

SOLOMON'S ANOINTING AND REIGN

BIBLE TEXT : I Kings 1:5-53; 2:1-12

LESSON 254 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 Kings 1:5-53

⁵ Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

⁶ And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also *was a very goodly man*; and *his mother* bare him after Absalom.

⁷ And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped *him*.

⁸ But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which *belonged to* David, were not with Adonijah.

⁹ And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which *is* by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

¹⁰ But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

¹¹ Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth *it* not?

¹² Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.

¹³ Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Insurrection by Adonijah

- 1 Adonijah's aspiration to succeed to David's throne was illegal and an act of treason, in addition to being active rebellion against God, Kings 1:5-10;

2 Samuel 3:2-4

² And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

³ And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

⁴ And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

Proverbs 29:15

¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 25:27

²⁷ *It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.*

Obadiah 1:4

⁴ Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

Matthew 23:12

¹² And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

- 2 His conspiracy, during David's illness, was interrupted by Nathan's and Bathsheba's visit to David, I Kings 1:11-27

II Solomon, the God-Appointed King

1. It is evident that God's choice of Solomon was known to others prior to the insurrection, I Kings 1:9-12, 17, 26, 27;

1 Chronicles 22:9-10

⁹ Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

¹⁰ He shall build an 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 for ever.

1 Chronicles 28:5-7

⁵ And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

⁶ And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him *to be* my son, and I will be his father.

⁷ Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.

2. David, depending on the sure promises of God, had promised Bathsheba that their son would be king, I Kings 1:28-31
3. David legally proclaimed Solomon king before Adonijah became fully entrenched in that office, I Kings 1:32-40;

1 Chronicles 23:1

¹ So when David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.

throne? why then doth Adonijah reign?

¹⁴ Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words.

¹⁵ And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.

¹⁶ And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?

¹⁷ And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, *saying*, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne.

¹⁸ And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest *it* not:

¹⁹ And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.

²⁰ And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

²¹ Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders.

²² And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

²³ And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.

²⁴ And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?

²⁵ For he is gone down this day, and

4. This positive action by David, in obedience to God's word, stopped the insurrection, I Kings 1:41-49

5. Solomon's first legal act was to show clemency to the apparently penitent Adonijah, I Kings 1:50-53;

Proverbs 3:3

³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Proverbs 11:17

¹⁷ The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but *he that* is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

Micah 6:8

⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matthew 5:7

⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Luke 6:36

³⁶ Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

James 2:13

¹³ For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

III David's Last Days and His Charge to Solomon

1. David exhorted Solomon to obey the law of God, thereby making sure God's promises concerning the kingdom, I Kings 2:1-4;

Joshua 1:8

⁸ This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹² And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

¹⁵ But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

1 Chronicles 22:11-13

¹¹ Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee.

¹² Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.

¹³ Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

Psalms 132:12

¹² If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.

Psalms 89:29-32

²⁹ His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

³⁰ If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;

³¹ If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;

³² Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their

hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and, behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah.

²⁶ But me, *even* me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.

²⁷ Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed *it* unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?

²⁸ Then king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king.

²⁹ And the king sware, and said, *As* the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,

³⁰ Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.

³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever.

³² And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king.

³³ The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:

³⁴ And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

³⁵ Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my

iniquity with stripes.

2. David's next words were concerning his associates, I Kings 2:5-9;

2 Samuel 3:27

²⁷ And when Abner was returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him quietly, and smote him there under the fifth *rib*, that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

2 Samuel 16:5-7

⁵ And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came.

⁶ And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right hand and on his left.

⁷ And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial:

2 Samuel 17:27-29

²⁷ And it came to pass, when David was come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash of Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and Machir the son of Ammiel of Lodebar, and Barzillai the Gileadite of Rogelim,

²⁸ Brought beds, and basons, and earthen vessels, and wheat, and barley, and flour, and parched *corn*, and beans, and lentiles, and parched *pulse*,

²⁹ And honey, and butter, and sheep, and cheese of kine, for David, and for the people that *were* with him, to eat: for they said, The people *is* hungry, and weary, and thirsty, in the wilderness.

2 Samuel 20:10

¹⁰ But Amasa took no heed to the sword that *was* in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth *rib*, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

3. David died, and God established Solomon in the kingdom, I Kings 2:10-12;

1 Chronicles 29:20-30

²⁰ And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.

²¹ And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings unto the LORD, on the morrow after that day, *even* a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, *and* a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel:

²² And did eat and drink before the LORD on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed *him* unto the LORD *to be* the chief governor, and Zadok *to be* priest.

²³ Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴ And all the princes, and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.

²⁵ And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him *such* royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

²⁶ Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

²⁷ And the time that he reigned over Israel *was* forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three *years* reigned he in Jerusalem.

²⁸ And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honour: and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.

²⁹ Now the acts of David the king, first and last, behold, they *are* written in the book of Samuel the seer, and in the book

stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.

³⁶ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so *too*.

³⁷ As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David.

³⁸ So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.

³⁹ And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

⁴⁰ And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.

⁴¹ And Adonijah and all the guests that *were* with him heard *it* as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore *is this* noise of the city being in an uproar?

⁴² And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou *art* a valiant man, and bringest good tidings.

⁴³ And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king.

⁴⁴ And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule:

⁴⁵ And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the

of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,

³⁰ With all his reign and his might, and the times that went over him, and over Israel, and over all the kingdoms of the countries.

NOTES:

We are told by the Holy Spirit through the writings of Luke that David knew that God would "raise up Christ to sit on his throne" and that David spoke "of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption" (Acts 2:29-31). We know this to be a fact also from David's answer to God when the covenant was made concerning the everlasting Kingdom of Christ.

Considering these facts, we are made to know that the succession to the throne of Israel was a very important thing. And we know that any deviation from any plan of God's is a very serious act of rebellion against God Himself.

Self-Exaltation

Adonijah "exalted himself." Beyond all doubt this was an innate characteristic of his carnal nature. This carnal nature had not been disciplined nor controlled by him. Neither had his parents adequately disciplined him when he was under their control. Self-exaltation is a sin and tendency that is found in the hearts of many people, and it can cause a great deal of trouble to those who do not discipline themselves nor allow the Spirit of God to purge it from their natures.

We are taught by Scripture to exalt God. We are taught to honor Him, to worship Him, and to serve Him. Those who exalt themselves do none of these things. Such people are, instead, wrapped up in their own desires and their own self-esteem. They see little that is of eternal worth, for they are fully absorbed in gratifying their own present, everyday, selfish ends instead. But they can be sure that the final result of that action will be different from the beginning or the planned ending, for Scripture teaches us that "whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased" (Matthew 23:12).

Adonijah did not profit from seeing Absalom's failure and defeat. He patterned his life after his rebellious brother, instead. Adonijah opposed God's plan, for it is apparent from the context that the plan of God concerning the succession to the throne was known by others than David himself.

All who oppose God's plan are traitors to His cause. This terrible condition in Adonijah was brought about by his exalting himself. It began by an exaltation, first in his own eyes; and after he had allowed that to continue uncontrolled it became easy for him to exalt himself before and above others, eventually to his doing so over his own father — the anointed of the Lord.

Adonijah was goodly in appearance. He displayed considerable talent as a leader. He could have been used by God in the kingdom to a great degree had he kept humble before God and man. He would not have been exiled from a place of service to his people and his God had he submitted to God's will in this matter. But Adonijah was not willing to submit himself to the will and desires of the pure and holy God. He chose to exalt himself instead, and in doing so he rebelled against God and against the chosen of the Lord. Had he been willing to submit his case to God and to wait for God's time, he would have been placed by God in a position where his name could have been a benediction, instead of a curse, in the history of Israel.

city rang again. This *is* the noise that ye have heard.

⁴⁶ And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom.

⁴⁷ And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed.

⁴⁸ And also thus said the king, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, which hath given *one* to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing *it*.

⁴⁹ And all the guests that *were* with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way.

⁵⁰ And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

⁵¹ And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me to day that he will not slay his servant with the sword.

⁵² And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

⁵³ So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house.

1 Kings 2:1-12

¹ Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

² I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

³ And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written

God's Ways and Man's Ways

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man. . . ." Many times the ways chosen by God are in opposition to the wisdom of man. God chooses the plan He desires and then executes that plan according to His own will and infinite wisdom. God is sovereign. He does not need to ask us for counsel, nor work according to the way that seems right to us, to make His work successful. There are times when it may seem to us that He deliberately moves contrary to man's ways, that He might assert His sovereignty and prove that He is far above and over all that is worldly and human.

The method of succession to the throne in the heathen nations was, no doubt, through the eldest male child of the royal family. The customs of Israel, regarding the first-born son of the family and his legal rights, might have indicated to many in Israel that this rule would apply to the succession to the kingdom also. But this would have been human reasoning, and God would not necessarily be obliged to use that means, or work according to that plan.

In this particular case, God disregarded the eldest of David's sons and chose the youngest instead. God saw what was in Adonijah's heart and He also knew what was in Solomon's heart. God knew whom He could trust. He knew that the undisciplined, unsanctified — and unsaved — nature of Adonijah was carnal and lifted up, and He knew that the nature of Solomon was peaceable and easy to be entreated by the Holy Spirit.

Adonijah proclaimed himself king at his own chosen time; Solomon was anointed king by God, when it was God's time. Adonijah sought to win the favor of man, to establish himself in the kingdom by man's methods of catering to fleshly and sensual appetites; Solomon was made king without any such human efforts, and according to God's plan. Adonijah attempted to win the populace of Israel to his side by working through their leaders; David and Solomon left these things in God's hands and, as a result, found that "the eyes of all Israel" were upon them and that "the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel (I Chronicles 29:25)."

The Importance of Correct Associates

Adonijah, to put his plan into operation, invited only those he felt would be faithful to him in his rebellion; David surrounded himself with the godly, the loyal, and the true, and it is certainly worthy of consideration that David's heart was also in agreement with these faithful men of God. It is also apparent that Nathan, the man of God, had continuous access to and enjoyed the complete confidence of the king.

There was no Barzillai in the group that followed Adonijah. Neither was there a Nathan to be found there. The members of the 30 "mighty men" who had faithfully and loyally served Israel for a generation at great cost and hazards were with David — not with Adonijah.

But we do find that there was a Joab in Adonijah's company. We have seen that Joab was a man who had shed the blood of war in a time of peace. He had killed for political and worldly advantage. He had been oftentimes stubborn, headstrong, and disobedient to the word of his king.

You will also find that Abiathar was with Adonijah. Abiathar was the last remaining descendant of Eli, but he had much to his

in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself:

⁴ That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

⁵ Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, *and* what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that *was* about his loins, and in his shoes that *were* on his feet.

⁶ Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.

⁷ But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.

⁸ And, behold, *thou hast* with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

⁹ Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou *art* a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

¹⁰ So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

¹¹ And the days that David reigned over Israel *were* forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

advantage in spite of the great disadvantage occasioned by the curse that hung over the heads of all Eli's descendants because of the sins of Eli. Abiathar had proved faithful for a time, in David's reign, but he had failed to "go all the way" and eventually paid a penalty for his sins. He was dishonored by being the one in whom was fulfilled the curse that was pronounced upon the house of Eli.

The Scriptures warn us over and over about the danger of unnecessary association with the ungodly. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," are the words of the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul (II Corinthians 6:14). John the Beloved wrote: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (II John 10). Paul the Apostle said, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." In the Old Testament times the same truth was taught, for we find many incidents there that warn us in the same way.

There is no excuse for failure along this line, for even in the realm of secular writings one may read the same warnings. It has been an established principle from the beginning. One of the old philosophers said, "Every man is like the company he is wont to keep." Another wrote, "Tell me with whom thou art found, and I will tell thee who thou art."

David's Quick Obedience

When he was shown the danger of delaying the execution of God's announced plan for the kingdom succession, David was quick to act. He gave instructions which were, no doubt, in full accord with the counsel given him by Nathan, the man of God. Solomon was anointed king in accordance with the will of God. God had made the choice, announced the plan, and indicated through the man of God that it was the time. David acted at the right time — God's time — and then submitted himself to the new king, pronouncing a sublime blessing on the young man.

With the blessing that David gave Solomon, there was a warning, and an admonition to obedience of, and constancy in, the law of God. Before the princes of Israel, David gave instructions regarding the building of the Temple, the organization of the worship and work of God, and the carrying out of the governmental functions. He also brought the attention of the new king to those who had opposed his ruling and wishes during the former monarchical period.

Those who had been participating in the festivities inaugurated by Adonijah hastily and fearfully abandoned their celebration and went their own way. They were condemned for their endorsement of that which God had not put His blessing upon. Notice the difference between Adonijah's methods and those used by David. There was worship of the living God by those who followed David and Solomon, for they honored God and followed His way. They made sacrifices; they offered praises to God; and they ate and drank "before the LORD on that day with great gladness." Men's way brings fear and defeat. God's way brings confidence and victory.

The Penalty for Sin

In reading the succeeding account we can see Solomon's attitude toward those who opposed his father and who attempted to overthrow God's plan. We can see the beginning of that wisdom that later characterized and distinguished this great king of Israel.

Abiathar, the priest, was not killed, because he had been

¹² Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

QUESTIONS

- 1 What basis would Adonijah have for thinking he might be the next king of Israel?
- 2 Was his method of obtaining that honor a legal method?
- 3 How was the news of the insurrection brought to David?
- 4 Why was David so insistent that Solomon be king?
- 5 Read Acts 2:29-31 and II Samuel 7:11-13, 16, 19. How much did David know about Christ and His coming?
- 6 What was the carnal tendency in Adonijah that resulted in his downfall?
- 7 Was the knowledge of God's choice of Israel's king known to others?
- 8 Describe the relationship that existed between David and Nathan the Prophet.
- 9 What attitude did Solomon take toward Adonijah?
- 10 What is the parallel between I Kings 1:52 and Ezekiel 18:4, 20? State how this great truth is carried out in the lives of some of the characters of our lesson text.

faithful during the time of David's exile. But he was deposed and sent to his home in disgrace because he did not persevere in his former good spirit to the very end of his life.

Adonijah fell before the altar and caught hold of its horns, in his misery of conscience and in his knowledge of the pure justice of whatever punishment might be meted out to him. To repent, he need not have taken hold of the horns of the altar. The horns were not put there for that purpose. There was no repentance in Adonijah's heart and none was necessarily indicated in his actions. His was merely a false way — a human substitute for God's way — to obtain security and physical life and perhaps a certain amount of mercy. His subsequent conduct shows that he continued to hold ambitions and designs for the kingdom, even though God's will had been plainly set forth and put into effect. He was still desirous of his own way instead of the way of God. He was, therefore, a complete rebel against God.

Shimei is an example of those who repent with one object in view, that of escaping the immediate consequences of their evil. Such people do not intend to abide by the commandments that are given to them, but take things into their own hands at the first occasion in which they desire their own way instead of God's way.

It was not necessary that Shimei be caught outside the city to be worthy of the punishment that was justly his for violating the law concerning him. He committed an act of disobedience and suffered the consequences of that act.

Joab, also, sought unlawful sanctuary in the House of God. He was not worthy to remain in that holy place, since he had not repented of the blood of innocent people which was on his hands. He brought no offering for his sin. There was no regret for his sins, no contrition, no repentance. He merely wanted physical life and tried to adapt the things of God to obtain his own desire. He refused the existing means of grace and stubbornly remained in his own way. Therefore, his life was taken before the altar of God. The place where spiritual life began for many saw no such quickening in his heart. It became, for Joab, a place of physical death that sealed his state of spiritual death for all eternity.

There are many who feel that church attendance, in itself, will temper the wrath and judgment of God toward them. There are many who feel that God's judgment will not strike them if they are periodically found in certain consecrated areas. But their religion is not that religion which will give them safety or security when the overflowing scourge from the hand of God strikes. They will find that the condemnation of God will strike judgment at any place and at every thing that is not in accord with the plan of God and covered with the hallowed Blood.

There is no repentance but that which is genuine and from the heart of the sincerely contrite. And there is no security but that which is made possible through the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant — the Blood of the One whom David saw through the prophetic eye, down through the ages of time, as the eventual Monarch upon the eternal throne of Israel — the throne that he saw his own son take on that decisive day three thousand years ago.