

## **Bible Readings**

### **1 Kings 2:13-46**

#### **Solomon's Throne Established**

<sup>13</sup> Now Adonijah, the son of Haggith, went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. Bathsheba asked him, "Do you come peacefully?"

He answered, "Yes, peacefully." <sup>14</sup> Then he added, "I have something to say to you."

"You may say it," she replied.

<sup>15</sup> "As you know," he said, "the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my brother; for it has come to him from the LORD. <sup>16</sup> Now I have one request to make of you. Do not refuse me."

"You may make it," she said.

<sup>17</sup> So he continued, "Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife."

<sup>18</sup> "Very well," Bathsheba replied, "I will speak to the king for you."

<sup>19</sup> When Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah, the king stood up to meet her, bowed down to her and sat down on his throne. He had a throne brought for the king's mother, and she sat down at his right hand.

<sup>20</sup> "I have one small request to make of you," she said. "Do not refuse me."

The king replied, "Make it, my mother; I will not refuse you."

<sup>21</sup> So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah."

<sup>22</sup> King Solomon answered his mother, "Why do you request Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him—after all, he is my older brother—yes, for him and for Abiathar the priest and Joab son of Zeruiah!"

<sup>23</sup> Then King Solomon swore by the LORD: "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if Adonijah does not pay with his life for this request! <sup>24</sup> And now, as surely as the LORD lives—he who has established me securely on the throne of my father David and has founded a dynasty for me as he promised—Adonijah shall be put to death today!" <sup>25</sup> So King Solomon gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he struck down Adonijah and he died.

<sup>26</sup> To Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go back to your fields in Anathoth. You deserve to die, but I will not put you to death now, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign LORD before my father David and shared all my father's hardships." <sup>27</sup> So Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood of the LORD, fulfilling the word the LORD had spoken at Shiloh about the house of Eli.

<sup>28</sup> When the news reached Joab, who had conspired with Adonijah though not with Absalom, he fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of the horns of the altar. <sup>29</sup> King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tent of the LORD and was beside the altar. Then Solomon ordered Benaiah son of Jehoiada, "Go, strike him down!"

<sup>30</sup> So Benaiah entered the tent of the LORD and said to Joab, "The king says, 'Come out!'"

But he answered, "No, I will die here."

Benaiah reported to the king, "This is how Joab answered me."

<sup>31</sup> Then the king commanded Benaiah, "Do as he says. Strike him down and bury him, and so clear me and my whole family of the guilt of the innocent blood that Joab shed. <sup>32</sup> The LORD will repay him for the blood he shed, because without my father David knowing it, he attacked two men and killed them with the sword. Both of them—Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah's army—were better men and more upright than he. <sup>33</sup> May the guilt of their blood rest on the head of Joab and his descendants forever. But on David and his descendants, his house and his throne, may there be the LORD's peace forever."

<sup>34</sup> So Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up and struck down Joab and killed him, and he was buried at his home out in the country. <sup>35</sup> The king put Benaiah son of Jehoiada over the army in Joab's position and replaced Abiathar with Zadok the priest.

<sup>36</sup> Then the king sent for Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, but do not go anywhere else. <sup>37</sup> The day you leave and cross the Kidron Valley, you can be sure you will die; your blood will be on your own head."

<sup>38</sup> Shimei answered the king, "What you say is good. Your servant will do as my lord the king has said." And Shimei stayed in Jerusalem for a long time.

<sup>39</sup> But three years later, two of Shimei's slaves ran off to Achish son of Maakah, king of Gath, and Shimei was told, "Your slaves are in Gath." <sup>40</sup> At this, he saddled his donkey and went to Achish at Gath in

search of his slaves. So Shimei went away and brought the slaves back from Gath.

<sup>41</sup> When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned, <sup>42</sup> the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD and warn you, 'On the day you leave to go anywhere else, you can be sure you will die'? At that time you said to me, 'What you say is good. I will obey.'" <sup>43</sup> Why then did you not keep your oath to the LORD and obey the command I gave you?"

<sup>44</sup> The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your heart all the wrong you did to my father David. Now the LORD will repay you for your wrongdoing. <sup>45</sup> But King Solomon will be blessed, and David's throne will remain secure before the LORD forever."

<sup>46</sup> Then the king gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down and he died.

The kingdom was now established in Solomon's hands.

## **Matthew 13:36-43**

### **The Parable of the Weeds Explained**

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

<sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the

enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

<sup>40</sup> "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

## Sermon: Securing the Kingdom - Part 2

08-Aug-01

G'Day Church Family

We're continuing our series on the OT book of 1 Kings.

It would be good to have your **bible open 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...

### Context/Intro

- Last week we saw **David** (on his death bed) **telling Solomon** how to **secure His Kingdom**

[PowerPoint 1-David & Solomon]

# REMEMBER



- By **first** and foremost **being obedient** to **God's Word**
- And **second** by **being wise** in **Kingdom matters** - especially when it came to **those** who had been **loyal to David** and **those** had been **disloyal to David**

- The sole purpose of David's advice is to keep the kingdom of **Solomon safe and secure.**

[PowerPoint 2-Secure Kingdom?]



- This week we see how this advice plays out - and how **Solomon** acts to keep his Kingdom safe
- **Solomon** deals with 4 men - **Adonijah**, **Abiathar**, **Joab** and **Shimei**
- **Some** commentators think **Solomon** is too ruthless and cut-throat here
- But remember, **Solomon** is God's anointed King
- And this is God's Kingdom
- And every citizen in Solomon's Kingdom owed loyalty and allegiance to **Solomon**
- And remember that **God** promised **David** (Solomon's father) that He would put a son on His throne and that **David's** kingdom would be a forever kingdom
- And it's through this promise - we have **Jesus** the forever King - nothing can stop **God's** promise

- Each of these 4 men had committed treason against King David - and would most likely do it again against King Solomon - given half a chance
- Each of these 4 men put the love of wealth or the love of sex or the love of power -or the love of all three - ahead of loving obedience to the kingdom of God and loving obedience to God's king
- But before we give these 4 men a hard time
- We have to admit that there is a battle going on in every human heart - where we want to put our own desires ahead of God's desires for us - and we want to make ourselves king of our lives - instead of having Jesus as King of our lives
- This chapter is about putting God and His Kingdom first
- Something Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount - Matt 6:33 - ... seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### How Solomon secured his kingdom (1 Kings 2:13-46)

Let's see how this plays out - first with Adonijah - Solomon's elder brother

#### Adonijah - a potential threat to his throne (vv13-25)

- Adonijah puts sex and power ahead of God's Kingdom
- Back in chapter 1 Adonijah declared himself king - and thought he'd arrived - he had a couple of strong supporters - Abiathar the priest and Joab - commander of the army

- But Adonijah's desire to be king was not **ordained by God** - nor **approved by David**
- And **Adonijah** was **fortunate** to **survive** with his life - Solomon showed him grace
- But now here in v13 **Adonijah makes another move**
- He goes to Solomon's mother - **Bathsheba** - rather than directly to **Solomon** - thinking **Solomon** will listen to his mummy
- **Bathsheba** is taken aback - and **asked** if Adonijah has **come in peace?**  
Perhaps thinking - is this **another attempt** for the throne?
- It should ring **alarm bells** - if she is wondering whether he came in peace
- And **Adonijah** has a sense of entitlement - see v15 - he says "**the kingdom was mine. All of Israel looked to me as their king.**"
- A **gross exaggeration** on what really happened
- And we are **meant to see** that **Adonijah** really hasn't given up hope of being **King**
- V17 - **Adonijah** asks **Bathsheba** to ask King **Solomon** to give him **Abishag** the **Shunammite** as his wife
- Now remember **Abishag** - is no ordinary girl
- She is the **young beautiful virgin** - from chapter 1 - brought in to **keep King David "warm"**
- She was **pretty much** the most beautiful woman in all of Israel - they'd just about had a **beauty pageant** to find her

- **Abishag was King David's wife or concubine** - and now David has died - she belongs to Solomon
- To **take - or ask for - a King's wife or concubine** culturally is to make a **claim** for the Kingdom - David's son **Absalom** had slept with **David's concubines** to claim David's kingdom (2 Samuel 16:21-22)
- When Bathsheba brings Adonijah's request to Solomon - **Solomon has a canary** - v22 - He says Adonijah might as well ask for the Kingdom for himself and for his two mates Abiathar and Joab
- So, **Solomon swears an oath** to the Lord - v23 - to have **Adonijah killed** and gives **orders** for his head guard, **Benaiah**, to kill **Adonijah**
- **Adonijah had broken his promise** from chapter 1:52 - when **Solomon spared Adonijah's life** as long as Adonijah showed himself worthy
- You see **Adonijah put** his **desire for sex** and **desire for power** - ahead of God's kingdom
- He couldn't give up his **desire for the throne** or his **desire** for the most **beautiful woman** in Israel!
- For us maybe there's something we can't give up?
- **A sin that we repeat over and over-** and can't let go of?
- What is that one thing that we can't let go off - that prevents us giving all our life to Jesus? - we might be holding some part of our life back?

(pause)

## Abiathar - the disloyal priest (vv26-27)

- The **second** man - Solomon deals with is **Abiathar - the priest**
- He had been **disloyal to David** and **sided with Adonijah's failed bid for the throne**
- **Abiathar's problem** was his **desire for power - he wanted to be associated with a new young and up and coming powerful king like Adonijah and not remain loyal to the ageing King David**
- **V26 - Solomon shows Abiathar grace - Abiathar deserves to die but Solomon decides to spare him because he was a **priest** who had **carried the Ark of the Lord** and **shared in some hardships with David.****
- Instead v27 - Solomon **removes him from the priesthood**
- Solomon figured - if Abiathar was no longer a priest - he no longer had power
- It's a **warning for us in church - isn't it?**
- When we're in a **leadership role** - it's important for us to **put God's church ahead of our own selfish desires** - our role is to **bring glory to God** and not glory to ourselves - and our role **requires obedience to God** and for us to **remember we are serving God** and His people - and not ourselves
- If we don't do that - we **may be removed** from that role - By God or by the church!
- **Abiathar** is also an **example** of what can happen in church - when there are **cliques** or "in-groups" where **others are excluded and left out** - and this can **cause hurt and disunity** in a church

(pause)

Joab - the disloyal army commander (vv28-35)

- The **third** man Solomon deals with is **Joab**
- **Joab** is a **powerful** and **violent** man
- He has **no qualms** in **killing people** who get in his road
- But in **v28** - when he hears what's happened to Adonijah - **Joab realizes his goose is cooked** - **he copies Adonijah's behaviour** from chapter 1 and flees to the Tent of the Lord and **grabs hold of the horns of the altar**
- This was **meant to be a plea for mercy** - but **mercy was only given** - if the **person was innocent**
- **Joab** is far from innocent - we know (from v37) that **Joab killed Abner** Saul's & Israel's army commander and **killed Amasa** Judah's army commander - **both in cold blood** - both in peace time and not in battle
- All this was **blatant disobedience** towards God's anointed, King David
- This was **treason** - so again **Solomon ordered Benaiah to strike down Joab**
- **Joab** was a man who **hungered and thirsted for power** - and he was **very violent**
- What about us - we might not be power hungry like Joab
- But perhaps we are like what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount - and we store up treasures on Earth (Matt 6:19) and have our little empire - or we try to serve two masters - our wealth and God (Matt 6:24) - instead of hungering and thirsting for righteousness [to be right with God and approved by God] as Jesus says (Matt 5:6)

- We might not be violent like Joab
- **But Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount - that even in our anger against someone we can murder them in our hearts (Matt 5:23)**

(pause)

Shimei -from King Saul's clan - supporter of Saul and Absalom (vv36-46)

- The **fourth** man Solomon deals with is **Shimei**
- Shimei had been **disloyal to King David** back in 2 Samuel 16 - Shimei had **cursed David, God's anointed and called him a murderer and threw stones at David** - this was **treason** and Shimei deserved to die
- But again, **Solomon showed him grace**
- See v36-37
- **Solomon ordered Shimei to stay in Jerusalem - and not leave the city - a bit like being under **house arrest** - that way Solomon could **keep an eye on him****
- **Shimei** was happy to **agree** to this in v38
- But 3 years later - **Shimei** got **complacent** and when he found out **2 of his servants** had **run off to Gath** in Philistine territory
- Shimei **foolishly** went after them - and **broke his promise to Solomon**
- It **cost Shimei his life** - v46
- **Shimei put his wealth** (his property - his servants) ahead of the Kingdom
- What are we putting before God's Kingdom and His Kingdom work?

(pause)

- So, we come to the **end of the chapter** and the **key verse 46b**

The kingdom was now established in Solomon's hands.

- All four men didn't put the Kingdom first - and in fact - they were a danger to the kingdom - so they had to be dealt with - so that Solomon's kingdom could be established.
- Solomon did a bit of gardening and weeded out the potential weeds in His kingdom
- Speaking of gardening - that brings us to our NT passage

[Please turn to Matthew 13:36-43]

### How Jesus secures His Kingdom (Matthew 13:36-43)

[PowerPoint 3-Parable of wheat and tares]

#### The Parable Of The Tares Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



- In this passage, Jesus explains the parable of the Wheat and weeds [the weeds are actually called tares - and tares are weeds that resemble wheat]
- Jesus told the parable earlier in chapter 13 - in verses 24-30 - the parable was to explain what the kingdom of heaven is like - the parable was about a man who sowed good seed in his field. One night, the enemy came and sowed weeds [those tares] among good the wheat seed. In time both the wheat and weeds were growing together. The man's servants want to pull up the weeds,

but the man says "no" - as they might also uproot the wheat. The man says wait until the harvest to sort the wheat and weeds out; and then burn the weeds)

- In the part we read
- Jesus says the man who sowed the good seed = Jesus himself.
- The field = world.
- The good seed = the people of the kingdom = the believers.
- The weeds = those who belong to the devil = unbelievers.
- The enemy who sowed the weeds = the devil.
- The harvest = the last day of judgment.
- The harvesters = God's angels - sorting the wheat (believers) from the weeds (unbelievers)
- The weeds will be thrown into fire/furnace = Hell.
- The wheat will be in the kingdom of heaven.
- How does this relate to our OT passage from 1 Kings 2:13-46?
- Well - just like Solomon had to weed out those who are enemies of his kingdom - he had to weed out those who would put his kingdom in danger; so too Jesus will weed out those who aren't genuine believers - and are therefore enemies to His kingdom.
- God will not allow evil to prevail.

### Application

Applying all of this to us this morning then...

[PowerPoint 4-Pulling Weeds]



- Because wheat (that is believers) and weeds (unbelievers) can be living side by side - and sometimes we're not able to clearly identify who the weeds are - we have to trust God will weed them out - we have to have faith that ultimately God will deal with those weeds on the last day
- Also, there will be times when we have to eliminate weeds from the church - people who have the potential to disrupt, corrupt or lead the church [which is God's Kingdom] astray - and cause disunity - we need to pray for God's wisdom to do this
- Also, there are weeds in our lives - right now - which we need to eliminate - we might have to do some gardening on ourselves - and ask God to deal with our arch enemies - our own weeds;
- Our weeds are - our sinful actions - our sinful words - and sinful thoughts and our sinful hearts.

- We need to pull up the weeds of our **sinful actions** - things like: dishonest gain, lies, hatred, jealousy, revenge, putting our career or business ahead of God and ahead of our family; our lustful desires, our desire for self-indulging luxury
- We need to pull up the weeds of our **sinful words** - cruel words - harsh words - unkind words - angry words - lying words - words of gossip
- We need to pull up the weeds of our **sinful thoughts** - Our minds are like a garden; - we can grow flowers or weeds. Mental or emotional weeds include: negative thoughts; engaging in toxic images (porn; negative music; violent movies); living too much in the past which can lead to depression; or over worrying (anxiety) about the future; thinking about a problem over and over so our feelings control us.  
Remember what the **Apostle Paul's remedy for this is: Phil 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God -**  
and also Phil 4:8 - whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things
- Then there's **spiritual weeds** we might have - like - neglecting prayer, neglecting quiet times; not trusting God and His Word; doubting Him; not listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Also, things like only worshipping God when we want something from God - which makes God our servant and

not our master. Instead - remember God's promises - remember His Word  
and put it into practice (Matthew 7:24-27)

- This weeding is difficult - isn't it?
- Which is why we need a saving relationship with our Lord Jesus - who forgives all our sins - if we pull out all our weeds and come to him and genuinely say sorry and confess our sins

(pause)

### Conclusion

To finish up then - we've just seen how King Solomon established His kingdom

- King Jesus - established His Kingdom by bleeding on the cross and dying for our sins to be forgiven and by being raised to life so we can have eternal life in the kingdom of heaven
- King Jesus - established His Kingdom by eliminating his enemies- the much greater enemies - of sin and death and the devil - and He established His Kingdom by suffering our punishment for all our Adonijah sins - Joab sins - Abiathar sins and Shimei sins
- And Jesus did it by not putting himself first but by putting the kingdom first in every choice he made as He said in John 6:38 - "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.
- And Jesus did it by not giving into any temptation - as Heb 4:15 says: we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

- Our call is: to seek Jesus' kingdom first - put Jesus first in our hearts and in our minds - in our bodies - and imitate Jesus. We can do this through the work of Holy Spirit in our lives
- Finally, it's important that **EVERYONE** submits to the monarchy of Jesus - before it's too late and Jesus returns (at an hour we don't know and like a thief in the night) - so there's a great urgency for us to be sharing our faith in Jesus with others - right now.

Let's pray...

Father God, thank You that You promised to send Jesus, the Forever King, and that You always keep Your promises.

Thank You that You have set a day - when Jesus - will judge all people of the Earth - and separate the wheat (the believers) from the weeds (the unbelievers).

Thank You that You are forever working to keep Your Kingdom secure.

Help us to be honest with ourselves about the weeds (sins) in our lives - and through Your Spirit - help us to grow to be more like Jesus each day.

Help us to also realize the urgency in sharing our faith in Jesus with others - as we don't know the hour You will return.

In His precious name, we pray, Amen.