

“The Sudden End of the Party”
1 Kings 1:41-53
(Preached at Trinity, May 17, 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 events of **Chapter 1** are a microcosm of the history of the world. It will be the ongoing drama for the entirety of 1 & 2 Kings. Israel's monarchy was plagued by a continual rejection of their true King.
 2. Everyone has to choose who they will serve. This was the situation in Israel. Would they stand behind the self-appointed king, Adonijah, or would they support God's anointed? This was Joshua's charge to Israel many years before. Would they follow the living God, their one true King?
Joshua 24:15 NAU - "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
 3. There has been a universal rebellion against God's anointed since the fall.
This is the rebellion described in **Psalms 2**
Psalms 2:1-2 NAU - "Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed"
 4. This present world can be compared to a great party with feasting and pleasure. This is the kind of party free from commitment to outside duty, a party that resists authority, a party with a large guest list. There are no rules at this party, but at the same time, strict rules. Attending this party demands a certain way of thinking, a common attire, a common way of speaking, common priorities.
- I. This marks the great distinction among humanity – who do you serve? Where do your allegiances lie? Are you committed to the Kingdom of God and the rightful reign of Christ, or are you attending this world's party?
- A. We have before us examples of those committed to honoring God. They chose to follow God's anointed king and promote his kingdom.
This is what we pray in the second petition of the Lord's Prayer.
1. Nathan knew Solomon was God's anointed. He was first to declare God's covenant word to David.
2 Samuel 7:12-13 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. ¹³
"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

- a. Adonijah was already born so the covenant could not have referred to him. Solomon was not yet born. There was no doubt at this time who the one who “will come forth from you” was referring to.
 - b. Nathan was committed to David as God’s anointed and he was committed to follow God’s direction as to who would succeed David to the throne.
2. Bathsheba also knew Solomon was God’s anointed. David had given her an oath, an oath based upon God’s covenant promise to David.
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."
 3. Benaiah, David’s security officer also understood Solomon was God’s anointed.
1 Kings 1:36-37 NAU - "Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! Thus may the LORD, the God of my lord the king, say. ³⁷ "As the LORD has been with my lord the king, so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David!"
 4. We must not forget David. He too was committed to God’s promise of an everlasting Kingdom.
1 Kings 1:29-30 NAU - "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, ³⁰ surely as I vowed to you by the LORD the God of Israel, saying, 'Your son Solomon shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place'; I will indeed do so this day."
 - a. As he heard about the threat to the kingdom his cold blood suddenly turned to fire and his strength renewed.
 - b. Although still confined to his bed he boldly took action. It was probably the first royal command he had given in months.
- B. Adonijah had made his choice. He followed the course of all fallen human beings.
1. He chose to oppose God’s anointed.
 - a. Adonijah knew that Solomon was the crown prince. Why else would he invite all his brothers to the feast except Solomon? He knew it.
 - b. But Adonijah made the determination to reject God’s anointed. He couldn’t imagine life in submission to King Solomon
 2. He declared autonomy for himself and established his own dominion. He declared in **Verse 5** “I will be king.” He followed the desire of his heart and set his plan in action.
 3. He held a party and invited all of his like-minded guests. It was an affair fit for a king. There were sacrifices followed by a feast. It lasted a long time – it was going on the entire time David was moving forward in establishing the true king.

II. The party came to a crashing end

- A. Adonijah thought he had succeeded in supplanting God's anointed
1. All had gone as planned. He exalted himself in the streets with chariots and horses and 50 men to run before him.
 2. He attracted many to follow him in his rebellious pursuit
 3. There was feasting as Adonijah celebrated his rise. Everyone at his party celebrated his success. It would appear he had successfully supplanted God's anointed.
 4. But even in the midst of the party, the true king was being established upon his throne.
 - a. A trumpet sounded and the announcement was made.
1 Kings 1:39 NAU - "Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "*Long live King Solomon!*"
 - b. There was great rejoicing in the kingdom.
1 Kings 1:40 NAU - "All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise."
 5. The literary term for what was happening is called "dramatic irony." Dramatic irony arises whenever the reader knows something the character in the story does not know.
- B. Suddenly, Adonijah heard their thunderous praises – so loud it shook the earth, but he had no idea what it could be.
1. All of Adonijah's guests also heard it. It was startling. You can imagine the hum of their voices as they pondered what it could be.
 2. Joab also heard it. By now he was an old man and ill-prepared for war. The sound was unnerving.
1 Kings 1:41 NAU - "When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "Why is the city making such an uproar?"
 3. Nobody knew what was happening—but we know. Adonijah's party was about to come to a close.
 4. Finally, Jonathan the son of Abiathar brought the reason for the sound.
1 Kings 1:43 NAU - "Our lord King David has made Solomon king."
 - a. Notice there was no doubt in David's authority to name his successor. He refers to David as "our lord king."
 - b. Adonijah knew this too well. This is why his scheme had been conducted covertly.
 - c. We can't overlook the irony. Abiathar declared that Jonathan had come bringing good news. The Septuagint uses the word $\epsilon\upsilon\alpha\gamma\gamma\epsilon\lambda\acute{\iota}\zeta\omega$ which is the Greek word meaning to bring good news
1 Kings 1:42 NAU - "While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. Then Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a valiant man and bring good news."
 - d. Translations disagree regarding Jonathan's answer. The NASB, ESV and others record that he said, "No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king."
The KJV translates it:
"Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king."

His answer of “no” does not express his disagreement that it was good news but expresses his knowledge that it would not be good news for Adonijah.

His affirmative “verily” expresses his agreement that it was indeed good news. This speaks highly of Jonathan who was not one of the attendees of the party.

- e. Jonathan indeed came bringing good news – God’s true anointed was being coronated. But it surely wasn’t the good news Adonijah was expecting.

The Gospel we bring to the world is truly Good News, but it isn’t good news for those who do not want to bow before God’s anointed.

- 5. The news came just as the guests had finished eating. We’ll never know what festivities Adonijah had planned next. As soon as the news was announced all of Adonijah’s guests suddenly lost their interest in the celebration.

1 Kings 1:49 NAU - "Then all the guests of Adonijah were terrified; and they arose and each went on his way."

- a. They were smitten with fear. The word refers to a great trembling. They were greatly afraid.

- b. They fled to their homes seeking to avoid the wrath of the true king. All of Adonijah’s supporters abandoned him and he was left alone.

- c. Adonijah had to face the true king.

Sooner or later every human being will have to face the true King.

Philippians 2:10-11 KJV - "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

2 Thessalonians 2:8 NAU - "whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;"

III. This world’s party will soon come to a crashing end

A. It was a party doomed from the beginning – See **Psalm 2:4-12**

- 1. God’s true Anointed One is about to return and crush those who sought to oppose Him.
- 2. There will be great mourning that the glorious party has come to an end.
- 3. This is described in the Book of Revelation. The party is referred to as Babylon that had enticed the world by its promises of delight.

Revelation 18:2-5 NAU - "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of immorality* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." ⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."

Revelation 18:8-13 NAU - "For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. ⁹ "And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of immorality* and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' ¹¹ "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more-- ¹² cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron wood and every article of ivory and every article *made* from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, ¹³ and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargoes* of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives."

4. William Hendriksen – “This pleasure-mad, arrogant world, with all its seductive luxuries and pleasures, with its antichristian philosophy and culture, with its teeming multitudes that have forsaken God and have lived according to the lusts of the flesh and the desires of the mind, shall perish.”¹
 5. Adonijah and his guests left the party empty-handed and fled in fear. Worse, the people who attend the party of this world leave only to face eternal judgment—with no place to run and no place to hide.
- B. The warning is clear to all – we must flee the party and embrace God’s King
1. We must give absolute allegiance to God’s King. He is the rightful heir to the throne of David.
Luke 1:31-33 NAU - "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."
 2. Jesus is worthy of all honor. He is the King of kings. He is the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise. We owe Him all allegiance and reverence.
Romans 11:36 NAU - "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen."
 3. Have you sworn allegiance to God’s anointed King? Do you belong to His Kingdom? Are you eagerly anticipating His return? Even when all of the forces upon the earth seem to be focused on overthrowing King Jesus they will not prevail. Their party is about to come to a crashing end.

¹ William Hendriksen, *More Than Conquerors, an Interpretation of the Book of Revelation*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1940) page 178.

Conclusion:

1. We must flee the party of this world. We must flee the Babylon of Revelation. It is destined for destruction. We must do serious soul searching. Have we been engrossed in the world's party and enticed by its pleasures?
Joel Beeke – “Are you living as if Babylon's fall is certain? What excites you most—searching the Scriptures or surfing the Internet? What conversations do you most enjoy, those that focus on worldly trivia or those that focus on Jesus Christ? Who are your best friends, those who sincerely love the Lord Jesus Christ or those who flirt with worldliness even while they continue to attend church?”²
2. We must live for our King, labor in His Kingdom – give Him our full allegiance. He commands us to give His Kingdom first priority. The god of this world, Satan, lies to you. He entices you to embrace the ways of this world—to embrace the ways of the partygoers.
3. Solomon offered mercy to Adonijah if he would submit to the kingdom. We know he did not. King Jesus also offers mercy to those who come to Him, casting away their treason. Our King died for sinners and makes forgiveness possible if we trust in Him.

² Joel Beeke, *Revelation*, (Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2016) page 397.