

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART
A Study in I and II Samuel and the Psalms of David
AMEN Bible Study 2014-2015

David and Solomon: Exhortation
I Kings 1:1-2:12; Psalms 30; 72; 127
May 14, 2015

I. Death matters (1:1-4)

Now King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. ²Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king and be in his service. Let her lie in your arms,^[a] that my lord the king may be warm." ³So they sought for a beautiful young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of service to the king and attended to him, but the king knew her not.

II. Fathering matters (1:5-10)

⁵Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. ⁷He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him. ⁸But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David's mighty men were not with Adonijah. ⁹Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent's Stone, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, ¹⁰but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.

III. Prophets matter (1:11-27)

¹¹Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it? ¹²Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then is Adonijah king?' ¹⁴Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm^[a] your words."

¹⁵So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king). ¹⁶Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, "What do you desire?" ¹⁷She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the LORD your God, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' ¹⁸And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it. ¹⁹He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited. ²⁰And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after

him.²¹ *Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders.*”

²² *While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in.*²³ *And they told the king, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground.* ²⁴ *And Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne’?”* ²⁵ *For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders^[b] of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’* ²⁶ *But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited.* ²⁷ *Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”*

IV. Repentance matters (1:28-40)

A. We keep our promises (1:28-31)

²⁸ *Then King David answered, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.* ²⁹ *And the king swore, saying, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity,* ³⁰ *as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ even so will I do this day.*” ³¹ *Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”*

B. God keeps His promises (1:32-40)

³² *King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king.* ³³ *And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.* ³⁴ *And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’* ³⁵ *You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.”* ³⁶ *And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, say so.* ³⁷ *As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.”*

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.*

C. Our enemies tremble (1:41-53)

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^[a] to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.'

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."

V. The Kingdom of God matters (2:1-12)

A. Walk with the Lord (2-4)

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] 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^[b] in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war^[c] on the belt around his^[d] 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^[e] 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."

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.

B. Lead for the Lord (5-9)

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^[a] in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war^[b] on the belt around his^[c] 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^[d] 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."

C. Trust in the Lord (10-12)

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.

AMEN Discussion Questions

1. What are the things a man should do to prepare well to die? What had David failed to do well as he approached death? (Cf. vv.1-4)
2. What does Adonijah do in verses 5-10 that makes it obvious that his plans are evil? What can we learn from this?
3. What role does Nathan play in David's life? (Cf. vv.11-27) Who plays that role in our lives today?
4. Describe how the grace of God is at work in verses 28-53. How does God's grace work similarly in our lives?
5. What leadership lessons can we glean from 2:1-12?

