The Kingdom is Established Under Solomon I Kings 1:38 – 2:46 (Lesson #2)



1:38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon. 39 There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" 40 And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise. 41 ¶ Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What does this uproar in the city mean?" 42 While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news." 43 Jonathan answered Adonijah, "No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king, 44 and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule, 45 And 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. 46 Solomon sits on the royal throne. 47 Moreover, the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' And the king bowed himself on the bed. 48 And the king also said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it."

Vs 38 – Zadok, Nathan, Benaiah, the Cherethites and the Pelethites have Solomon ride on the King's mule and bring him to Gihon.

The Cherethites and the Pelethites were David's personal bodyguard. We know from (II Sam 8:18) that Benaiah was over them.

Vs 39 - Then Zadok the priest, took a horn of oil from the tent (tabernacle) and anointed Solomon King of Israel. They blew the trumpet and all the people shouted: "Long live King Solomon!"

This must have been quite a celebration, God has provided a new king for the nation of Israel.

Vs 40 - But it is more than shouts. It is people playing on pipes, it is people rejoicing, with a GREAT noise. The noise is so loud, the writer of Kings declares it "split the earth." Now of course this is hyperbole, but the writer wants us to understand this was not only a celebration, but a loud celebration!

Now from En-rogel to Gihon is 800 yards or about ½ of a mile.

Vs 41 - No Adonijah, and his guests, who were with him, as they were finishing the feast. Heard the noise, heard the shouts from Gihon. Likely could not make anything out, but they heard it.

Joab, the general, heard the sound of the trumpet. He is the first, to at least ask with his outside voice, "What does this uproar in the city mean?"

- Vs 42 Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, shows up at the feast in En-rogel. Adonijah, says: "Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news." Wishful thinking... Me thinks!
- Vs 43 King David, has made Solomon king. You can imagine how the life drained out of the party.

- **Vs 44 -** Further... The king sent Zadok, Nathan, Benaiah, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and Solomon has been placed and rode on the King's mule and declaring Solomon is the King!
- Vs 45 46 Further. The city has gone crazy with joy and Solomon is seated on the royal throne!
- Vs 47 As if any more was needed. The servants are congratulating David and saying: 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' Also, the king has bowed himself and worshipped on his bed.

Vs 48 – The king has also said 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.'

1:49 Then all the guests of Adonijah trembled and rose, and each went his own way. 50 And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. 51 Then it was told Solomon, "Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword." 52 And Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." 53 So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

- Vs 49 From drunk to cold sober in a second. Like dogs with their tales tucked between their legs each leaves the party and heads his own way.
- Vs 50 Adonijah, rightly fears the new king because what he attempted is insurrection, it is treason, it is mutiny, it is to go against God's appointed king and against his kingdom.

No one will stand with Adonijah. He flees to the tabernacle and grabs hold of the horns of the alter.

- "12 ¶" Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. 13 But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. 14 But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die." (Ex 21:12-14 ESV)
- Vs 51 Word arrives to Solomon that Adonijah has laid hold of the horns of the brazen altar. Adonijah is saying: 'Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'

I will stand down and go home, but only if Solomon "swears to me" that he will not kill me.

Vs 52 - And Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

Other translations of this Hebrew word: man of honor, man of character, man of good faith, or a virtuous man.

Vs 53 - He came down from the altar, he came and paid homage to Solomon, as the new king, likely that is what Solomon meant.

He sinned, if he repents and gets on to God's agenda, then he shall live. He paid homage to Solomon as the legitimate king and Solomon said: "Go to your house."

What a day in the life of Adonijah, what a day in the life of Bathsheba, what a day in the life of Solomon, what a day in the life of the nation of Israel.

So as we come to chapter 2, there is some time passage, exactly how much we do not know

2:1 When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, 4 that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' 5 "Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet. 6 Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace. 7 But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother. 8 And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.' 9 Now therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol."

Vs 1-4 – Here we find David's last will and testament, his farewell address to his son, Solomon, the King of Israel. What will he say to his son, what advice will he pass along?

There are two parts to this farewell discourse:

First, spiritual commands that speak right to the soul and life of Solomon. Notice David's charge:

- 1) Be strong
- 2) Show yourself a man

Does David mean he should focus on achieving great physical strength, or great success, maybe be sure he is a lady's man, with a load of beautiful women on his arm, or maybe focus on growing his personal wealth. All measurements of manhood in our day and age.

The older warrior, who had wrestled lions and slayed a giant, who had many wives and concubines (do not forget Miss Israel), and who was extremely wealthy.

Be Strong, show yourself a man and here's how:

- 3) Keep the charge (orders or ordinances) of the LORD your God,
 - a. **By** Walking in his ways
 - b. **By** Keeping his statutes
 - c. By Keeping his commandments
 - d. **By** Keeping his rules
 - e. **By** Keeping his testimonies

Broadly, keep the charge of the Lord. Each of these terms describes the word of God itself in Deuteronomy.

But David's point in all these terms is to tell his son that he should live his life by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God! Here is what David wrote in Psalm 19:

"7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward." (Ps 19:7-11 ESV)

"God's Word teaches us how to think, how to speak, and how to live. It tells us what to love and what to hate. It shows us how to glorify God forever." – Philip Graham Ryken

- 4) What God will do
 - a. That you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn

What an amazing promise, God will prosper you in all that you do and in whatever direction you turn!

Now if this seems a little familiar (it is what God told Joshua following the death of Moses):

"7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Jos 1:7-8 ESV)

b. That the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me.

This was an amazing promise. No matter what the Assyrians, Egyptians, or the Babylonians did, as long as David's sons were *obedient* and followed God with their **whole heart and with all their soul**, God would establish their kingdom. He would take care of the rest.

Here is David's point to Solomon. The continuity of the dynasty is dependent upon obedience to the Word of God.

Second, we now come to the final part of David's instructions, how to deal with specific people in the kingdom.

Vs 5-6 - Here David tells Solomon that his problems with Joab extend beyond just what he did to Absalom (II Sam 18) or how he allied himself with Adonijah (I King 1). He has been self-willed throughout his service to David and **there are two men who he has murdered.**

First, he was guilty of the murder of Abner, the general of the armies of Israel.

Just a bit of history to create some familiarity (all of this is catalogued in 2 Sam 1-3). Saul and his sons are killed in battle. David after inquiring of Yahweh returns to Judah where he is crowned king of Judah (one tribe). Abner was the commander of Saul's armies and following the death of Saul and Jonathan, he works to crown Ish-bosheth, son of Saul, King over Israel (11 tribes). The war between the house of David and the house of Saul drags on.

Ish-bosheth asks Abner something that offends him about why he had "went in" to one of Saul's concubines. This question angers Abner and he begins to work to establish David as king over Israel. David meets with Abner, a peace deal is agreed upon.

We then read once Joab returns with men from raids against surrounding nations, argues with David about it. Ultimately after sending for Abner, Joab pretends he wants to talk to him in private, and in peace, stabs him in his stomach (2 Sam 3:23-27).

Although David pronounced a curse upon Joab for what he did, he took no additional steps (2 Sam 3:29).

But Joab was also guilty of the cold-blooded murder of Amasa.

A little history, a man named Sheba had led a revolt in Israel, you can read about this in (2 Sam 20). This revolt follows immediately after Absalom's, when he steals the kingdom from David (2 Sam 14 - 18). David dispatched Amasa to gather the men of Judah, he was late returning. Ultimately, Joab, meets with him, as they are talking, he grabs him by the beard, and stabs him in the stomach. (2 Sam 20:8-10).

Joab was self-willed, loosely obedient, and a murder. He was truly a man of blood. We are not sure why David tolerated so much from Joab.

- 1) Joab had been fiercely loyal to David.
- 2) Joab was the one who under orders from David moved Uriah the Hittite to the front of the fight then retreated and left him to be killed (2 Sam 11:14-25).

Your kingdom must be established in Justice and in Righteousness!

Vs 7 - A bit of history, when Absolom made a grab for the kingdom, (2 Sam 14 - 18), David fled from Jerusalem. He and his men were running from Absolom and his followers. Barzillai had stuck his neck out to help David by providing food and provisions for David and his men. (2 Sam 17:27-29).

David is asking Solomon to reward him for his faithfulness to the Kingdom. To *eat at* the king's *table* was the equivalent of having a pension, the beneficiary receiving a regular royal allowance of food and clothing, with a house and land to support him and his family.

As much as there were rebels in the kingdom, there were faithful servants who needed to be rewarded.

Vs 8 - 9 - David's shift gears and brings up the man named "Shimei" and what he did when David went to Mahanaim.

OK, a little history, when Absalom launched his coupe to take over the kingdom, to save his life and the lives of his men David fled from Jerusalem and from Absalom. As David is fleeing he comes through

Bahurim, and a man named Shimei, a descendant from the house of Saul curses him and throws rocks at him and his men (2Sa 16:5-8).

Upon David's return following the death of Absalom, Shimei repented and asked for forgiveness (2 Sam 19:16-23). David, made a pledge not to kill him and it was right, having made the pledge for David to keep his vow, but it was also right for him to make sure that Shimei received justice without David breaking his vow.

10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. 11 And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. 12 ¶ So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established. 13 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, "Do you come peacefully?" He said, "Peacefully." 14 Then he said, "I have something to say to you." She said, "Speak." 15 He said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the LORD. 16 And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me." She said to him, "Speak." 17 And he said, "Please ask King Solomon — he will not refuse

you — to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife." 18 Bathsheba said, "Very well; I will speak

Vs 10 - 12 - David dies.

for you to the king."

"Then he died at a good age, full of days, riches, and honor. And Solomon his son reigned in his place." (1Ch 29:28 ESV)

Not a word about his failures, not a word about his sin with Bathsheba or his grievous sin involving Uriah. Solomon is firmly established as he new king.

VS 13-15 - Adonijah, comes to Bathsheba, Solomon's mom. You can see the tension between them, in her question: "Do you come peacefully?"

Adonijah seems to suffer from delusions of grandeur. He imagined that there was widespread popular support for him as king. In reality, he only had a handful of influential rebels to support him, and they quickly deserted him when it was evident that David favored Solomon (1 Kings 1:49).

It turned about, for it was his from the Lord. Why not lead with that.

Vs 16 - 18 - Adonijah, has a request of Bathsheba. He wants her, to go to King Solomon and request on his behalf that Abishag be made his wife.

Scholars tell us that in all likelihood, Abishag was not just an attendant, but she was a **concubine of David's** and therefore legally bound to him. David's death broke that bond, and now Adonijah wanted to take the concubine widow Abishag as wife.

You may be thinking why does that matter? When Absalom usurped the kingdom from David, do you remember one of the first things he did? He slept with David's concubines publicly on the roof of his house (2 Sam 16:20-22).

Abishag is not just a concubine, she is the <u>last concubine</u> of King David. It has been said: "to posse	ess the
harem is to rule the kingdom."	

19 So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right. 20 Then she said, "I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you." 21 She said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as his wife." 22 King Solomon answered his mother, "And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah." 23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life! 24 Now therefore as the LORD lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of David my father, and who has made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today." 25 So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he struck him down, and he died. 26 ¶ And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your estate, for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because you shared in all my father's affliction." 27 So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

Vs 19 - Bathsheba, goes to the king. We do not know how much time passed, but presumably not a great deal. We can picture this in our minds, Solomon seated on his throne, he rises to meet her (his mom), she bows down to pay homage to the king.

Vs 20 - Then she says: I have a SMALL request, do not refuse me. Interesting. Did she really see this as small or was she being sarcastic? I wish I could hear her say it and see her facial expressions.

Vs 21 - 22 - Notice, what Solomon says:

- 1) Why would you ask such a thing?
- 2) Are you also requesting that I give my older brother the Kingdom as well? For he is my older brother, he has the support of some on the inner circle, in particular Abiathar and Joab. Do you not see mother, what Adonijah is attempting in this request?

Solomon understood exactly what was in play.

Bottom line, in this case Solomon weighed Absalom's heart and found it lacking. A rebel who he had previously extended mercy to, is still attempting to gain the throne.

Why would Adonijah even go here. We cannot be sure. Perhaps he felt that Solomon was too young, too inexperienced, or too timid to do the right thing. Maybe he thought Solomon would not see through the plan.

Vs 23 - This day he is proven that he is still a self-seeking, usurper!

Vs 24 – 25 - He now swears in the name of Yahweh, the true and living God, the one who placed him on the throne. Adonijah will die, TODAY! He gives the order to Benaiah and he goes and kills Adonijah.

Vs 26 - In dealing with Adonijah, Solomon now decides to deal with the other rebels. The king sends for Abiathar and tells him:

- 1) Go to your estate
- 2) You deserve to die
- 3) I will not kill you "at this time" Here Solomon extends mercy, beautiful picture of Christ.
- 4) Because you carried the ark of Yehway before my father and you suffered with him.

You will live for today... BUT!

Abiathar deserved death because he supported Adonijah as the next king, in defiance of the will of God and the will of King David (1 Kings 1:7).

Vs 27 - Solomon expelled Abiathar from serving as a priest before Yehweh, and in so doing he fulfilled the word of Yahweh that was spoken concerning Eli's house.

This refers to the prophecies found in 1 Sam 2:27-36 and 1 Sam 3:11-14. In removing Abiathar from the priesthood, Solomon, without direct intention, fulfilled the promise of judgment against the house of Eli, made some 100 years before Solomon took the throne.

28 When the news came to Joab — for Joab had supported Adonijah although he had not supported Absalom — Joab fled to the tent of the LORD and caught hold of the horns of the altar. 29 And when it was told King Solomon, "Joab has fled to the tent of the LORD, and behold, he is beside the altar," Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down." 30 So Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD and said to him, "The king commands, 'Come out,'" But he said, "No, I will die here." Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me." 31 The king replied to him, "Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause. 32 The LORD will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. 33 So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever. But for David and for his descendants and for his house and for his throne there shall be peace from the LORD forevermore." 34 Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and put him to death. And he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35 ¶ The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in place of Joab, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar. 36 Then the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever. 37 For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die. Your blood shall be on your own head." 38 And Shimei said to the king, "What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do." So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

Vs 28 - Now, he imitated Adonijah's attempt to find refuge by taking hold of the horns of the altar (as Adonijah did in 1 Kings 1:50-53).

"As far as we can judge, he had shown little respect to religion during his lifetime. He was a rough man of war, and cared little enough about God, or the tabernacle, or the priests, or the altar; but when he was in danger, he fled to that which he had avoided, and sought to make a refuge of that which he had neglected." (C.H. Spurgeon)

- Vs 29 Different response from Solomon, go strike him down!
- Vs 30 Benaiah, goes to the tent (tabernacle), tells Joab that the King commands that he come out, Joab refuses, with the "I will die here." We can imagine, Benaiah stays at the tabernacle, but he sends word via messenger to the King.
- Vs 31 Solomon sends word back. Do as he says, strike him down. For in so doing you will take away the guilt from my father's (David's) house over the blood that Joab shed without a cause.
- Vs 32 He then explains the guilt of Joab: Without the king's approval or knowledge, he killed with the sword two men who were more righteous than he and in a **time of peace**.
- Vs 33 Solomon then declares that their blood, has come back on the head of Joab and the heads of his descendants (forever). He then pronounces a blessing upon the house of David, a blessing of peace from the LORD, forevermore!

But, this blessing is conditioned by the Lord: "that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" (1Ki 2:4 ESV)

Vs 34 – As the King commanded, Benaiah strikes down Joab and has him buried in his own house.

We can guess that Benaiah, **followed Ex 21:14** and removed him from the tabernacle and then executed him:

- **Vs 35** The King places Benaiah as he commander of the armies of Israel, and Zadok is elevated to serve in the place of Abiathar.
- Vs 36 38 So, Solomon is taking this opportunity to set everything in order. He sends from Shimei, the one who cursed David when David fled from Jerusalem, during the coupe of his son Absalom.

Shimei was associated with the household of the former King Saul and showed himself as a threat to the House of David (2 Sam 16:5-8). You can read about how Shimei met David when he returned and confessed his sins (2 Sam 19:18-22).

39 But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei's servants ran away to Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shimei, "Behold, your servants are in Gath," 40 Shimei arose and saddled a donkey and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants. Shimei went and brought

his servants from Gath. 41 And when Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned, 42 the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD and solemnly warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die"? And you said to me, 'What you say is good; I will obey.' 43 Why then have you not kept your oath to the LORD and the commandment with which I commanded you?" 44 The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father. So the LORD will bring back your harm on your own head. 45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever." 46 Then the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him down, and he died. So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon."

Vs 39 - 40 – Some time passes... Shimei has two servants who run away, from Jerusalem to Gath.

VS 41 - 43 - Solomon rehearses what has happened, which is also the charge that Shimei has not kept the word that **he swore by the LORD!**

But it is not just an oath, the King of Israel had given a command and explained the penalty of disobedience to the command.

Vs 44 – 46 Now Solomon, deals with the heart of the matter: "You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father." So the LORD will bring back your harm on your own head.

Harm will come to you, but blessings to the King and the throne of David.

Lessons on Faith from I Kings 1:38 – 2:46:

Portraits of Christ and the Gospel from I Kings 1:38 – 2:46: