

Bible Readings

1 Kings 1:28-53

David Makes Solomon King

²⁸ Then King David said, "Call in Bathsheba." So, she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

²⁹ The king then took an oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, ³⁰ I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place."

³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed down with her face to the ground, prostrating herself before the king, and said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

³² King David said, "Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada." When they came before the king, ³³ he said to them: "Take your lord's servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴ There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!' ³⁵ Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

³⁶ Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so declare it. ³⁷ As the LORD was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!"

³⁸ So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon mount

King David's mule, and they escorted him to Gihon. ³⁹ Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!" ⁴⁰ And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

⁴¹ Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, "What's the meaning of all the noise in the city?"

⁴² Even as he was speaking, Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest arrived. Adonijah said, "Come in. A worthy man like you must be bringing good news."

⁴³ "Not at all!" Jonathan answered. "Our lord King David has made Solomon king. ⁴⁴ The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites, and they have put him on the king's mule, ⁴⁵ and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon. From there they have gone up cheering, and the city resounds with it. That's the noise you hear. ⁴⁶ Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne. ⁴⁷ Also, the royal officials have come to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make Solomon's name more famous than yours and his throne greater than yours!' And the king bowed in worship on his bed ⁴⁸ and said, 'Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.'"

⁴⁹ At this, all Adonijah's guests rose in alarm and dispersed. ⁵⁰ But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar. ⁵¹ Then Solomon was told, "Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and is clinging to the horns of the altar. He says, 'Let King Solomon

swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

⁵² Solomon replied, "If he shows himself to be worthy, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he will die." ⁵³ Then King Solomon sent men, and they brought him down from the altar. And Adonijah came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon said, "Go to your home."

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Sermon: Who's got the Kingdom - Part 2?**25-Jul-21**

G'Day Church Family

We're continuing our series on the OT book of 1 Kings which we started last week. You have **Bibles in front of you** - and you may have a sermon **outline** - if you'd like to **take notes**.

Let me **ask God** to grant us **understanding** this morning

Let's pray...

Intro

Sometimes there's the **danger of thinking we have arrived** - that **everything depends on us** - there's the **danger of thinking we're more important than we actually are**

For someone like me in ministry - **we can kid ourselves into thinking** - **this ministry can't survive without me** - **we can think we are** - **the ministry**

In our workplace - **we can kid ourselves into thinking** - **this company wouldn't survive without me** - **we can think we are** - **the company**

In whatever group we are involved in - **we can kid ourselves into thinking** - **this group is only working because of me** - **we can think we are** - **the group**

Ego can get in the way - can't it?

[PowerPoint 1-Ego]



The word - **Ego** - comes from Greek and means - "I" ("I" specialist)

The **Bible** has some **great examples of egos**:

Adam and Eve - thought they knew better than God - until they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden

The **Pharaoh** - thought He was better than the God of Israel - until the 10 plagues sorted him out

King **Saul** - forgot he was - God's King - **Saul went his own way** - and came to a sticky end

King **David** - a man after God's own heart - sometimes forgot that - and thought he was the man - and look what happened with Bathsheba - and look at him now [from last week]

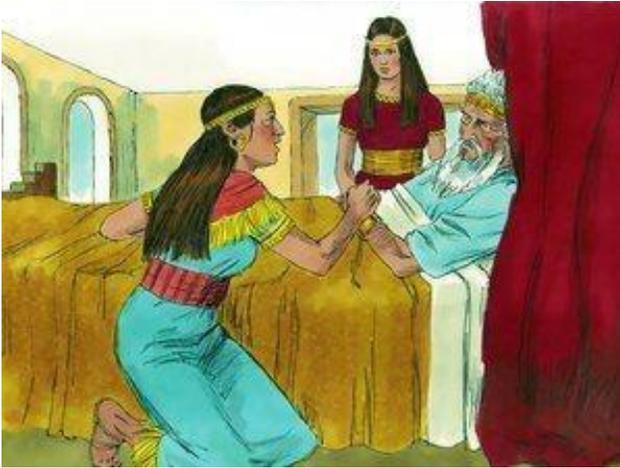
King David's son - **Absalom** - tried to take the throne from his father, David - then got caught in a tree hanging by his beautiful long hair!

There are enough examples in the Bible to know that God deals with ego

Context

- Last week we left things where one of King David's sons, Adonijah, thought he was the man - he had an ego as big as a house

[PowerPoint 2-David]



- Just recapping last week - we saw King David was close to death - old and frail - lying in **bed freezing cold** - he can't get warm.
- And he's been given a **beautiful young virgin**, called **Abishag**, to keep him "warm".

[PowerPoint 3-Adonijah]



- Meanwhile, David's eldest surviving son, Adonijah, assumes he will be the next king after David dies; even though there is no precedent for the eldest son to receive the throne.
- Adonijah declares himself king - without any authority from his father, David; and without any consultation with the Lord.
- We were also told that David had never put a rein on his sons' behaviour and so they thought they could do whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted.
- That's exactly how Adonijah behaves
- Adonijah gains support from Joab (David's nephew and commander of the army) and Abiathar, the priest. He even acts like a king with chariots and horses and an entourage; he offers a huge sacrifice to the Lord and has a party, with many guests to celebrate his status as king - but Nathan - God's prophet - and Solomon (Adonijah's brother) are not invited.
- Nathan the prophet - knowing this plan of Adonijah is not God's plan - nor endorsed by David - acts swiftly.
- Nathan informs David's wife, Bathsheba, (Solomon's mother) about Adonijah's plan; and then Bathsheba and Nathan, go to David to tell him of Adonijah's plan.

David Makes Solomon the King (1 Kings 1:28-40)

- We pick up the story from v28

[PowerPoint 4-David, Bathsheba, Abishag]



- **David calls** in his wife **Bathsheba** (Solomon's mother)
- And **David** (vv29-30) **swears** an oath by the Lord that **this very day** - what he had already promised Bathsheba - that **Solomon would be king after him** - will take place

Application 1

- What stirs David into action? The warm cuddles of Abishag?
- More likely, David is stirred into action by remembering the promise God made to him - of an everlasting kingdom.

[PowerPoint 5-2 Sam 7:16]



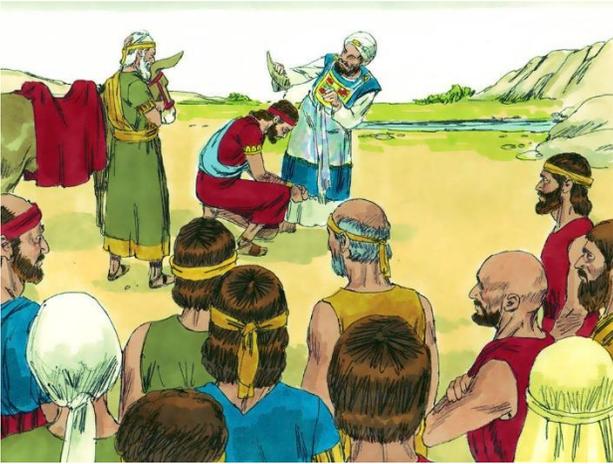
- Back in 2 Samuel 7:16 - God promised David "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."
 - David is stirred into action because David promised his wife, Bathsheba, that God's promise of an everlasting throne - would be fulfilled through Solomon
- (pause)

- What stirs us into action?
- Earthly things or Heavenly things?
- Are we motivated: By what we can buy for our home or family? By what we can earn? By how we can be successful? By what the news on TV tells us? By the latest sporting events? Wimbledon? The Olympics? By what our family members are up to? By whatever pursuit we find interesting?
- Are we only stirred up - by things that bring glory to US?
- What about things that bring glory to God? Like: Praising Him? Obeying Him? Trusting Him in all things? Praying? Sharing our faith? Seeking the good of others? Do these things stir us into action?

(pause)

- One of the things that struck me as I prepared this week - is how quickly Adonijah's bid for the kingship was quashed! The very same day he celebrated being King - David - and of course God - took action.
- See v32 - David instructed Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah to anoint Solomon as king -

[PowerPoint 6-Solomon anointed]



- Here we have the king, the priest and the prophet all working together as they should
- And notice Solomon is to ride David's own mule - this would show the people that David endorses Solomon as king - and that there is a transfer of the kingship - from David - to Solomon
- And notice Benaiah seeks endorsement from God in v36 - Amen "so be it" - may the Lord God of my lord the king, so declare it. And Benaiah v37 also calls upon the Lord God to bless King Solomon - as He blessed King David - and that Solomon's throne be even greater than David's throne!
- As we said last week from Proverbs 16: v9 - In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps
- We must not leave the Lord out of our plans
- And so vv38-40 - Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah go down to Gihon (a town 5km NE of Jerusalem with a spring that was the main water supply to Jerusalem) and Solomon is anointed with a horn of oil (a symbol of HS) taken from the

tabernacle. **Solomon is declared king** with the sound of a trumpet and all the people shouted "Long live King Solomon". The **people were so excited** - they made so much noise - that the **ground shook!**

- **God has acted to accomplish His purposes through the prophet, the priest and the king**

Application 2

- Whatever situations we face. **God is sovereign and His timing is perfect**. This chapter doesn't mention much of **God's activity**; it **relies on human activity and God's prompting of people's hearts** (like Nathan, Bathsheba and David). Are we obedient to God's word and trusting in His prompting?
- **God is sovereign** - His purposes will always come to pass. But in parallel is **human responsibility**; namely the action of Nathan, the Prophet and the obedience of David to God's promise to establish His throne. **God ordains the END and God ordains the MEANS to the END.**

Application 3

- Another application: **David may seem a failure at the start of this chapter**; **old, sick and perhaps even pathetic** (having a young virgin come tend to an old man); but in his weakness - **David sees God's strength and God's sovereign hand**

- It's the same for us - we may feel weak, we may feel helpless - even feel like a failure - but in our weakness - as we trust God in all things - we see God's strength and God's sovereign hand.

Adonijah is humbled (1 Kings 1:41-53)

- With Solomon declared King - where does that leave Mr Ego, Adonijah, now?
- Look at v41

[PowerPoint 7-Guests leave]



- **Adonijah and his guests heard the celebrations from Gihon**
- In vv42-48 - **Jonathan, the son of the priest Abiathar, brings the news that David has made Solomon the new king**
- **Adonijah's self-proclaimed reign lasted a whole day!**
- **Suddenly it's no longer safe or fashionable to be on the side of Adonijah**
- See v49 - Adonijah's guests are afraid, and they clear out quick smart!
- **Suddenly Adonijah's ego has disappeared**

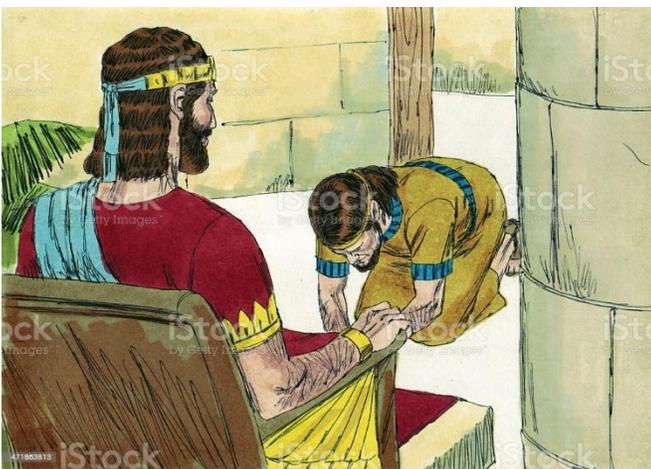
- See v50 - **He's afraid** - usually in such a situation as this - any rival of the new King - **would be executed** -

[PowerPoint 8-altar]



- So, in great fear, Adonijah grabs the horns of the altar [explain action] - in doing so - Adonijah was pleading for mercy from Solomon and protection by God
- In v51 - Adonijah asks Solomon to promise that he will not kill him
- In v52 - In his grace and mercy Solomon promises he will not harm Adonijah but if he finds any evil in Adonijah, from now on - Adonijah will die

[PowerPoint 9-Bows down]



- The chapter ends with **Adonijah bowing down to King Solomon** - acknowledging and honouring **Solomon** as the new king

Application 4

- We're left wondering if Adonijah's submission to Solomon is genuine or not?
Only time will tell
- Sometimes we're not sure if people are genuine with us?
- We must operate with grace - and wait - time will tell - we will know them by **their fruits** (Matthew 7:20) - but **God is the ultimate judge**

Application 5

- Another application here
- **God doesn't like ego** - He deals with ego!
- **Adonijah thought he was the anointed one**; He thought he had arrived; he thought he was the gift from God.
- When David (the anointed king) saw Solomon anointed as the next king, David **praised God** (v48) for allowing him to see his son - as his successor - on the throne. David knew he wasn't the gift - the gift of anointing he had been given - continues on to the next king. The promise of God - for someone on the throne forever - continues through Solomon - and ultimately - through to Jesus, the forever King.
- Whatever gifts God has given us - we need to be careful we don't think - we are actually the gift that God has given us. If we're not careful - **we can get**

US - and the gift - mixed up - and think it is all about us - and not the gift we have been given.

- Ultimately, we have been given the gift of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. We shouldn't think we are the gift! We're not the Messiah. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Gospel - Jesus is the gift. Our job is to pass Jesus - the gift - on to others - not to think - we are the gift!
As John the Baptist realised at the start of Jesus' ministry - John realised - Jesus must become greater and He, John (and us) must become less (John 3:30) - it's not about us - it's about Jesus

It's all about Jesus (Phil 2:9-11)

- Which brings us to our NT passage from Phil 2:9-11 [\[Please turn there now\]](#)
- And yes - it is all about Jesus
- God acts to accomplish His purposes of saving people from sin and death - through Jesus - who is The Prophet, the Priest and The King
- In a far greater way than David making his son, Solomon, king of Israel.

[\[PowerPoint 10-Jesus\]](#)

Philippians 2:9-11

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

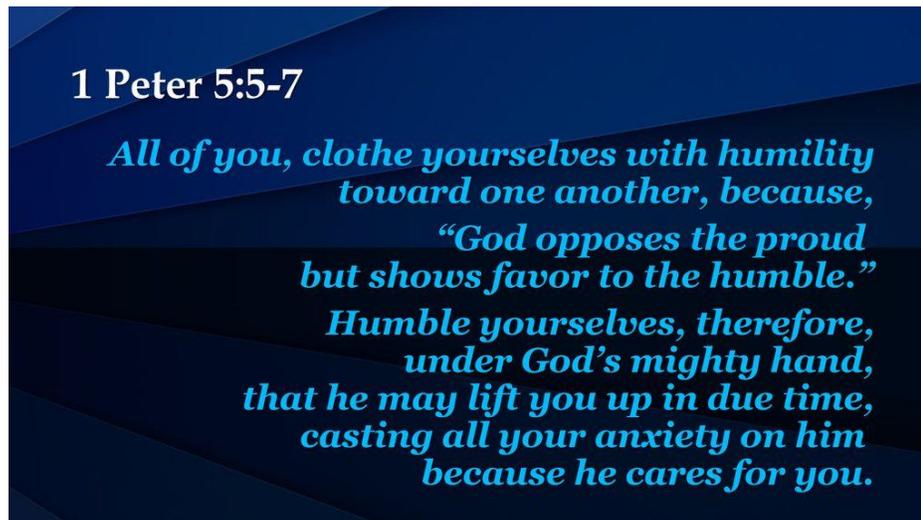
- **God the Father, made Jesus, the Son; King of Heaven and Earth - and sent Him on a rescue mission. Then the Father exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave Him the name above all names.**
- **One day (just like Adonijah bowed down to Solomon) everyone will bow down and acknowledge and confess that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), the Lord and Saviour of the World.**
- **The Apostle Paul doesn't mean us to see this as everyone being saved!**
- **What Paul means is that one day, every person will ultimately come to realize and confess Christ's lordship - either with joyful faith (as believers) or with deep despair (as unbelievers).**
- **We must submit to the Kingship of Jesus and it must be a genuine submission from the heart.**
- **We need to be praying for those whose submission may be lip-service; or not from the heart - and pray for those who haven't come around to submitting their lives to Jesus yet.**

Conclusion/Response

To guard against ego then...

Let me finish with 1 Peter 5:5-7

[PowerPoint 11-1 Peter 5:5-7]



Let's pray

Father God, stir us into bringing glory to You and not to ourselves

Help us to remember that You have sovereign control of all things

Help us in our weaknesses and failures to see Your strength

Help us to be gracious to those whom we're not sure of

Help us to recognize we're not the gift – remove any ego we may have – and help us to clothe ourselves with humility, towards one another.

In Jesus name, we pray. AMEN.