

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
THE BEGINNING OF SOLOMON'S REIGN
ADONIJAH'S DEMISE
1 KINGS 2:12-25

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Introduction

In our text tonight we pick up where we left off talking about David's death. David's health had been failing. **Adonijah saw what he thought was an opportunity to seize the throne, but he was thwarted by the will of God!**

God's will from before Solomon had even been born was for him to succeed his father David on the throne as King of Israel. **Adonijah thought to keep that from happening, but God's will was accomplished in spite of Adonijah's plan!**

Adonijah acted according to his own reasoning and the lusts of his own flesh! Listen to me, that will eventually bring you trouble most every time like it did Adonijah. However, **Solomon waited for God's timing and allowed God to bring His will to pass!** As a result, Adonijah is OFF the throne and Solomon is ON the throne!

We saw in Chapter 1 how God used Nathan and Bathsheba to quicken David's memory in this matter before his death. They encouraged him to take care of this matter of the throne prior to his death, which he did!

So while Adonijah was having what he thought would be his coronation cookout, Solomon was being anointed king, being presented as king to Israel, and being seated on the throne as king! And we see him on the throne in *Vs 12* after his father's death!

So, Solomon waited for God's timing. He is now the king. He did not try to jump the gun like Absalom or Adonijah by taking the throne away from his father.

A lesson here is to **understand how impatience and greed can get us into trouble.** We need to **know God's will** and **wait on God's timing** like Solomon rather than **get ahead of God** and **push for what we want** as Adonijah did and have it fly back in our face!

Solomon came to the throne God's way and his kingdom was "*established greatly*" which means it was "*fixed, stable, and well prepared.*"

1 Chronicles 29:23-25 "23 Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him. 24 And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king. 25 And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel."

2 Chronicles 1:1 1 And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly.

The lesson here is that **if you want your life to be established greatly:**

1. Know God's will for your life!
2. Wait for God's timing! and
3. Let the LORD establish your life!
4. Let the LORD magnify your life!

I. ADONIJAH'S DEMISE CAME FROM HIS PRIDEFUL UNDOING! (2:13-18)

Adonijah had escaped with his life, but **he just couldn't leave well enough alone!** He had wanted to be king! He had been so close to being king he could taste it! But he was **not** the king and he was struggling with his position and having lost face before the people!

We've come to learn that Adonijah was also very cunning! So, he devised a plan that could possibly still give him access to the throne and maybe even win him the throne. So, Adonijah approached Bathsheba in order to get his own way.

On the surface maybe it seemed to be a clever plan, but it was about to backfire on him! Notice several elements of this conversation.

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A. **We See Adonijah's Conceit! (vs. 13-15a)**

Bathsheba asked if Adonijah was coming in peace because she previously she had feared for her life when it appeared that Adonijah might challenge for the throne!

If he had become king, he could have and probably would have executed both her and Solomon. He wasn't near as gracious as his brother Solomon was with him!

Notice his conceit... *"The kingdom was mine."* That was his opinion, not God's! And it was **what he tried to bring about himself and failed! The failed plans of one full of pride!**

He further said here, *"All Israel set their face upon me, that I should reign."* It makes you want to say to Adonijah, "Get over yourself buddy, you know that is not true!"

Because all of Israel did not want him as king! In fact, it was just his barbecue buddies that he had invited to that party that he had hoped to be his coronation! The one that got broken up by the news that Solomon reigned!

The root problem of most cocky and conceited people is pride! Pride is what leads to their downfall! (Just as we see here in Adonijah's life!)

The Bible warns us about our pride:
Proverbs 11:2—When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18—Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

We See Adonijah's Conceit...

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B. **We See Adonijah's Comprehension! (vs. 15b)**

He said, *"The kingdom is turned about and become my brother's: for it was from the LORD."* You can almost here him sulking here! (e.g. Kind of like Hillary Clinton! Who is still NOT our President THANK YOU LORD!!!)

He's acknowledging that his plans backfired, but you can almost hear the complaint in his voice kind of blaming the LORD because the LORD gave the kingdom to Solomon!

By the way, **God is the One Who does the exalting! And He does so for His purposes!**

Psalm 75:6-7—6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Daniel 2:21—And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Notice again that it was **from the LORD**. Everything we have is **from the LORD**. Never forget that truth and never forget to be grateful and thankful for the LORD's blessing upon us!

C. **We See Adonijah's Conspiracy! (vs. 16,17)**

Adonijah petitioned Bathsheba for the hand of Abishag of the royal harem. Abishag was the young virgin that was brought into David's harem to minister to him when he was old and cold!

He obviously assumed that Solomon would not deny this request if it came through his mother. He thinks he has thought this out, but he should have just left things alone!

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Both his plan and his expectation of what it would bring him was about to backfire drastically as we will see in a moment.

D. We See Bathsheba's Compliance. (vs. 18)

We don't know why, but Bathsheba promised him that she would speak to Solomon. So far, so good, but not for long!

II. ADONIJAH'S DEMISE CAME FROM HIS TRYING TO USE SOLOMON'S MOTHER TO GET TO HIM! (2:19-20)

Solomon showed great love and respect for his mother, as he should! Your mom is still your mom even when you are grown and gone!

Bathsheba proceeded to ask for this "*small petition*," as she put it. At least she considered it to be small.

Well, unwisely, Solomon agreed to grant her request before hearing it. This was not very smart. But this was before the LORD granted him the wisdom he became famous for! In fact, Solomon wrote later:

Proverbs 18:13—He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Solomon learned from that mistake and we need to learn from ours as well! A wise man learns, but a fool never learns from his mistakes!

Now understand that Solomon never expected his mother to make a request of him that was really Adonijah's request!

Well, Solomon's reaction was predictable. He sees right through this scheme of Adonijah's!

III. ADONIJAH'S DEMISE CAME FROM HIS FAILURE TO ANTICIPATE HOW SOLOMON MIGHT REACT! (2:21-25)

Bathsheba presented the petition. The response of Solomon suggested that he knew something was very wrong here! He could smell a rat!

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Her request turned out to be much bigger than she thought! This was not such a little matter after all!

Solomon knew his mother was being used by Adonijah to get something from him and he didn't take it very well!
(It always burned me up when someone took advantage of my mom!)

Things that one thinks is not such a big deal may be a big deal to others!

Think about this in relation to our King! Things that we think may be small matters to our King might actually be very important to Him!

Solomon was upset with his mother's request. But what he says shows his anger is directed toward Adonijah! He says, "*Does he ask for the kingdom also?*" Solomon saw Adonijah's request as a conspiracy to try to gain the throne through the back door because the heir to the throne inherited the royal harem of which Abishag was a member.

If Abishag became Adonijah's wife, he might use that to try to lay claim to the throne. Back in that day, in the eyes of some, having a royal wife might give him somewhat of a claim to the throne. That is why Solomon was furious! "*Does he ask for the kingdom also?*"

So, Solomon decided to deal with Adonijah once and for all by having him executed. And we see that Adonijah's plan backfired on him in a great and final way!

God chose Solomon for a reason. It was a matter of character! We can see this when we compare the lives of these two men!

The selfishness, greed, pride, impatience, and hard heart of Adonijah led to his schemes and plans backfiring in his face. The same thing will happen to us if we get hardhearted. Solomon on the other hand was the opposite of Adonijah and the LORD established his kingdom!