

In Lesson 20, we examined David's final serious mistake: sinfully numbering the people. God was angry with Israel and allowed Satan to puff up David's pride, tempting him into this action. Joab resisted, even loathed it, but he did it anyway without redirecting David from doing this. In consequence of this sin, God gave David a three-fold choice, and David chose wisely. He chose to fall into the hands of his merciful God. David then was given the solution to averting the plague. This solution was to purchase a threshing floor on Mt. Moriah and offer up atoning sacrifices. Mt. Moriah was where Abraham once offered up Isaac, where the temple would be built, and where Jesus ultimately died on the cross—becoming the atonement for sin.

Through David's experiences, we learned the importance of not giving into confusion and making appropriate choices before we have to reap what we sinfully sow. We also learned that confessing our sins is vital. We must respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, which prevents us from walking in the condemnation of the enemy. We also saw that the Lord can use everything in our lives for His glory. He can take tragedy and use it for good—beyond what we can imagine!

In the final two lessons, we will examine the events of the last year of David's life. This week we'll examine the establishment of the new king—David's replacement. We will also study the events surrounding the passing of King David who was truly a man after God's own heart.

DAY 1

An Old Man and Old Problems **1 KINGS 1:1-10**

Please read 1 Kings 1:1-10 and answer the following questions.

[1] What condition was David in at age 70, and how did his advisors decide to try and help him (verses 1-4)?

Notes: The Hebrew word for *old* comes from the word for *beard*; age 60 in their day signified a "senior citizen," and Levites could retire at age 50.¹ The New King James Version states that David didn't "know" this young woman; other versions state that he didn't have sexual relations with her. The practice of this young woman adding body heat for David was consistent with other medical practices of the day,² but the Hebrew construction of the terms used here do indicate sexual overtones; in the servants' minds, an exceptional beauty was needed to stimulate the king; but perhaps Adonijah interpreted David's refusal to have sex with her as a sign of impotence, so he made his move to take advantage of his father's weakness.³

[2] Adonijah was the oldest living son of David, and he wrongly assumed he could be the next king.⁴ However, he knew that Solomon was previously promised the kingship, so this action was a coup attempt.

What similarities do we read between Adonijah and another of David's sons, Absalom (verses 5-6)?

[3] Who joined in this "conspiracy," and who was faithful to David (verses 7–8)? Who was invited and excluded from Adonijah's little barbecue (verses 9–10)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] David was old, but was in worse condition than we would expect at his age. The toll of his years in exile, the demands of establishing and maintaining his kingdom, and other similar conflicts, were reasons for his weakened condition—sapping the strength he once had to rule effectively.⁵ No doubt, his life must have seemed to quickly pass by.

What important truth did Moses learn about life and how to live in view of its brevity (Psalm 90:10–12)? What did Solomon also later write about this (Ecclesiastes 12:6–7)?

[2] Adonijah and Absalom were so alike in nature that it's not surprising that David didn't discipline him as he should have, letting him get away with the things he did. As an old man, he had to once again face old problems!

What would Solomon later write, about the failure to discipline children appropriately (Proverbs 29:15–18)?

Daily Life Point: Adonijah walked in rebellion and presumption. David never redirected or disciplined him for his actions. This brought further shame in David's household. Thankfully, even when parents fail to guide and discipline their children properly, God can faithfully help and guide them. Nothing would thwart God's sovereign plan for Solomon, despite Adonijah's striving.⁶ We can rest assured that God has a sovereign plan for our children.

What are some ways you, as a parent (or as a future parent), can better discipline and guide your children along God's path and avoid another Absalom or Adonijah rising in rebellion? Share some thoughts here.

MEMORY PASSAGE

This week we will memorize 1 Kings 1:29. Review the passage several times throughout each day. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized.

And the king took an oath and said, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress." (1 Kings 1:29 NKJV)

DAY 2

Reminders of a Promise
1 KINGS 1:11-21

Please Read 1 Kings 1:11-21 and answer the following questions.

[1] What did Nathan plan, in view of Adonijah's actions, to remind David of his promise (verses 11-14)?

[2] In what sort of attitude did Bathsheba come before David (verses 15-17)?

[3] How did she further inform David, warning him of the consequences of letting this go on (verses 18-21)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] In a sense it almost seems like Nathan was the schemer, trying to "help God out." What Nathan really did was call David to be accountable to his promises and deal with his children rightly.

How seriously did the Old Testament warn about keeping a promise (Leviticus 5:4; Psalm 15:4; Ecclesiastes 5:6)? What did Jesus say about the believer and their oaths (Matthew 5:33-37)?

[2] Scripture doesn't reveal how Bathsheba responded to this young woman intimately attending to David. We can only guess that, given human nature, Bathsheba experienced resentment and displeasure. Nevertheless, Bathsheba was determined to see her husband do the right thing.⁷

How do the following passages remind us to humble ourselves despite our feelings about a particular person or situation?

Matthew 20:26-28; 23:12

Romans 12:3, 10

Philippians 2:3-4

Colossians 3:12–13

Daily Life Point: Sometimes it takes an act like this to break through the spiritual fog that someone is living in. There are times we don't realize that we are not right with the Lord, or in David's case, we fail to follow through with what we committed to do.

How has today's example spoken to you about any situations that you need to deal with? Please discuss this with your group; then talk about how you can better handle such situations.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

And the king took an _____ and said, "As the Lord lives, who has
_____ my life from every distress." (1 Kings 1:29

NKJV)

DAY 3

Fulfilling a Promise
1 KINGS 1:22–37

Please Read 1 Kings 1:22–37 and answer the following questions.

[1] Nathan came as planned. How did he approach David, and what were some of the things he shared in addition to Bathsheba's account (verses 23–27)?

Note: It is interesting how God spoke differently through these two. Bathsheba addressed the issues of David's family loyalty, while Nathan discussed his political loyalty.

[2] David then had Bathsheba brought back into his bedchamber. What did he announce to her, and what was her reaction (verses 29–31)?

[3] How did David suggest counteracting this coup before it spread any further, and how did his faithful men react (verses 33–37)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] David realized that it was the living God who had worked in his life all those years, redeeming him from every distress and trial he ever faced. In view of that, David would keep his promise and make Solomon king.

It is interesting that in Hebrew the word *redeemed* means to be set free from slavery or some other bond by a paid price; as *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* puts it, "The essential meaning is achieving the transfer of ownership from one to another through payment or by something of equal value."⁸ God has been faithful to see us through and deliver us out of trials, tribulations, and every distress. He does this for His glory and for our good. We too should faithfully seek to act justly and keep our promises. We should do this out of thankfulness for how He has dealt with us.

Read the following passages and discuss how they speak about God redeeming us and what that means for us.

Romans 3:24–25

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Galatians 3:13

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 1:18–19

Daily Life Point: What are some things that God has redeemed you from, helped you to face, and shown Himself faithful in? In view of that, are there any ways in your life that you are failing to demonstrate Christ to others by being faithful to keep your word?

David had delayed in choosing a successor and acting decisively in other ways, because he allowed himself to get cut off from spiritual reality when he became weak physically.⁹

How can you prevent yourself from falling to the same problem both now and when you reach your twilight years?

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**And the king took an _____ and said, "As the Lord
_____, who has _____ my _____**

from every distress." (1 Kings 1:29 NKJV)

DAY 4

Solomon Anointed As King
1 KINGS 1:38-49

Please Read 1 Kings 1:38-49 and answer the following questions.

[1] Zadok, Nathan, and the rest took Solomon right away to make him king. How did this take place, and how did the people react to this (verses 38-40)?

Note: Zadok's ancestors will serve in the Millennial Temple, perhaps as a reward for his faithfulness, as described in Ezekiel 44:15.¹⁰

[2] Meanwhile, back at the barbecue, Adonijah and his followers heard the earth-shattering noise of the celebration over Solomon's anointing, but not exactly what was going on. Jonathan the son of Abiathar came into the feast, and Adonijah assumed it was good news coming, but was he ever wrong!

What did Jonathan relate about the events transpiring while they were partying (verses 43-48)?

[3] How did the partygoers respond to this (verse 49)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] True joy, even earth-shattering joy, results when God's Word and will are followed and come to pass. How is this event of the anointing of Solomon very similar to another famous event prophesied in Zechariah 9:9 and fulfilled in Matthew 21:7–9?

How will God ultimately fulfill that great day (Revelation 19:11–16)?

[2] While the earth was all but shattered at the joyful sound of triumph, Adonijah and his men were literally shattered and ran for their lives. The Hebrew word for *afraid* means to quake and shake out of fear.¹¹

How does Proverbs 28:1 reflect what happened here? How does Luke 1:50–55 also further reflect the difference between Adonijah's followers and those who accepted God's choice?

Daily Life Point: As Warren Wiersbe well observed, David previously gave up the sword (2 Samuel 21:15–17), but "now he must give up the scepter. Wise is the leader who knows when to step aside. Solomon was God's choice for the throne."¹²

How have you experienced joy because you know you have obeyed and followed God's will? How about some times where you have failed to do so? Perhaps it was something you know God called you to do or change. Share some of your experiences here and with your group.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**And the king took an _____ and said, "As the Lord
_____, who has _____ my _____
from every _____." (1 Kings 1:29 NKJV)**

DAY 5

Solomon the Merciful
1 KINGS 1:50-53

Please read 1 Kings 1:50-53 and answer the following questions.

[1] What did Adonijah do out of his fear (verses 50-51)?

[2] How did Solomon both express (verse 52) and demonstrate (verse 53) mercy to Adonijah at this time?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] The mercy that Solomon extended to Adonijah was like the mercy David demonstrated to those who mistreated him—from Saul down to his descendent Shimei. Solomon displayed more mercy than Adonijah would have shown if the tables had been turned.

Read the following passages and record some things you glean about mercy, grace, and showing them to others.

Matthew 5:7, 9

Ephesians 4:2-7

Titus 3:4-7

Daily Life Point: Adonijah clung to the horns of the altar for protection—like many cling to religiosity for their own profit.¹³ Adonijah was concerned about self-promotion, about things of feasting and the flesh. His fleshly nature will be his undoing as we'll see in our final lesson for this year. Interestingly, Adonijah's mother was Haggith, from the Hebrew word for "a feast," while Solomon's mother Bathsheba, "daughter of the oath."¹⁴ What an amazing fulfillment of their names in their sons!

How would you rate yourself in comparison with these two sons of David? Are you clinging to Christianity for an incorrect reason, merely for your own fleshly profit? Or are you following Christ to bring glory and honor to His name, to know and enjoy Him regardless of any personal gain? Let's all commit ourselves to wholly following the Lord and not getting lost in our own selfish pursuits.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Write out this week's passage by memory. Then review the passage throughout the week.

1 Kings 1:29 NKJV

DAY 6

Pursuing God's Heart

[1] There is quite a contrast between Adonijah, who sought his own benefit, and Nathan, who sought God's will, purposes, and plan.

Read the following statements and record your thoughts about the importance of hearing and following God's will in your own life. Be sure to share this with your group:

Nathan, the prophet, resembled an immovable rock. As God's spokesman, he resolutely refused to follow anybody unless he was directed from heaven . . . It is better to wait and listen rather than to act hastily and repent leisurely. Adonijah was in a great hurry to get nowhere, and he reached his destination!¹⁵

[2] David was not exempt from the trials age brings us, but God was faithful to be with him until the end. As a result, David could confidently say that the Lord had redeemed him from all distress.

How does this give you confidence to trust God and faithfully follow Him to the end?

[3] Bathsheba is a great example of humility. She dealt with an uncomfortable situation, yet honored her husband, following the principle that those who humble themselves will be exalted, no matter how difficult it is for us.

How did her example encourage you in facing difficult situations, teaching you to approach it in a more Christ-like way?

[4] Finally, please feel free to record any thoughts of personal application that have ministered to your heart as you studied. How they have drawn you to be a person after God's own heart?

MEMORY PASSAGE

1 Kings 1:29 NKJV

From memory, write out this week's passage below. Then review the passage throughout the day. Be prepared to share the verse with your group.

PARTING THOUGHTS

Psalm 145 was no doubt the last psalm that David wrote. It is "a fit summary of all David had learned about God during a lifetime of following hard after the Almighty."¹⁶ As you meditate on this psalm, think about the fact that these were the last poetic words David wrote, and how important he must have felt these things to be.

Psalm 145
A Song of God's Majesty and Love
A Praise of David.

I will extol You, my God, O King;
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
And on Your wondrous works.
Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts,
And I will declare Your greatness.
They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness,
And shall sing of Your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
Slow to anger and great in mercy.
The Lord is good to all,
And His tender mercies are over all His works.

All Your works shall praise You, O Lord,
And Your saints shall bless You.
They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom,
And talk of Your power,
To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts,
And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The Lord upholds all who fall,
And raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look expectantly to You,
And You give them their food in due season.
You open Your hand
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways,
Gracious in all His works.
The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry and save them.
The Lord preserves all who love Him,
But all the wicked He will destroy.
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,
And all flesh shall bless His holy name
Forever and ever. (NKJV)

NOTES

¹ *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*, ed. Spiros Zodhiates (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG Publishers, 1994), p. 2313.

² *The MacArthur Study Bible*, ed. John MacArthur (Nashville: Word Bibles, 1997), p. 471.

³ Iain W. Povan, *1 and 2 Kings*, New International Biblical Commentary, vol. 7 (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1995), pp. 24, 28–29.

⁴ *The Complete Word Study*, p. 882.

⁵ R. D. Patterson and Hermann J. Austel, "1, 2 Kings," In the *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 4 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 25.

⁶ *The New Scofield Study Bible*, New King James Version (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), p. 401.

⁷ Ivor Powell, *David, His Life and Times* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1990), p. 354.

⁸ *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2353.

⁹ Povan, *1 and 2 Kings*, p. 26.

¹⁰ *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 471.

¹¹ *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2318.

¹² Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1993), p. 421.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 423.

¹⁴ Povan, *1 and 2 Kings*, p. 30.

¹⁵ Powell, *David*, p. 351.

¹⁶ James M. Boice, *Psalms*, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1998), p. 1250.

