

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 41

1 Kings ch. 1 – 4, 2 Chronicles ch. 1

Tuesday Night Bible Study, January 12, 2010

--OUTLINE:

- I. INSURRECTION OF ADONIJAH AND THE END OF DAVID'S LIFE
- II. FIRST YEARS OF SOLOMON'S REIGN AND HIS FAMOUS WISDOM

I. INSURRECTION OF ADONIJAH AND THE END OF DAVID'S LIFE

--while David was on his deathbed, his son Adonijah rebelled against the will of God for Solomon to be king and tried to make himself king.

--there is a common theme between the insurrection of Adonijah and that of his brother Absalom, as Scripture notes that both were physically attractive – appealing to the flesh rather than the spirit...

--1 Kings 1:6: "He [*Adonijah*] was also very handsome..."

--2 Samuel 14:25: "In all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks."

--this theme can also be seen in the failed rule of Saul who was chosen based on physical qualities rather than spiritual qualities – "...a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel."

--words of wisdom from Solomon's future writings – "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing..." (Proverbs 31:30)

--the conflict between Adonijah and Solomon was a conflict between the will of man and the will of God...

--by the time of Adonijah's insurrection, it was crystal clear that Solomon was God's choice to be David's successor... 1 Chronicles 28:1-6: "David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem... 2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. 3 But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.' 4 "Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel. 5 Of all my sons-and the LORD has given me many-he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. 6 He said to me: 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts... So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever. 9 "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. 10 Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work." 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. 12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind..."

--interesting that Solomon's ordination was born out of David's own personal conflict between his will and God's will.

--those who followed Adonijah not only rejected God's plan for Solomon to be king but also rejected God's plan for the temple – the heart of the ceremonial law – as the plans to build the temple were given to Solomon.

--**practical lesson: when things don't go how we hope they would go, take comfort and rest in the sovereignty of God and know that He has a plan...** "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

--while it was made crystal clear that Solomon would be David's successor, David delayed the formal transfer of power to Solomon, and this delay gave a foothold for the rebellion of Adonijah...

--1 Kings 1:5-8: "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. 6(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.) 7 Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah. 8 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."

--it would seem that David, while ailing on his deathbed, was himself losing sight of God's plans as he did not stop Adonijah – "And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" (1 Kings 1:6)

--practical lesson: we need to be spiritually proactive...

--we live on a spiritual battlefield, and if we let down our guard the enemy will gain a foothold!

--if we don't spend regular time in God's Word then our spiritual senses will become dull and we will forget!

--that is why God commanded Israel, "these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

--God doesn't want us to turn this principle into legalism, but rather He wants us to follow spiritual discipline out of a heart of love for Him – the preceding verses of this Deuteronomy passage states, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

--God wants us to cultivate an intimate relationship with Him!

--Adonijah's rebellion gains momentum and he puts together a ceremony to try and make his place on the throne official. (1 Kings 1:9-10)

--Nathan the prophet speaks truth into the situation and tells Solomon's mother Bathsheeba to remind David that God's plan was for Solomon to be king. After Bathsheeba spoke to David, Nathan came and spoke to him...

--1 Kings 1:24-27: "And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? 25 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!' 26 But he has not invited me — me your servant — nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon. 27 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?"

--David then formally installs Solomon as the King of Israel and those who didn't support Adonijah immediately rallied around Solomon...

--1 Kings 1:39-40: "...and all the people said, 'Long live King Solomon!' 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."

--Adonijah's following quickly falls apart and King Solomon pardoned him on the condition that he would be executed if he caused any further problems – one more strike and he would be out. (1 Kings 1:41-52)

--those who rallied around the illegitimate rule of Adonijah are a picture of today's popular culture...

--those who followed Adonijah, the illegitimate king, thought that God's Word about the temple and Solomon's rule were fiction, just like popular culture today follows Satan, the illegitimate king, and thinks God's Word about the future is fiction.

--much like popular culture today, those who followed Adonijah focused on outward appearance; Adonijah was attractive and charismatic while David was on his deathbed... **the words of Adonijah could have easily appeared more relevant while the past words of David now on his deathbed could have easily appeared outdated.**

--but in spite of outward appearance and the sway of popular culture, just as surely as Adonijah's illegitimate throne was overthrown and God's promise regarding Solomon came true, so too Satan's illegitimate throne in the world will be overthrown and God's promise regarding the return of Christ and His rule will prove to be true – God's promise about the eternal temple... "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth... and I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people...'" (Revelation 21:3)

--Adonijah, like popular culture today, is like a weed with no root – "like chaff that the wind blows away..." (Psalm 1:4) but the way of the truth "is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season..." (Psalm 1:3)

--David passes away and it becomes clear to everyone that Solomon is the king with spiritual roots, the king that God ordained.

--1 Kings 2:12: "Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established."

--1 Kings 3:28: "And all Israel... saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice."

II. FIRST YEARS OF SOLOMON'S REIGN AND HIS FAMOUS WISDOM

--Solomon exhibits wisdom (that David lacked in his dealings with Adonijah and Absalom) and early in his reign deals with problem people before they create more problems...

--Adonijah coerces Bathsheeba to ask Solomon to give Abishag to Adonijah to be his wife (Abishag was a young woman who was given to David in his old age to be his wife, but he did not consummate the marriage and she ended up only being his caretaker – 1 Kings 1:1-4).

--Solomon immediately discerns that Adonijah was behind Bathsheeba's request and has him executed.

--Adonijah's words to Bathsheeba indicate that he was still bitter about Solomon being king and capable of inciting a rebellion – "you know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectation on me, that I should reign..." (1 Kings 2:15)

--Solomon then continues to clean house and deal with other troublemakers - he exiles Abiathar and executes Joab and Shimei.

--in his last words to Solomon, David instructed him to deal with Shimei and Joab according to his own wisdom. (1 Kings 2:6,9)

--Solomon's famous prayer for wisdom...

--2 Chronicles 1:7-12: "On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, 'Ask! What shall I give you?' 8 And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. 10

Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?" 11 Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life — but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king — 12 wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."

--1 Kings 4:29-34: "And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. 30 Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all men - than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 32 He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. 33 Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. 34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon."

--one of the greatest nuggets of wisdom from Solomon's entire life... "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

--If this is missing, then everything else is... "vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2)