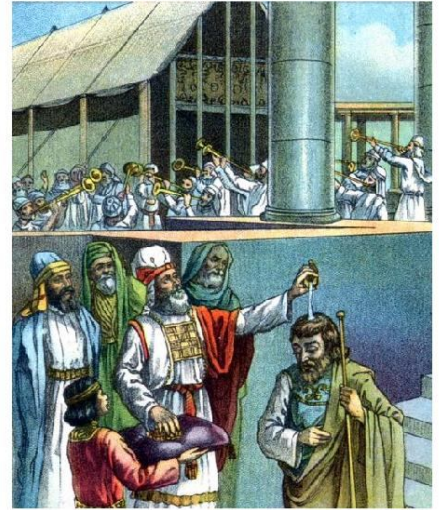


**100 Great Events of the
Old Testament**
**Lesson #62 – Solomon
Becomes King**
Family / Teacher Notes
For Sunday, March 7th
I Kings 1-3; II Chronicles 1

"Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" (II Kings 1:39)



David in Old Age. David was now old and feeble after many difficult years. It was time for him to appoint one of his sons to be king after him. David remembered what God had told him, "Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. 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." (I Chron. 22:9,10) Solomon was the son born to David and Bathsheba after their first son died. He was the youngest of all of David's sons, and yet he was the one the Lord had chosen. David, however, had not made any official announcement.

Adonijah. David had another son named Adonijah who was Absalom's younger brother. Adonijah began to think now that David was getting old, that he would be the next king. So he got chariots and horsemen ready and had men run before him. Then Adonijah went and talked with Joab, who had been the captain of David's army, and Abiathar, the priest, who both promised to help him become king.

It was very bold for Adonijah to have declared himself king without asking David. But I Kings 1 says about him, "And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking." This means that David did not do a good job as a father to Adonijah. He didn't ever correct him or question him about his conduct. Adonijah seemed to have thought too much of himself.

Adonijah fixed sheep and oxen and cattle for a great feast, and then called his brothers, the king's sons, and many of the people together. Then all these people proclaimed Adonijah as king. But Adonijah did not ask Nathan, the prophet, or Solomon, his brother, to this feast, probably because he was afraid that they would object to him being king.

Bathsheba Tells King David. When Nathan heard that the people were crying out that Adonijah was the new king, he went to Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon. Nathan told her, "Have you heard that Adonijah has been made king by the people, and David knows nothing of it?"

Bathsheba went to the king in his bedchamber, and bowed low and the king said, "What would you have?" Bathsheba said to David, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, and told me, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it. The eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on your throne after you." Bathsheba was also afraid that if Adonijah became king, he would kill both Solomon and Bathsheba.

Just then Nathan the prophet came before the king and told him the same thing that Bathsheba had told him. David called Bathsheba back into his room, and said "As the Lord lives, Solomon shall reign after me, and shall sit upon my throne in my stead. This very day I shall do as the Lord commanded me toward Solomon." When Bathsheba heard these words she bowed very low, and said: "Let my lord, King David, reign forever."

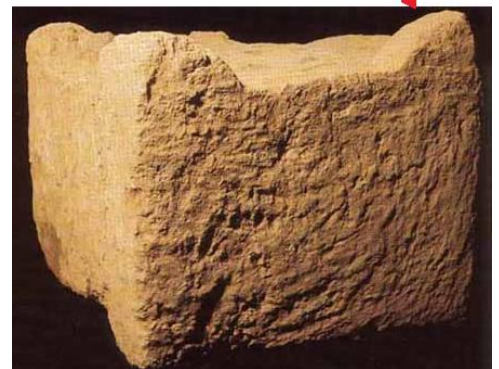
David told Nathan to take the servants and go where Solomon was, and place him upon a mule that belonged to the king, and bring him down to Gihon. There Zadok, the priest, and Nathan, the prophet, were to anoint him king over Israel, and blow trumpets and say, "Long live King Solomon." "You shall then bring him to my house, and let him sit upon my throne for I have appointed him king over Israel and over Judah," David said.

Solomon is Appointed King. They found Solomon, and the servants put him on a mule that belonged to the king and brought him to Gihon. Zadok, the priest, took a horn filled with oil out of the tabernacle and anointed him king, and all the people that were with them shouted, "Long live King Solomon!" All the people celebrated so loudly that the earth shook with the sound.

Adonijah and all the guests at his feast heard the loud sound of the celebration. When Joab heard the trumpets he said: "Why is the city in an uproar?" And while he was speaking a man named Jonathan came in and said, "Our lord, King David, has made Solomon king." That pretty much ended the party because everyone was afraid. They had supported Adonijah as the next king, but now they realized that they had honored the wrong man. They were afraid that this might anger David and Solomon.

Adonijah was also very afraid that Solomon would put him to death. He ran and took hold of the horns of the altar. Back in that day and time if you were afraid that someone might harm you, you could grab hold of the "horns" on a religious altar. If you did that people would not kill you but would give you a chance to defend yourself and show that you were not guilty. Adonijah said as he was holding the altar, "Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword."

You can see the "horns" on this altar.



When Solomon was told that Adonijah had fled to the altar, Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." The servants went and brought Adonijah from the altar and Adonijah fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon told him he could go to his house.

David's Last Words to Solomon. 1 Kings 2:1-3 says, "Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: 'I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, 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.'"

David's Death. "Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. And the time that he reigned was 40 years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor: and Solomon his son acted in his stead" (I Chronicles 29:26-28). David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.

Solomon's Request for Wisdom. Solomon went and offered 1,000 burnt offerings to the Lord. On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?" Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. 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. But I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Give me wisdom, knowledge and an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil."

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 -- wisdom and knowledge will be granted to you; and it will be greater wisdom than all other kings. And I will also 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."

An Example of Solomon's Wisdom. Two women stood before Solomon both recently having had babies. One woman had accidentally laid on her child during the night and killed him. She arose and took the other woman's baby and put hers in its place. The other woman denied that this was her child. Solomon gave an order, "Cut the living child in two and give half it each woman." The true mother of the living child plead for Solomon to not kill him but give him to the other woman. The other woman seemed content to have the child divided. Solomon quickly recognized that the true mother was the one pleading for the child. He returned the baby to her.



Rom. 15:4 “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Solomon Asked For Wisdom; Can We? In Ephesians 5:15 Paul said, “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise...” But how can we learn to be more wise? Studying our Bibles will teach us a lot about God’s wisdom. Also James 1:5 says, “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” God will help us learn to act wisely in our lives. Proverbs 3:5-7 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.”

Be Careful About Thinking Too Much of Yourself. The story of Adonijah teaches us a lesson about humility. I Kings 1:5 says, Adonijah exalted himself, saying, “I will be king!” No one had told him he would be king. David had not said so, but before David was even dead Adonijah proclaimed himself king. When he was with his friends at a party he was giving himself, he must have been very embarrassed when he found out that Solomon had been chosen as king instead of him.

This reminds us of what Jesus said in Luke 14:8-11 “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, don't take the place of honor. Maybe someone more important than you was invited and when your host has to tell you, 'Give this person your place', you'd be embarrassed and have to go take the place of least honor. It would be better to have chosen for yourself to take the least important spot. Then, when your host came, he will tell you, 'Friend, move to a more honorable place.' Then all the other guests will see how you are honored. Those who honor themselves will be humbled, but people who humble themselves will be honored.”