

Edward Tuck

p. 2

(Even Eagles Need a Push by David McNally)

Live all you can; it's a mistake not to. It doesn't so much matter what you do in particular, so long as you have your life. If you haven't had that, what have you had?

--Henry James

p. 71

(Reality and the Vision by Philip Yancey, Editor)

Age has a way of brightening our certainties, even while it shores up our honesty.  
p. 101

(Fifty to Forever by Hugh Downs)

I remember the unpredictable time--funny yet serious--when I interviewed Milton Berle on "20/20" in 1984. He said, "The secret to looking young at 76 is: I travel around with much older people."  
p. 31

Gloria Clayton explained, "We've uncovered four themes that exist among our entire sample, and those are optimism, engagement or commitment to something that they're interested in, activity or mobility, and the ability to adapt to loss."  
p. 65

Andrés Segovia, the master guitarist, who brought the instrument into classical respectability, continually exercised a dry wit, and lived long.

When he was 82, I attended a concert of his in San Francisco. The audience simply would not let him stop, relishing encore after encore. Finally, Segovia returned to the stage, guitar in hand, and spoke softly to his admirers.

"I could play for you all night," he said, "because I am young and vigorous. But the guitar is a fragile instrument, and needs its rest. This will be the last encore."  
p. 94



(The Body by Charles Colson with Ellen Santilli Vaughn)

The Donahueite world-view is of a linear life. When a certain number of years have elapsed, it's over. Period. It's a pathetic picture, and one people seldom look at unless it is forced upon them--as it was with poignancy and wit in City Slickers. While this movie may not rank among the great morality plays of all time (and some would find parts of the film offensive), it certainly drives the point home, along with the cattle.

Comedian Billy Crystal plays the part of a bored baby boomer who sells radio advertising time. On the day he visits his son's school to tell about his work along with other fathers, he suddenly lets loose a deadpan monologue to the bewildered youngsters in the class:

Value this time in your life, kids, because this is the time in your life when you still have your choices. It goes by so fast.

When you're a teenager, you think you can do anything and you do. Your twenties are a blur.

Thirties you raise your family, you make a little money, and you think to yourself, "What happened to my twenties?"

Forties, you grow a little pot belly, you grow another chin. The music starts to get too loud, one of your old girlfriends from high school becomes a grandmother.

Fifties, you have a minor surgery--you'll call it a procedure, but it's a surgery.

Sixties, you'll have a major surgery, the music is still loud, but it doesn't matter because you can't hear it anyway.

Seventies, you and the wife retire to Fort Lauderdale. You start eating dinner at 2:00 in the afternoon, you have lunch around 10:00, breakfast the night before, spend most of your time wandering around malls looking for the ultimate soft yogurt and muttering, "How come the kids don't call? How come the kids don't call?"

The eighties, you'll have a major stroke, and you end up babbling with some Jamaican nurse who your wife can't stand, but who you call mama.

Any questions?

pp. 168-69

Gaebelein says:

David was about 70 years old and extremely feeble. The strenuous life he had led, the exposures and hardships of his youth, the cares and anxieties of his reign, and the chastenings through which he passed on account of his great sin, and much else was responsible for this enfeebled condition. It is but another illustration of that rigid law, What a man soweth that shall he reap. It was a premature decay with the complete loss of natural heat.  
p. 245

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

**King David** died at or near the age of 70 (2 Sam. 5:4). . .

His inability to retain his body heat

IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE FINAL STAGES OF HIS AGING PROCESS.  
p. 486

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."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

THIS IS in harmony with medical customs of that day.  
p. 486

THIS WAS BEFORE THE DAYS OF HEATING PADS AND ELECTRIC BLANKETS.

DeVries in his commentary says:

Obviously the king could receive to a position of high intimacy no woman heretofore claimed by, or defiled by, another man.  
p. 12

WHAT A WAY TO GO!

THIS IS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN A GOLD WATCH, GOLF CLUBS  
AND A FISHIN' POLE!

I cannot think of any better way to make an exit of this life on earth than to be hooked up to a yogurt machine, cuddled up to Pearl, because she still puts off a lot of heat, (and I'll bet that Bathsheba would have qualified in this situation too, if they had just given her a chance) and have the music playing the "Hallelujah Chorus".

WITH MY RESERVATIONS MADE, AND MY TABLE READY, I'M OUT OF  
HERE TO THE THINGS THAT ARE ETERNAL!

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

That a **virgin** should be sought was reasonable since an unmarried young woman would likely be in vigorous health, free from domestic responsibilities, and able to wait on David continually as his needs might demand.  
p. 487

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

DeVries says:

"Then they looked for": perhaps there was a contest somewhat like that of Esth. 2:1-18, but it appears that the officials made the choice.  
p. 12

Being their LAST ACT OF KINDNESS for a king they loved and respected for some 40 years,

"THEY SEARCHED THE COUNTRYSIDE" FOR THE VERY BEST.

When all was said and done,

"ABISHAG, A SHUNAMITE", WON THE CONTEST.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Shunem, WAS ABOUT seven miles northwest of Nazareth . . . Abishag's beauty is attested to by the attraction of Adonijah, David's son, to her.

THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SHE IS THE SHULAMMITE IN THE SONG OF SOLOMON. however, there is no definite way to link **Abishag** with HER.

p. 487

## TIME FOR A LITTLE COWBOY POETRY:

(Humorous Cowboy Poetry: A Knee-Slappin' Gathering  
edited by staff members)

**Dear Doctor (A Letter)**

I sure hate bothering a man like you,  
But this cowboy is in an awful stew;  
I've not penned a note since my daddy died,  
Still my feelings are such that I can't hide.

Since taking Elixer, it's done wonders for me;  
There's a glint in my eye, a spring in my knee.  
I'm ninety years old and terrible in love;  
I so want to marry my turtledove.

She's just twenty-five, a chick of delight,  
But I must confess a degree of fright;  
My good friends advise that such an engage  
Just might prove fatal, this difference in age.

Our affair is torrid; what shall I do?  
I'll wait with intent an answer from you;  
Please hurry it up, and I will abide.  
But we so want to wed; I want a bride.

It wasn't too long there came in the mail  
An envelope posted from Doc MacPhail;  
Slim scanned the letter, then read it aloud  
To his concerned friends, that revered crowd.

"Take the Elixer and double the dose,  
Marry the maiden, then hold her real close;  
Treat her as equal and query no whys,  
Let nature prevail; if she dies, she dies."

—Jim Ross

pp. 138-9

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.

DeVries points out:

We would judge that Abishag became a sort of female valet along with her duty to sleep with David (cf. M.J. Mulder, *VT*, 22 [1972], 43-54). In a culture that accepted polygamy and the institution of concubinage, this arrangement had nothing in it that was shocking.

p. 13

IMPOTENCE HAD HIT THE OLD WAR HORSE WHO HAD BEEN SO VIGOROUS IN THE PAST.

(Just As Long As I'm Riding Up Front: More Stories I Couldn't Tell While I Was a Pastor by Bruce McIver)

I parked my car alongside the curb, turned off the ignition, and sighed. There was something sad about the visit I was about to make. Dear old Mr. and Mrs. Darby, faithful members of our church through the years, were confined to their home. The aging process and the frailties of life had finally caught up with them. He was ninety-four years of age and she was ninety. Both had been in the hospital recently and neither was able to adequately care for the other. He had suffered a stroke, leaving his right side paralyzed, and she battled a cancer that sapped her energies. They were little more than shells of their former selves.

I got out of the car and glanced around as I made my way up the steps to the front door. Everything seemed to be aging right along with the couple who lived inside. The lawn, once manicured and immaculate, was brown and thirsty for water. The scattered patches of grass were dry and brittle. Only the weeds grew. The window boxes designed for colorful blooming flowers were filled with tired, withered stalks of what had once been. The old car in the driveway, idle and unused for weeks, was powdered all over with dust and grime. Two rocking chairs on the front porch had been turned backwards and leaned against the wall, a silent signal that late evening chats with friendly neighbors had finally come to an end. The paint around the door facing had peeled, and taped across the doorbell was a handwritten note that read, "Out of order." Somehow, that little sign, obviously written with a shaky hand, summarized everything.

It's not fair, I mused. It's just not fair! It's not right for good people like these to come to the end of life with so many things "out of order." How on earth can I hope to say anything at all that might help this elderly couple?

But pastoral duty called, and for the moment I laid aside my own frustrations and knocked lightly on the door.

## IT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE

Mr. Darby . . . Mrs. Darby--it's Bruce, the pastor of your church."

I pressed my ear near the door and listened as a weak voice invited, "Come to the back door."

I walked around the house, climbed some rickety steps, and raised my hand to knock again.

"Come on in, Pastor; the door's not locked."

I hesitated, then stepped through the door, wondering again what in the world I could say or do to minister to their spiritual and emotional needs. This was unexplored territory for me. I was a young minister and these folks were walking slowly and painfully down paths that I had never traveled.

"Good to see you, Pastor," Mr. Darby said as he slowly waved a trembling hand at me from his recliner chair. "I'd get up to greet you but I'd probably fall, and you'd have to try to pick me up. And I don't think that's in your job description," he added with a chuckle.

I was relieved to hear the chuckle. So familiar. So encouraging. I had heard that chuckle of his in tedious committee meetings at the church, and had felt with others the immediate easing of tensions. I had heard it in the crowded hallways as I threaded my way toward the sanctuary for the worship service, wanting to be friendly to people but feeling the urgency of being on time. I had heard it--that special chuckle of friendship--at the close of a sermon when I knew better than anyone else that I had failed miserably in my attempts to get my point across. That chuckle and a pat on the shoulder helped pick me up and kept me going on more occasions than anyone could ever know.

Mrs. Darby, lying on a bed on the other side of the room, greeted me with a smile and a nod of the head. Her illness made speaking difficult, but the slight gestures and the kindness in her eyes expressed the warmth of friendship and welcome that I had felt so many times when I had visited with them. The world needed more people like the Darbys. For that matter, *I* needed more people like them.

"Yes sir," Mr. Darby continued, "it's so good to see you. Thank you for visiting an old, worn-out couple like us."

His greeting jarred me. It was hard, almost impossible, to think of this couple as "old," or "worn out." For a quarter of a century they had been involved in all aspects of the ministry of our church. They had unselfishly given their time, their money, and their prayerful support. The words "pillars of the church" had an authentic ring when applied to them.

"Now you just pull up a chair and have a seat," he continued. "Sorry we're not dressed for the occasion but the wife and I are being kinda lazy today. Hope you don't mind."

"Not at all, Mr. Darby. I just wanted to drop by and let you know we're all thinking of you and praying for you."

For the next few minutes we talked about the church, mutual concerns, and my family. They asked about each of the girls--Kathie, Shannon, and Renie--and wanted to know every little detail about their lives. I shared some of the latest "stories" from the McIver household and they responded with smiles and more chuckles.

This was not the time for a lengthy visit. I didn't want to tire them out and knew they both needed rest, so I suggested that it was time for me to leave.

"I'll be back in a few days," I promised as I stood. "Meanwhile, let's have a prayer together before I go."

"That'll be fine," Mr. Darby replied, "but first I want to talk to you about something."

## A WISE CONCLUSION

"Of course," I answered as I sat back down. I wondered what was on the mind of this ninety-four-year-old man. Did he want to talk about his health? His will? The church? Some unfinished business? Death, or dying? Maybe plans for their memorial services?

"Pastor," he began seriously, "my wife and I had a discussion this morning."

"Yes, Mr. Darby," I responded in genuine concern. "Would you like to talk about it?"

"You know, Pastor, that we've had three children."

"Oh, yes," I replied. "I know them well."

"Now, since you know them well," he continued, "you also know that none of them turned out right."

Gulp.

How in the world was I to respond? My pastoral care class in the seminary didn't prepare me for this. The truth is I *did* know his children and, although I would never have dared say it, they really *didn't* turn out right. Thankfully, the old gentleman didn't wait for any reply from me.

"So, the wife and I talked it over this morning, and we came to a conclusion."

This time he did pause for my reaction.

"Yes? And what was your conclusion?" I asked.

He straightened up in his recliner, lifted a bony finger for emphasis, and declared with finality . . .

"WE AIN'T GONNA HAVE NO MORE!"

And then he looked across the room at his wife . . . and chuckled. She mustered a faint smile--tender and affirming.



I doubled over and fell out of my chair--right there in their den--pounded the floor with my fists, and guffawed! Then, in absolute ministerial disarray, I picked myself up from the floor, held my sides, and laughed my way out the door. I was so rattled, I had forgotten to pray! I laughed all the way to my car, and I admit that at that very funny moment in history, I wasn't worried that I hadn't prayed with this beloved couple, or even concerned that the whole afternoon had failed to go as planned. All I could think about was the neighbors--and hope they weren't watching.  
pp. 21-24

One fellow said: "WHEN I DIE I WANT TO GO PEACEFULLY LIKE MY GRANDFATHER DID, IN HIS SLEEP. NOT SCREAMING LIKE THE PASSENGERS IN HIS CAR."

MY HUSBAND IS LOSING HIS MEMORY, BUT I CAN'T COMPLAIN BECAUSE I'VE HAD THREE BIRTHDAYS THIS YEAR.

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.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

David's domestic troubles followed him to his deathbed. In his hour of weakness another of his sons . . . rose up to snatch the kingdom from his grasp.  
p. 487

Fourth born, and probably the eldest living son, he nominated himself, he put himself forward. Is a selfish motive.

We know also that Abishag figures significantly in Adonijah's attempt to capture the throne because of his LATER REQUEST.

DeVries makes this observation:

Students of the throne-succession narrative see a consistent and certainly historical portrayal of David's character, for he had been as vacillating and indecisive in dealing with Amnon (2 Sam 13) and Absalom (2 Sam 14-15) as he was now in deciding between Adonijah and Solomon.  
pp. 11-12

Delitzsch points out:

Adonijah seized the opportunity of David's decrepitude to make himself king. Although he was David's fourth son (2 Sam. iii. 4), yet after the death of Ammon and Absalom he was probably the eldest, as Chileab, David's second son, had most likely died when a child, since he is never mentioned again. Adonijah therefore thought that he had a claim to the throne (cf. ch. ii. 15), and wanted to secure it before his father's death.  
p. 17

Gaebelein says:

However, he must have known that his younger brother Solomon had been selected by David to fill the throne after him. But Adonijah knew not the Lord nor was he subject to His will. In his selfish ambition he was upheld by Joab and Abiathar, the priest. No doubt but both of these men sought their own interests; Joab to continue in his position he held with David; Abiathar to get supremacy over Zadok his rival in the priesthood.  
p. 246

The Patrick-Lowth Commentary observes:

Taking advantage of his father's age and weakness, (who he thought could not oppose it), he resolved to take possession of the kingdom: but the crown, and the Jews fancy, would not fit him.  
p. 287

2 Samuel 3: 2-5

Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel; his second, Kileab the son of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; and the sixth, Ithream the son of David's wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

The sad tale of David's domestic problems continue to increase. As you remember, his firstborn, Amnon, had raped his sister, Tamar. Absalom took matters in his own hands and murdered Amnon. Absalom, some years later, tried to steal the kingdom from his father David and lost his life in that situation.

We know nothing of Abigail's son, Kileab, he must have died while he was younger.

This would put Adonijah, the fourth son in line to be the normal recipient of the throne of his father David.

"NOW ADONIJAH, WHOSE MOTHER WAS HAGGITH, PUT HIMSELF FORWARD"

This is a selfish power play to take advantage of David's weakness.

Luke 14:11

For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

Here's a Chinese proverb on maintaining a sensitive conscience: "He who sacrifices his conscience to ambition, burns a picture to obtain the ashes."

(From Parson's Bible Illustrator 1.0)

(Our God Is Awesome by Tony Evans)

Pride is like growing a beard. It just keeps growing and needs to be shaved daily. Every day, you and I need to get up and look at our degrees, our careers, our money, and then say, "If it were not for the grace of God. . . ." p. 21

I like the story of the woodpecker who was pecking on a tree. Just as he flew away, lightning hit the tree and split it right down the middle. The woodpecker heard the noise, turned back, and said, "Look what I did!"

A lot of us are spiritual woodpeckers. We are like King Nebuchadnezzar, a man we'll run into in a later chapter. We say, "Look at this Babylon I have built. Look at this home I've built. Look at this car I drive. Look at this school I went to. Look at this job I have. Look at what I have done." But the only reason we have anything is that God let lightning strike. So God says, "Brag that you know Me, the God of lovingkindness." p. 22

(Not I, But Christ by Stephen F. Olford)

Preachers and lay-leaders are not the only culprits! You and I are also included. The fable is told of two swans conversing with a bullfrog. "Have you ever seen the hidden beauties of my pond?" asked the frog.

"No," replied the swans, "we have never had anyone to guide us."

"Follow me," said the frog, as he plunged into the water and conducted the two birds on their sightseeing tour. When the swans surfaced for air, they asked the frog if he would like to see something of the beauties of the countryside. "But I cannot fly," said the frog. Then he added, "If you hold a stick in your beaks while I hang on with my mouth, you could carry me through the air and show me a world I have never seen."

The two birds agreed to this, and the journey started. They flew over hill and dale, revealing something of the glory of God's wonderful handiwork. As they came down low over a village, two shoppers happened to look up and see this astonishing sight. "Isn't that clever!" remarked one of them.

"Yes," replied the other, "I wonder who thought of that?"

The frog exclaimed, "I did!" and instantly dropped to the ground. "Pride comes before a fall" is indeed what the Bible teaches (see Prov. 29:23). pp. 111-12

(Future Grace by John Piper)

The condition of the heart is appraised by the kinds of desires that hold sway. Or, to put it another way, the state of the heart is shown by the things that satisfy its desires. If it is satisfied with mean and ugly things, it is a mean and ugly heart. If it is satisfied with God, it is a godly heart. As Henry Skougal put it, "The worth and excellence of a soul is to be measured by the object of its desire."<sup>3</sup>

3. Henry Skougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man* (Harrisonburg, Va.: Sprinkle Publications, 1986, orig. 1677), p. 62.  
p. 278

(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)

Proverb 6

Here are six things God hates,  
and one more that he loathes with a passion:

eyes that are arrogant,  
a tongue that lies,  
hands that murder the innocent,  
a heart that hatches evil plots,  
feet that race down a wicked track,  
a mouth that lies under oath,  
a troublemaker in the family.

p. 24

"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."

This reminds us of the earlier conspiracy on Absalom's part.

2 Samuel 15:1

In the course of time, Absalom provided himself with a chariot and horses and 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.)

DAVID WAS A REAL SLOW MOVER WHEN IT CAME TO DEALING WITH HIS KIDS.

In HIS RELATIONSHIP with Absalom, you have a TRAGIC STORY OF ELEVEN YEARS OF NEGLECT, prior to Absalom's conspiracy.

AMNON, his oldest son, RAPES Tamar, his half-sister, who is the full-blooded sister of Absalom.

ABSALOM WAITS for two years, and nothing happens,

THEN HE TAKES MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS and murders Amnon.

AND THEN HE FLEES to Geshur. He stays there for three years without any move on David's part toward reconciliation.

AFTER FIVE YEARS, through Joab's intervention, ABSALOM IS BROUGHT BACK to Jerusalem, BUT IS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THE KING FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

That's a TOTAL OF SEVEN YEARS without any meeting at all between David and his son, Absalom.

BUT THE MEETING THAT TAKES PLACE at that point is just a surface meeting, without any real repentance and reconciliation and forgiveness. AND SO, for the next FOUR YEARS, Absalom plans this conspiracy. AT THE ELEVEN YEAR MARK, the conspiracy is undertaken, and Absalom loses his life on the field of battle.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The author threw more light on Adonijah by recording that he was a spoiled, undisciplined young man who had apparently received much admiration for his good looks (**he was . . . very handsome**) more than for the quality of his character . . . Adonijah expected that his plot would succeed more because he was a popular figure than because he was a capable person.  
p. 487

Delitzsch observes:

Such weak oversight on the part of his father encouraged him to make the present attempt. Moreover, he "was very beautiful," like Absalom (see at 2 Sam. xiv. 25), and born after Absalom, so that after his death he appeared to have the nearest claim to the throne.  
p. 18

Parker says:

Every will has to be broken, and it ought to be broken as soon as possible; it is not as if the will could go on always having its own way, marching from conquering to conquer, going on from throne to throne; it is the law of life, and it is the most solemn fact in personal history, that the will must be broken, in the sense of being subdued, chastened, made to feel that there are other wills in creation, and that peace can only come by mutual understanding and concession. How cruel, then, are parents! They think they are kind, but their kindness is the worst form of cruelty.  
p. 255

Parker says further:

David seems to have been the murderer of all his children: a great public man, but of no use at home; one of those men who could fight a battle, but never broke the will of his own children; a great man on the public rostrum; doing good upon a great scale, but neglecting the details of domestic life. Adonijah, whose will had never been broken, said, "I will be king." What more natural? This is the fruit of the tree which David planted. We wonder that the harvest should not be of a different quality from the seed that was sown!  
p. 256

Haldeman says:

David had permitted him to have his own way. He never crossed his wishes, never inquired the motive of his actions, nor at any time rebuked him.

In allowing him to be guided by his own unbridled will, he failed to exercise parental authority and fulfill parental responsibility.

A parent is forbidden to withhold correction from a child  
(Proverbs 23:13.)

The child is to be trained up in the way is should go. (Proverbs 22:6.)

Children of Christian parents are to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4.)

Because of parental neglect David was in large measure responsible for the willfulness and lawlessness of his son.

**b. He exalted himself.**

He had chariots and horsemen, and footmen to run before him. He magnified his state. He followed the example of his rebellious brother Absalom. (2 Samuel 15:1.)

**c. He sought to usurp the throne of Israel.**

He made a feast, gathered the people about him, and incited them to proclaim him as king. (vv. 7-9, 25.)

In this he was again following the example of Absalom.  
(2 Samuel 15:10.)  
pp. 349-50

The surest way to make it hard for your children is to make it soft for them.

(Source Unknown)

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don't love him; for if you love him you will be prompt to punish him.

(Source Unknown)

(From InfoSearch 3.51)



Proverbs 13:24

Sometimes mere words are not enough—discipline is needed. For the words may not be heeded.

(From Parson's Bible Illustrator 1.0)

Proverbs 29:19

He who will not answer to the rudder must answer to the rocks.  
(Unknown)

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.  
Mark Twain

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

Give to a pig when it grunts and a child when it cries, and you will  
have a fine pig and a bad child.  
Danish proverb

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

We read the papers and hear on the air, of killing and stealing and  
crime everywhere. We sigh and say as we notice the trend, "This young  
generation, where will it end?" But can we be sure that it's their fault  
alone, that maybe a part of is, isn't our own?  
(Unknown)

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

(Time To Get Serious: Daily Devotions to Keep You Close to God  
by Tony Evans)

Do you know what the Bible says about God? "Whom the Lord loveth, He skins alive." That's a pretty good rendering of Hebrews 12:6.

My father would tell me, "I want you home at 10:00 P.M. That's not 10:01. You be in here at 10:00, or it's fire!" I would be upset and say, "Why do I have to be in here at 10:00? My friends are making fun of me. They can stay out until 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning." And Dad would say, "Well, maybe their parents don't care. But I care. Be in here at 10:00."

Now when I go back to Baltimore, guess where those guys are? Still hanging out on the corner until 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning. I can trace where I am today back to a father and mother who had a hold on me, who disciplined me, who would not let me have my way all the time. I'm in love with Jesus Christ today because of it!

p. 75

(Walking With Saints: Through the Best and Worst Times of Our Lives  
by Calvin Miller)

I remember my daughter struggling with me because I was resolved not to let her date until she was sixteen years old. When she was fifteen years and ten months old, a "dreamy hunk-of-a-guy" asked her to go to the senior prom. She asked me if I wouldn't consider relinquishing law in favor of grace. When I insisted that I would not set aside the rule, she became morose and somewhat angry. "Well," she said, "I hope Jesus comes back before my sixteenth birthday and you have to live with yourself all through eternity, knowing I never had a date!"

She was so sincere about this that she was nearly in tears. On the contrary, I broke into laughter. Why? Did I not want to be an understanding father? Of course, but I knew that in light of all the times she would have to life (and date), this small requirement was of no real consequence.

pp. xxxii-xxxiii

(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)

Proverb 22

Young people are prone to foolishness and fads;  
the cure comes through tough-minded discipline.

p. 75

(Finishing Strong: Finding The Power To Go The Distance by Steve Farrar)

Sin can shipwreck your life.

Throughout the Bible, there are three inescapable principles concerning sin. Just like shipwrecks,

- sin will take you farther than you want to go;
- sin will keep you longer than you wanted to stay;
- sin will cost you more than you wanted to pay.

p. 78

(Stories for the Heart by Alice Gray)

### Got a Minute?

David Jeremiah

A mother who had just finished reading a book on parenting . . . was convicted about some of the things she had been failing to do as a parent. Feeling this conviction, she went upstairs to talk to her son. When she got upstairs, all she could hear coming from her boy's room was the loud sound of his drums. She had a message she wanted to deliver, but when she knocked on the door, she got cold feet.

"Got a minute?" she said, as her son answered her knock.

"Mom, you know I always have a minute for you," said the boy.

"You know, son, I . . . I . . . I just love the way you play the drums."

He said, "You do? Well, thanks Mom!"

She got up and started back downstairs. Half-way down, she realized that she had not conveyed the message she had intended so back she went to his door and once again knocked. "It's Mom again! Do you have another minute?" she said.

He said, "Mom, like I told you before, I always have a minute for you."

She went over and sat on the bed. "When I was here before I had something I wanted to tell you and I didn't get it said. What I really meant to say was . . . your dad and I . . . we just really think you're great."

He said, "You and Dad?"

She said, "Yes, your Dad and I."

"Okay, Mom. Thanks a lot."

She left and was once again half-way down the stairs when she realized she had gotten closer to the message she intended but had still not told her boy that she loved him. So up the stairs again and back to

the door again, and this time he heard her coming. Before she could ask he shouted, "Yeah, I have a minute!"

Mom sat down on the bed once more. "You know, Son, I've tried this twice now and haven't gotten it out. What I really came up here to tell you is this. I love you. I love you with all my heart. Not Dad and I love you, but I love you."

He said, "Mom, that's great. I love you, too!" He gave her a great big hug.

She started out of the room and was back at the head of the stairs when her son stuck his head out of his room and said, "Mom, do you have a minute?"

She laughed and said, "Sure."

"Mom," he said, "did you just come back from a seminar?"

pp. 175-76

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

THIS SCENARIO IS SO SIMILAR TO ABSALOM'S CONSPIRACY.

### 2 Samuel 15: 12

While Absalom was offering sacrifices, he also sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, to come from Giloh, his hometown. And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing.

JOAB was the MILITARY COMMANDER through most of David's career.

He had UNJUSTLY KILLED

ABNER,

then AMMASAH,

and then ABSALOM.

HE HAD A LOT ON HIS TICKET.

ABIATHAR MIRACULOUSLY ESCAPED SAUL'S SLAUGHTER OF 85 PRIESTS AND FLED TO DAVID FOR REFUGE.

### 1 Samuel 22:20-23

But Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech son of Ahitub, escaped and fled to join David. He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. Then David said to Abiathar: "That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family. Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also. You will be safe with me."

Abiathar, I think, had his nose out of joint with regard that Zadok was always mentioned first, and probably was closer to David..

Obviously, THEY BOTH had selfish reasons for hooking up with Adonijah to obtain the kingdom.

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 LOYALTY OF THESE GUYS, EVEN WHILE DAVID IS UPON HIS DEATH BED IS MOST REFRESHING.

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 or his brother Solomon.

You can tell a whole lot about WHAT IS GOING ON BY WHO is left off THE GUEST LIST in situations like this.

When the Democrats are getting together there are no Republicans allowed. And the reverse is also true.

Parker observes:

Why did you not call Zadok and Nathan and Solomon? Out of thine own mouth I condemn thee. The honest man would have said, Let all come; this thing shall not be done in a corner; it is right, sound, clear-hearted, through and through,—come one, come all, and guide me if I am wrong. The right man need not be in any hurry. He will be sent for in due time. Solomon need not discompose himself; the prophet will see after him—that marvelous man who has a prophetic instinct, who reads the reality of things, who knows God's purpose and works out God's harmonies. "He that believeth shall not make haste."

pp. 258-9

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?"

I have really enjoyed reading a very enlightening book called Unlimited Access. It was written by an FBI agent who had unlimited access to the White House.

Nathan and Bathsheba HAVE PERMANENT WHITE HOUSE PASSES. NATHAN, who is in charge of RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES for the ADMINISTRATION, goes to the FIRST LADY to have a conversation and to pass on some news.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says (paraphrased):

God is moving His man again. (2 Sam. 12:1)  
p. 488

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

This is a very serious matter, and if Adonijah takes the throne, he will probably have Bathsheba and Solomon executed.

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, as the RELIGIOUS ADVISOR, tells the first lady, (who obviously has UNLIMITED ACCESS to the kings' ear):

" GO TO KING DAVID" and ask him

TWO QUESTIONS:

1. "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?', and
2. "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."

Nathan says:

"WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER, AND AS SOON AS YOU GET THOSE QUESTIONS OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, I WILL BE THERE TO 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.

This certainly indicates the fact that what was going on between David and Abishag was expected by Bathsheba and was not a threat to her relationship to the king.

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

David may be dying, but he is still very sensitive to the fact that Bathsheba is in deep anxiety. His question is designed to get her to make her request:

"WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?"

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.'"

She chooses not to go the QUESTION ROUTE because she knows and he knows this is a promise he made. Instead of ASKING HIM A QUESTION, she simply GIVES THE RECORD of the promise.

"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.

In the SECOND PART of her little speech, she does not ask a question again, but SHE STATES THE FACTS:

"ADONIJAH HAS BECOME KING, AND YOU, MY LORD THE KING, DO NOT KNOW ABOUT IT. "

FIRST Absalom,

NOW Adonijah.

SAME SONG, SECOND VERSE,

A LITTLE BIT LOUDER AND A WHOLE LOT WORSE.

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 your servant.

Bathsheba is on a roll. She is giving a life and death speech at this point, and she is sticking to the facts: Adonijah is having a great feast:

"AND HAS INVITED ALL THE KING'S SONS, ABIATHAR THE PRIEST AND JOAB THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY, BUT HE HAS NOT INVITED SOLOMON YOUR SERVANT."

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.

DAVID, YOU CANNOT DIE YET! You still have got some work to do!

On your agenda is going to be YOUR SUCCESSOR— WHO IS GOING TO TAKE THE KINGDOM WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF HERE?

DAVID:

"THE EYES OF ALL ISRAEL ARE ON YOU, TO LEARN FROM YOU WHO WILL SIT ON THE THRONE OF MY LORD THE KING AFTER YOU."

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."

DAVID, if you do not act now, and you die before you get this job done:

"I AND MY SON SOLOMON WILL BE TREATED AS CRIMINALS."

WE WILL BE EXECUTED ACCORDINGLY!

I am REMINDED of the PRAYER of DANIEL

Daniel 9:19

O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

WOW, WHAT A SPEECH!

Bathsheba has presented the:

PROMISE,

PROBLEM, and she ends with

A PLEA.

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

Nathan knew just about how long it would take Bathsheba to get her job done, and so he arrives right on schedule.

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 uses the QUESTIONING APPROACH, and he speaks nothing in a derogatory way about Adonijah.

He is wanting to find out from the king WHO IS GOING TO BE HIS CHOICE to carry on the kingdom.

So the QUESTION is designed to SURFACE THAT CHOICE, not to shock the king about what Adonijah has done.

Bathsheba has already done a good job on that, So, man to man the QUESTION comes:

"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 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!'

With great DIPLOMACY, Nathan lays before David the FACTS of the situation.

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

Bathsheba stopped with "Solomon, your servant."

Nathan makes it clear that those who were left off the guest list included not only Solomon, but:

"ZADOC THE PRIEST, AND BENAI AH SON OF JEHOIADA",  
and HIMSELF AS WELL.

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 ENDS with a QUESTION.

HIS FIRST QUESTION:

"Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne?"

AND NOW THE FINAL QUESTION:

"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.

Bathsheba had obviously gone out while Nathan had his audience with the king, and then:

THE KING CALLED BATHSHEBA TO COME BACK IN.

In this situation she does not bow low and kneel before the king, she is in the king's presence, standing before him, waiting his decision.

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."

David is saying

"A PROMISE MADE IS A PROMISE KEPT."

(Time-Out Leadership by Donald Luce)

Courage is one of the great virtues of leaders. It takes a lot of guts to face the hard issues and take the firm stands. Without courage you will be weak in all you attempt to do. With courage you can accomplish anything. You can leap effortlessly over any obstacle that gets in your way. You can inspire others to follow because of your unbelievable strength of conviction.

p. 74

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Speaking on verse 29 the little phrase:

**As surely as the LORD lives** meant that David's intended action was as certain to take place as God's very existence.

p. 489



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!"

WHAT A RELIEF!

WHAT A SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AND JOY DO THE WORDS OF DAVID BRING TO THIS BEDROOM!

Bathsheba is on her face, kneeling before the king. And the only words that she can speak at this emotional moment are:

"MAY MY LORD KING DAVID LIVE FOREVER!"

Lowth in his commentary says:

*Let my lord king David live for ever.*] There could be no higher expression of love and thankfulness, than to desire never to see Solomon on the throne, if it were possible for David always to enjoy it.  
p. 289

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

DAVID KNEW WHAT TO DO!

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

David's plans skillfully defused the rebellion which was building just south of Jerusalem . . . the ranking priest, prophet and soldier (are called before the king) . . . Their leadership in the events to follow would demonstrate to the general population that they were acting as the king's representatives.  
p. 489

v.33 he said to them [that is: Nathan, Zadok and Benaiah] "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!'

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

**Your lord's servants** were the Kerethites and the Pelethites (v. 38, cf. 2 Sam. 8:18), David's special military guards under Benaiah (2 Sam. 23:22-23)! They were responsible to protect **the king**, his family, and his city.  
p. 489

THE MULE SPOKE OF SERVANTHOOD.

The REBELS are Southeast of Jerusalem. at a neighboring spring, WHILE the KING'S MEN are Northeast at the other spring.

IN RESPONSE to the words that he had heard from Nathan:

"LONG LIVE KING ADONIJAH" David says:

"WHEN YOU GET HIM ANNOINTED, 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."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

There was no prophet in Adonijah's camp. Nathan's presence symbolized the divine choice of Solomon as **king** in a way that Zadok's presence alone could not . . . "May what the king has said be what Yahweh has declared."  
pp. 489-90

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!"

The military speaks and Benaiah is thrilled with this courageous action on the part of king David, to put down this uprising and to make a clear statement that the majority will follow, and that there will be peace instead of a sword.

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!"

Just as David had commanded,

"ZADOK THE PRIEST, NATHAN THE PROPHET, BENAIHAH SON OF JEHOIADA, THE KERETHITES AND THE PELETHITES WENT DOWN AND PUT SOLOMON ON KING DAVID'S MULE AND ESCORTED HIM TO GIHON"

Once there they:

"ANNOINTED 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.

This HISTORIC EVENT reminds us so much of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that week before He was crucified.

Matthew 21:9

And the multitudes going before Him, and those who followed after were crying out, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!"

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?"

Now imagine TV CAMERAS moving AWAY from the camp of King Solomon, and DRAWING NEAR the camp of Adonijah:

Joab hears THE SOUND of the TRUMPET, and wonders what is going on.

His QUESTION:

"WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THE NOISE IN THE CITY?"

I really believe that he does know, deep down, what is going on. He is just asking a general question hoping to alleviate his fears.

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."

It is almost a replay of the situation with Absalom. Once Joab slays Absalom, Ahimaaz is sent to the king.

## 2 Samuel 18:27

The watchman said, "It seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok." "He's a good man," the king said. "He comes with good news."

Montgomery & Gehman says:

The news is brought them by Abiathar's son Jonathan, who in the past had been the faithful sleuth for his father and for David.

p. 80

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

ONE THING everybody has in common in that room is that:

DAVID IS STILL KING.

He is referred to by Jonathan as:

"OUR LORD KING DAVID."

And David has TAKEN ACTION.

"[He] HAS MADE SOLOMON KING," not Adonijah.

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.'"

After a report like this, we are not shocked by what we read in verse 49.

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

With such courageous and forthright action in the midst of a crisis, everyone who would be identified with Adonijah would be in jeopardy.

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.'"

It is obvious that Adonijah had in his mind to put Bathsheba and Solomon to the sword and now he is fearful of reprisal because of what he has done to try to secure the kingdom for himself.

Parker said:

"Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased." Adonijah, who began by saying, "I will be king," ended by saying, I am a servant. See the end of all vanity, foolish conceit, mistaken and selfish ambition . . .  
p. 260

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."

Solomon says:

THE BALL IS IN ADONIJAH'S COURT.

"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."

If there is a recurrence of these actions, or a desire to gain some advantage for himself, the only alternative is for him to die. Because "My kingdom is going to be a kingdom of peace."

DeVries says:

"If evil is found in him": most likely Solomon is speaking of treason and disloyalty, for which death must be the unremitting penalty. "Go to your house": since Solomon imposes no restrictions on Adonijah's movement similar to those of 2:36-38, this command must be interpreted not as a house arrest but as a release.  
p. 20



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."

Oh, by the way:

ADONIJAH, GET RID OF THE HORSES AND CHARIOTS, AND THEN FIRE THE FIFTY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN LEADING YOU AROUND THE CITY.

Montgomery & Gehman say:

The royal minister conduct him from the altar, and he comes and does homage to the king, who bids him to *go home*, 'a demand that he retire into private life' (Skinner).

p. 81

Romans 16:20

And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Satan's rival kingdom will not dominate and be victorious.

THE DAY IS SOON COMING, THAT JESUS CHRIST, THE KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS, WILL COME TO RULE AND REIGN ETERNALLY.

(The Christian in Complete Armour by William Gurnall)

And will he send sympathy when at last you have destroyed yourself by following his advice? Of course not--no more than the ravenous wolf pities the sheep after he has torn her into pieces and drunk her blood.

(August 21)

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## CONCLUSION:

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

LESSON #1: None of us are exempt from going through the humiliating process of aging.

LESSON #2: When the will of a child is not broken by parental discipline, there are going to be problems.

LESSON #3: Failure to be involved in the lives of our children will bear the bitter fruit of rebellion.

LESSON #4: God's sovereign purposes will never be thwarted by the decisions of men.

LESSON #5: The Lord's purpose prevails when Solomon becomes king.

LESSON #6: David is a man of his word. A promise made is a promise kept.

LESSON #7: When things are not right, selective choices and subversive actions are involved.

LESSON #8: When God's will is acted upon, there will be great celebration.

LESSON #9: King David is bowing in worship on his bed, saying "Praise be to the Lord of Israel who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today."

LESSON #10: Think of all of those who are going to be shocked when Jesus Christ assumes the reigns of His eternal Kingdom, and Satan and his forces are thoroughly destroyed.

(Seeing Through: Reflecting God's Light in a Dark World by David Roper)

We live in [a] world of cosmic deceit, hidden agendas, treacherous motivations, illusions, and lies. And Satan is behind it all. His strategy is to deceive. His objective is to destroy. His shrewd, cruel mind is behind the lies that buffet us all day long, the media messages that encourage us to “find ourselves” in something or someone other than the living God, to go for all the gusto, but to leave our Savior out.

p. 58

(Future Grace by John Piper)

#### IN GOD'S PLACE, AT GOD'S PACE, BY FUTURE GRACE

Impatience is a form of unbelief. It's what we begin to feel when we start to doubt the wisdom of God's timing or the goodness of God's guidance. It springs up in our hearts when our plan is interrupted or shattered. It may be prompted by a long wait in a checkout line or a sudden blow that knocks out half our dreams. The opposite of impatience is not a glib denial of loss. It's a deepening, ripening, peaceful willingness to wait for God in the unplanned place of obedience, and to walk with God at the unplanned pace of obedience—to wait in his place, and go at his pace. And the key is faith in future grace.

p. 171

(Mama, Get the Hammer! There's a Fly on Papa's Head!  
by Barbara Johnson)

This poem by a dear Spatula friend says it all so well. My thanks to Anna Jean McDaniel for sharing it.

If I can say, "Whatever, Lord,"  
When my heart is about to break,  
When it's full of despair and overcome  
With an uncontrollable ache.

If I can say, "Whatever, Lord,"  
And nail my boy to that tree,  
Will the burden be lifted from my soul?  
Then will my heart be free?

Free from the fear that chills me so  
In the dark and friendless night,  
When my tired eyes refuse to close  
And I wait for the morning light?

If I can say, "Whatever, Lord,"  
Will He reach with His arms of love  
And wrap me 'round with the Comforter  
Sent from heaven above?

If I can say, "Whatever, Lord,"  
Will He hear my anguished cries?  
Will He answer quickly and not delay  
Before hope within me dies?

Others have found the answer  
As they've dared to say the word,  
What more can I do but follow,  
And whisper, "Whatever . . . Lord"?

Anna Jean McDaniel, 1993

pp. 77-78

## STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

### PART I

#### STUDY NUMBER TWO

#### 1 Kings 1:1-53:

#### Notes

##### 1 Kings 1:1-53:

v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even 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 Zeruiah 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 or his brother Solomon.

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?"

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 has invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.

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 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!'

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.

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meaning of all the noise in the city?"

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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."

### QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 1:1-53 and highlight the main happenings in this chapter.
2. Who is it that tries to get the kingdom from David in the early verses of this chapter and how does he go about it?
3. Outline the drama that takes place in protecting Solomon's future kingship.
4. How does David respond to this uprising according to verses 28-30?
5. What is Benaiah's response to David's decision about the kingship of Solomon according to verses 36,37?

6. Describe in your own words the anointing of King Solomon in verses 39, 40.
7. Describe the response of Adonijah and his guests upon receiving the news about Solomon in verses 41-49.
8. How did Adonijah respond to the news that Solomon was king according to verses 50-53?
9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE: