

“God’s Purpose Will Stand”
1 Kings 1:11-40
(Preached at Trinity, June 28, 2020)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The question before us as this chapter continues is, who will succeed David as king? We’ve already seen it would not be Amnon nor Absalom. The only remaining sons are Adonijah and Solomon. Who would it be?
2. We can see the continued division in David’s family, partly due to the sin of David with Bathsheba – a sin from which the kingdom never fully recovered, and partly due to the perils of polygamy. How can there be unity and harmony in a family with different mothers?
Amnon was the son of Ahinoam
Absalom was the son of Maacah who was the daughter of the pagan king Talmai
Adonijah was the son of Haggith
Solomon was the son of Bathsheba
3. Although we don’t find record, there was probably conflict between the wives of David—Jealousy cannot be avoided in a polygamous relationship. And with the rivalry between the mothers there would have been rivalry between the sons. We surely find little by way of brotherly love among David’s sons. We know Absalom killed his older brother, Amnon. And now we find serious division between Adonijah and Solomon.
4. In **Verse 5** Adonijah declares boldly, “I will be king.”
Why not? He was young and resourceful.
 - A. He follows the lead of his older brother (or half-brother) Absalom:
1 Kings 1:5 NAU - "So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him."
 - B. We also read that, like Absalom, he had all the physical qualities of a king:
1 Kings 1:6 NAU - "And he was also a very handsome man"
 - C. And like Absalom, he was cunning and shrewd. He quickly formed a team of influential allies. And as with Absalom, David is oblivious to what is taking place under his nose.
1 Kings 1:7 NAU - "He had conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest; and following Adonijah they helped him."
5. As we consider Adonijah, as David’s oldest living son, he would be the most logical successor to the throne of David. That was probably the conclusion of many. The rule was always for the eldest son succeed his father to the throne. But Adonijah knew better. He knew he was not God’s anointed. It was not God’s purpose. But that would not stop Adonijah from pursuing his ambitious plans.

6. For many it would seem like a sealed deal. David is old and frail, Adonijah is young and virulent and he has the general and priest on his side. Except for one important point. It was not God's plan.
- A. This shivering old man was still God's anointed king and his successor would be determined by God.
1 Chronicles 22:9-10 NAU - "Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. ¹⁰ '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."
- B. David was but a man and suffered under the failures of man and weaknesses of man. The once mighty warrior was now old, weak, and frail. But this had no effect upon the purpose of God.
- C. God purposes are not dependent upon the power of men. And God's purposes are not hindered by the sinfulness of man, nor the weakness of man. Where God rejected Saul, He would not withdraw His promise to David.
2 Samuel 7:12 NAU - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom."
7. God has a plan, and it is unassailable. He is working out His purpose and nothing will hinder the outcome.
Daniel 4:35 NAU - "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"
Isaiah 55:8-11 NAU - "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it."
8. God's purpose will be done. Nothing will stop it.
 What follows in this text, however, is a course filled with shrewd maneuvering and political intrigue that ended with Solomon gaining the throne.
 Why was this necessary? Surely the prophet Nathan would have had greater faith in the promises of God than to go through such scheming and at times, overstatement of the situation.

- I. God's plans and purposes do not exclude His use of appointed means
- A. God is the first cause of all things but most often works through appointed means
1. This means that God has ordered all things, whatever comes to pass, but He has also ordered all of the details that lead to the ordained end.
 2. For example, God has ordered the hour of your death, but He has also ordained the means that will bring it to pass.
LBC: Chapter 5:1
"Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; so that there is not anything befalls any by chance, or without his providence; yet by the same providence he ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently."
 3. God's acts are invisible, yet boldly seen. He is working continually, and often works in and through us. God even uses sinful human beings in accomplishing His sovereign purpose, yet He is not the author of our sin. Our sin is all our own as we pursue the desires of our sinful heart.
- B. God has ordered all things in our lives, every detail. He has also determined active part in each event.
1. This unfolds in endless ways.
 - a. God determined the details of your birth, including the details of your parents meeting. Any small change and you wouldn't be here.
 - b. We can see God's providence in our occupation, what we do, where we work.
 - c. God has determined where you live, but has also ordered all of the details that brought you there.
 2. We can surely see this in the life of David and in the succession to the throne.
 - a. God has determined that Solomon would be the king to follow David.
 - b. God orchestrated every detail to bring it to pass, at the right time and in the right way. In the end Solomon's kingdom was firmly established by God.
1 Kings 2:10-12 NAU - "Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. ¹¹ The days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years he reigned in Hebron and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem. ¹² And Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established."
 3. So, this means we don't have to do a thing. We just need to sit back and watch God do His work. WRONG!
This has led to a host of errors in theology.
 - a. The error of Keswick theology that teaches total surrender through faith. They coined the expression, "Let go and let God." It is a Christianity of passivity.

- b. Another error is what we refer to as hyper-Calvinism. This is the error that denies God's free offer of grace. It holds that if God has elected a people in eternity He will save them no matter what we do. This is why some wrongly accuse those who hold to Reformed Theology as not being evangelistic.
- 4. God has ordained our zealous activity in the course of His sovereign reign.

II. Trusting in the plans and purposes of God does not excuse us from action
There was much human activity in Solomon's path to the throne

A. We first see the actions of Nathan

- 1. We should see Nathan as a man of faith. He knew that God had ordained the successor to David. He was the one who spoke the Davidic Covenant to David. He knew that God was able to do His will. And yet he leaped to action. His strategy was shrewd but also manipulative.
- 2. He wasted little time in seeking out Bathsheba.
 - a. He sets the situation before her
1 Kings 1:11 NAU - "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king"
 - b. He exaggerates the situation. Adonijah had not actually become king. David was still the king.
 - c. He stresses the seriousness of the situation – David did not know.
 - d. He also told her that her life and the life of Solomon were in jeopardy. This was true. It was customary for ancient kings to put their rivals to death.
 - e. He stresses the urgency and the need for immediate action
1 Kings 1:13 NAU - "Go at once to King David and say to him"
 - f. He tells her to remind the king of his promise.
1 Kings 1:13 NAU - "Have you not, my lord, O king, sworn to your maidservant, saying, "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne "? Why then has Adonijah become king?"
 - g. Then at the right time Nathan would come in and confirm her words
1 Kings 1:14 NAU - "Behold, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words."

B. Bathsheba plays her part carefully

- 1. David had given her his oath that Solomon would reign Surely, David would have told her that this was by God's design. She still came before David with urgency.
- 2. She goes before the king boldly and pleads her case. As Nathan counseled her, she stressed the danger
1 Kings 1:21 NAU - "Otherwise it will come about, as soon as my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be considered offenders."
- 3. And then, right on cue, Nathan enters before the king.

- C. The aged David then leaps to action
1. This is the David who is on his deathbed. This is the David shivering and frail. But this is also the David whose heart is filled with zeal for the Kingdom. He puts all of his remaining energy in to assuring that Solomon ascends to the throne.
 - a. What is it that stirs your heart to zealous action? Are you zealous for God's Kingdom – the reign of Christ as Lord and King reigning over His people, crushing His enemies? Are you zealous to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom through the Gospel? Are you zealous for His church? Are you zealous for His rule in your own life?
 - b. Jesus commanded that the Kingdom of God must have priority over everything else in our lives. How much energy do you expend in its advancement?
 - c. Dale Ralph Davis sets a thought-provoking question before us. "Do the *first* three petitions of the Lord's Prayer move, grip, and stir us? What stirs us reveals us."¹
 2. David carefully crafts his response to the actions of Adonijah. He calls Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah who was over the royal guard. They marched Solomon to Gihon, anointed him with oil, and announced him as king. "Long live King Solomon."
 3. Did David doubt the purposes of God? No, but he did not deny the actions of sinful men nor of his role in vanquishing their plans.
 - a. Did he not go to battle with Goliath? Could not God have struck him down? Yes, God did strike him down. But He used David and his sling to do it.
1 Samuel 17:45-47 NAU - "Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. ⁴⁶ "This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hands."
 - b. It takes great wisdom to know when to act and when to wait. David was anointed by God, yet he waited upon God to remove Saul.

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *1 Kings: The Wisdom and the Folly*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2002), 21.

Conclusion:

1. This says much to us regarding our role in this world.
 - a. God doesn't allow us to shift into neutral as we are growing in holiness.
 - b. Young people must prepare themselves to be Godly mates. This means getting the necessary education and training to be good providers.
We trust in God's provision, but we understand the means of hard work.
 - c. We trust in God's actions and yet we are taught to pray.
We need Godly statesmen to lead our nation – and we must pray for God to provide them.
 - d. We know that salvation is of the Lord, and yet He has entrusted the Gospel to us.
We could go on and on applying this truth.
2. And then, we must understand there are times when we should trust and wait upon God. There are times when we should not act, times when schemes and craftiness are not for us to do.
We must observe that while Adonijah was carefully advancing and exalting himself, putting forth his carefully crafted scheme, Solomon does not speak, nor does he actively work on his own behalf. Was this an act of faith?