

## 073 Solomon Becomes King

Scripture: 1 Kings 1-3

Memory Verse: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so. Psalm 107:2

Aim: To teach that God's ways are wise, and He is the source of all wisdom.

King David was now very old, and no matter how many blankets covered him, he could not keep warm. It was clear that king David was coming to the end of his reign, and that it was time to assign Israel's next king.

But who should get that job? Adonijah, who had been born next after Absalom, thought it should be him. Adonijah was very handsome and grew up doing whatever he wanted to do, because his father David never disciplined him. So Adonijah began boasting "I will make myself king." So he provided himself with chariots and charioteers and recruited fifty men to run in front of him.

Adonijah was able to convince David's some of David's men, to help him become king. But many others, including Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, refused to support Adonijah.

Then Nathan the prophet, and Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, went to tell David about what Adonijah was up to, because David did not even know. As soon as he found out, David acted quickly to let all of Israel know that it was God's will for Solomon to be the next king. This probably was a shock to many in Israel, because not only was Solomon the younger brother of Adonijah, he was the son of Bathsheba, a wife that David had stolen from another man.

When word came to Adonijah and his men, that Solomon was king, they all became very afraid. Adonijah's men quickly scattered, Adonijah rushed to the sacred tent and grabbed on to the horns of the altar fearing that Solomon would do away with him.

Solomon promised not to harm Adonijah, so long as he remained loyal. Unfortunately, Adonijah had no intentions of remaining loyal to Solomon and tried to trick his way back into leadership. His overwhelming desire to become king, became Adonijah's downfall.

After that, Solomon sought to follow the words of his father David who told him to observe the requirements of the Lord God, and follow all his ways.

One night, in a dream, God came to Solomon and asked him, "Ask for anything you would have me give you."

Solomon replied, "Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!

King Solomon is a picture of God's grace and generosity. When Solomon asked for wisdom, God gave generously. But even more than that, Solomon's rise to become king is a picture of God giving Solomon something he didn't deserve, and did nothing to earn for himself. All those who put their

faith in Jesus, get to experience the same loving grace from God that Solomon received.  
wisdom God had given him for rendering justice.