

# (23) Anointing of Solomon



Sunday October 26, 2025

# Previous Lesson

- Satan moved David to number the people
- David realizes his sin and God gives David three choices
- David falls on the Lord's mercy. The plague kills 70000 .
- David offers a sacrifice at the Lord's command and the plague is ended.
- This lesson begins with David's advanced age
- **You know you are getting older when...**
  - Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
  - The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
  - You finally reach the top of the ladder and it is leaning against the wrong wall.
  - You look forward to a dull evening.
  - You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
  - Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
  - You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

# David's advanced age

- **1 Kings 1:1-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm." So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. The young woman *was* very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

- **David was** now seventy years **old** and in declining (KJV "stricken in years") health. He was about to pass off the stage of history. Years have taken toll on him. He is now feeble and weak. The proposal of **his servants** in verse [2](#) seems at first glance both puzzling and shocking. However, this practice was accepted at that time as being of value in the case of an illness like David's. It was not an act of doubtful morality and would not create a public scandal. She nursed, cherished and cared for the king and kept him warm.

Believer's Bible Commentary and Treasures from the Scriptures

# Adonijah usurps the throne

- **1 Kings 1:5-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

<sup>6</sup> (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He *was* also very good-looking. *His mother* had borne him after Absalom.)

<sup>7</sup> Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.

- **Adonijah** was apparently David's oldest surviving **son** ([2:22](#)) and thus considered himself next in line for the throne. Amnon, the firstborn son is dead. Absalom's command killed him. Chileab is believed to have died at an early age. Absalom was killed by Joab. Adonijah has forgotten God and that he is not God's man for the nation of Israel. He takes things in his own hands.

Treasures From the Scriptures and Believer's Bible Commentary

- Being a **very good-looking** man, he won a great following. Verse [6a](#) indicates that David was an indulgent **father** and Adonijah a spoiled son. 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.
- **Proverbs 29:15-17** (written by Solomon) (**NASB**) The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. ...  
<sup>17</sup> Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul.
- The description of Adonijah's decision to seek the throne strongly suggests a selfish motive: he **put himself forward and said determinedly, I will be king.**
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary and Believer's Bible Commentary

# David's loyal and uninvited

- <sup>8</sup> But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who *belonged* to David were not with Adonijah.  
<sup>9</sup> And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zohemoth, which *is* by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.  
<sup>10</sup> But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.
- God had told David before Solomon was born that Solomon would be Israel's next king ([1 Chron. 22:9, 10](#)).  
<sup>9</sup> Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.  
<sup>10</sup> He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I *will be* his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

- **1 Kings 1:11-14 (NKJV)**

So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?"

Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

- Nathan knows Bathsheba and David are unaware of what is happening and brings it to their attention. He does his job as prophet of God, keeping a watch, and courageously speaking up when it is time to do so. He knows Solomon is to be the next king. **Nathan** had a desire to see the word of the Lord fulfilled. Being concerned about the threat of **Adonijah**, he skillfully brought the issue to David's attention. In the Middle East, potential claimants to the throne were often executed. Nathan knows Solomon and Bathsheba's life are in jeopardy and he offers to give them counsel to save their lives.

Treasures From the Scriptures and Believer's Bible Commentary

- **1 Kings 1:15-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.)

<sup>16</sup> And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?"

<sup>17</sup> Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, *saying*, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.'

<sup>18</sup> So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about *it*.

- Coached by **Nathan**, **Bathsheba** appeared before **the** ailing **king** and notified him of the plot. She also reminded him of a promise he had previously made (though unrecorded) that **Solomon**, her **son**, would be the next king. Believer's Bible Commentary

- **1 Kings 1:19-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.

<sup>20</sup> And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

<sup>21</sup> Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders."

- (Nathan's plan is to report matters to David and make sure two witnesses confirm his words, Bathsheba and Nathan.)

- <sup>22</sup> And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

<sup>23</sup> So they told the king, saying, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

<sup>24</sup> And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'?"

- **Nathan** sought an audience with **the king** while Bathsheba was talking with David. He was admitted and reported the same facts Bathsheba had announced, with a bit more detail as would have been appropriate for a man in his position. Nathan's statement that Adonijah's feast was taking place at that very moment would have encouraged David to act at once. Nathan knew David had promised Bathsheba that Solomon would succeed him ([v. 13](#)). Rather than reminding David of his promise regarding Solomon, Nathan asked David if he had planned the present circumstances.
- **1 Kings 1:24 (NKJV)** And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'?"

- **1 Kings 1:25-27 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest; and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, '*Long* live King Adonijah!'

<sup>26</sup> But he has not invited me--me your servant--nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.

<sup>27</sup> Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

- He then tells David of the sacrifice and of invitation all the king's sons, and Joab, and Abiathar the priest. That they are eating and drinking before him; and saying, '*Long* live King Adonijah!' But he has not invited me nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.
- He questions David as though David had planned this and not told him.
- "Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

- **1 Kings 1:28-31 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.

<sup>29</sup> And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress,

<sup>30</sup> just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."

<sup>31</sup> Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

<sup>32</sup> And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.

<sup>33</sup> The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon.

<sup>34</sup> There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, '*Long* live King Solomon!'

<sup>35</sup> Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

- **1 Kings 1:36-40 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so *too*."

<sup>37</sup> As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

<sup>38</sup> So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.

<sup>39</sup> Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "*Long live King Solomon!*"

<sup>40</sup> And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth *seemed to* split with their sound.

- David promises to keep his commitment to Bathsheba and makes Solomon the king. David told them to place **Solomon** on a **mule** and lead **him** through Jerusalem to the place of anointing. Kings rode on mules in the ancient Near East, symbolizing their role as the people's servants. The people would understand that Solomon's riding on a mule implied his kingship. The mule specified by David was to be his **own** personal animal. Perhaps the people would have recognized that mule by its trappings and concluded that David had given Solomon permission to ride it as his designated successor. The officials were to lead Solomon **down to** the spring of **Gihon**. Two springs provided most of the water for Jerusalem: the En Rogel spring southeast of Jerusalem not far from the city wall where Adonijah was feasting his guests (cf. [v. 9](#)), and the Gihon spring about one-half mile north and directly east of Jerusalem also outside the city wall. On that day two processions, one by rebels and one by the king's men, were going to two neighboring springs. At the Gihon spring both **Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet** were to **anoint** Solomon. 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. Blowing **the trumpet** signaled the official nature of the anointing. Every king of Israel was anointed. The Bible Knowledge Commentary

- **1 Kings 1:41-46 (NKJV)**

<sup>41</sup> Now Adonijah and all the guests who *were* with him heard *it* as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, "Why *is* the city in such a noisy uproar?"

<sup>42</sup> While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you *are* a prominent man, and bring good news."

<sup>43</sup> Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

<sup>44</sup> The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king's mule.

<sup>45</sup> So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This *is* the noise that you have heard.

<sup>46</sup> Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.

- **1 Kings 1:47-49 (NKJV)**

<sup>47</sup> And moreover the king's servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, 'May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.' Then the king bowed himself on the bed.

<sup>48</sup> Also the king said thus, 'Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, who has given *one* to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see *it!*' "

<sup>49</sup> So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.

- Since it is widely held that Solomon had a two-year co-regency with his father, for which he would have had to be anointed, this was a second anointing that recognized him as sole ruler. This public anointing by **Zadok the priest** caused **great** rejoicing among David's followers, but consternation among **Adonijah and those who were feasting with him**. When the latter heard that **Solomon** was now sitting **on the royal throne** and that David was grateful to the Lord for this, they realized that Adonijah's plot was a failure. Believer's Bible Commentary

- **1 Kings 1:50-53 (NKJV)**

<sup>50</sup> Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

<sup>51</sup> And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.' "

<sup>52</sup> Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

<sup>53</sup> So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

- **Adonijah's guests** scattered as far from the traitor and as fast as they could so they would not be linked with him and dealt with as they felt surely he would be. In the ancient Near East traitors could expect to be purged by a new king. Terror at this prospect drove **Adonijah** to the tabernacle where he claimed refuge by grasping **the horns on the brazen altar** in the tabernacle courtyard, an act which was supposed to grant him safety from punishment. Solomon decreed that Adonijah would be spared if found **worthy**, but punished if caught in any future wickedness. Then he sent Adonijah home. **Solomon** could have had Adonijah removed from the tabernacle and executed, but instead showed mercy. Solomon followed this pattern of graciousness throughout his reign. The new **king** simply asked for a promise from his half brother that he would not rebel again but would show **himself to be a worthy**, loyal subject. **Adonijah** promised and Solomon sent him **home**. But soon Adonijah conspired again and lost his life as a result ([2:13-25](#)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary and Believer's Bible Commentary

- When you look at the history of Jerusalem, you find two sons of David have ridden through her streets on a mule amid the shouts and praises of people. Those two sons were Solomon and centuries later, Jesus.
- Their triumphal ride came after an anointing. A prophet or priest anointed Solomon to be king. The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus to be king, priest, and prophet.
- Each rode through the city as king. The people cried, "God save king Solomon." In Jesus' time they shouted, "Blessed is the king that cometh in the name of the Lord ([Luke 19:38](#))."
- Each rode as a son of David. To Jesus they said, "Hosanna to the son of David ([Matthew 21:9-15](#))."
- The differences between the two are first, all those who were great surrounded Solomon. The poor followed the Lord.
- Secondly, Solomon went to sit upon his throne. Jesus went to suffer on the cross.
- Solomon rode to ease, glory, pomp, and unparalleled magnificence. Jesus rode to shame, spitting, denial, and death. Treasures From the Scriptures.

- **John 1:10-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

- **John 18:37-40 (NKJV)**

<sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

<sup>38</sup> Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

<sup>39</sup> "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

<sup>40</sup> Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.