

Solomon Anointed King of Israel

1 Kings 1:32-53

1 Kings 1:32-49 - *“And King David said, ‘Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.’ So they came before the king. The king also said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place, for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.’ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, ‘Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. 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.’”*

So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David’s mule, and took him to Gihon. Then 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!’ And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.

Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, ‘Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?’ While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, “Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news.’

Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, “No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king. The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king’s mule. So 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. Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom. And moreover the king’s servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, ‘May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.’ Then the king bowed himself on the bed. Also the king said thus, ‘Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!” So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.”

Background Notes

In the first half of 1 Kings 1, Adonijah, one of David’s sons, plotted to take over the throne of Israel and become the king when David died. He even went so far as to conduct sacrifices and hold a feast of celebration at En-Rogel Spring,

southeast of Jerusalem. A number of royal servants, including Joab, jumped on Adonijah's bandwagon, thinking that Adonijah would surely be the next king of Israel.

Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba (David's wife and Solomon's mother) revealed Adonijah's evil plans to King David. David moved quickly. He outmaneuvered Adonijah by directing Nathan, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah, his military commander, to anoint Solomon as the next king. These men had all remained faithful to King David.

At David's direction, they placed Solomon on David's own mule, a sure sign of the king's approval, and paraded him down to the Gihon Spring, which was on the east side of Jerusalem and only about a half mile away from the En-Rogel spring where Adonijah was feasting and celebrating.

All the people who were faithful to David, including the Cherethites and the Pelethites (special elite servants under the direction of Benaiah), joined the procession down to the Gihon Spring. There they blew the royal trumpet and Zadok anointed Solomon as the next king of Israel. "Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon." (By the way, the tabernacle, or "sacred tent," was the temporary shelter that David erected in Jerusalem for the Ark of the Covenant. The regular Tabernacle was still at Gibeon.) *"And they blew the horn, and all the people said, 'Long live King Solomon!' And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound."*

After Solomon was anointed they took him back up the hill to the royal palace and placed him on the throne of David. He was actually sitting on the royal throne before Adonijah had finished his own celebration!

When Adonijah and his cohorts realized what was going on, they were afraid. I love verse 49! *"So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way."* They all melted away, leaving Adonijah alone. Now he was very afraid. He knew that his only chance of survival was mercy from King Solomon.

Doctrinal Points

1. Solomon is a picture of Christ as the rightful King.

It's often been pointed out that both King David and King Solomon are "types," or pictures, of Jesus Christ as King. What's the definition of a "type"? A "type" is an Old Testament person, place, event, or other item that illustrates New Testament truth. Both David and Solomon, at various times of their lives, are types of Jesus Christ as the rightful King. Remember how Samuel anointed David as the rightful king, and it then became the responsibility of the people to recognize David as God's appointed king? Now, again, in the case of Solomon, Solomon was the rightful new king. Adonijah was not David's choice, and he was not God's choice. Solomon was God's choice.

This was emphasized in 1 Chronicles 22, when David recounted to Solomon how God had revealed that Solomon was God's choice: *"Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. And David said to Solomon: 'My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. 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'" (1 Chronicles 22:6-10).*

So Solomon was the rightful king. He was not only David's choice, but he was also God's choice. Now it was up to the people to recognize Solomon as the rightful king.

There's a great lesson here for us. Since Solomon is a picture of Christ as the rightful King, and as it was the responsibility of the people to recognize Solomon as the rightful king, it is our responsibility to recognize Jesus Christ as the rightful King.

Have you recognized the Lord Jesus Christ as your rightful King? He is the Messiah, the Anointed One, chosen by God. **Is He your King?** It is your responsibility to recognize Christ as the rightful King. This is not an option. In Acts 17:30 Paul told the people of Athens: *"God commands all men everywhere to repent."*

Notice: *God commands all men everywhere to repent* is **not** an invitation to accept or reject. It is a **command to obey or disobey!** Have you obeyed? Is Jesus Christ your King - or is some "Adonijah" stealing your affections and allegiance? Adonijah could represent any person or any thing that is taking the place of Christ as the rightful King in your life. So Solomon is the picture of Christ as a rightful King.

2. Solomon is a picture of Christ as the righteous Judge.

! Kings 1:50-53 - *"Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. And it was told Solomon, saying, 'Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'" Then 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." So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, 'Go to your house.'"*

When Adonijah realized that his conspiracy had failed, he fled to the bronze altar, where the priests conducted sacrifices to the Lord. The "horns" of the altar were the corner posts of the altar. Grasping the horns of the altar was an acknowledgement of guilt and a cry for mercy. Exodus 21:14 says, *"But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from my altar that he may die."* In other words, if a person was guilty

of premeditated murder, the righteous judgment was the death penalty - even if the person had fled and grasped the horns of the altar.

As king, Solomon certainly had the right to put to death all those who had conspired against David to take the throne without his blessing, but at this point he showed mercy. Rather than execute the traitor Adonijah, Solomon ordered him to be taken from the altar and sent home in mercy and protection. Solomon gave Adonijah a chance to prove himself worthy by submitting to the king.

What a great picture of Jesus Christ as the righteous Judge! Because of our sin against God, we all deserve to die. But we have been shown mercy and given the chance to bow the knee and submit to the King, the righteous Judge! Those who bow the knee to the Lord Jesus and acknowledge Him as King will receive mercy. Future judgment awaits those who don't. I trust everyone here has bowed the knee and submitted to Christ, the only King and righteous Judge. Solomon is a picture of Christ as a righteous Judge.

Practical Application

Do you discern what is really good news?

In verses 42-43, Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, brought the news to Adonijah that Solomon was the new king. *“And Adonijah said to him, ‘Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news.’ Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, ‘No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.’”*

To Adonijah and his crowd, this was bad news. It actually was *good* news, although they did not discern it. Solomon was God's choice, and Solomon became one of the greatest kings of Israel.

Do you see the lesson? Do you discern what is actually *good* news? If Bible reading and prayer were allowed back into the classrooms in this country, some people would say that's bad news - but it would actually be *very good news!* If abortion were to be banned in this country, some people would say that's bad news - but it would actually be *very good news!* Unborn humans, made in the image of God, would no longer be destroyed.

Are you swayed by the opinions of contemporary culture – or do you discern what is really **good news**?