

1 Kings 2-3:15

The Succession

Lesson 2

Although David's body was frail, his mind remained alert. David's foresight ensured that the proper son would become king after him. Because Nathan supported the kingship of Solomon, we can be sure that Solomon was also God's choice for king.

Shepherd's Notes

David's Final Days, Chapter 2

1. Solomon had been crowned king of Israel at Gihon, just outside the capital city of Jerusalem. Following his coronation, kings David and Solomon ruled as co-regents. As David's death drew near, he gave some final counsel to his son Solomon. What did David say was necessary to be a righteous king? (vs. 1-3)
2. Why did David say Solomon should heed his counsel? (vs. 3f, 4)
3. As David prepared to pass the leadership to Solomon, there were certain people he wanted Solomon to know about. First was David's army commander, Joab. What did David say about him? (1 Kings 1:7; 2:5,6 and 2 Samuel 3:22-30; 18:5-17, 19:13 and 20:8-10)
4. The second person David mentioned was Barzillai of Gilead. What did David tell Solomon about him? (vs. 7; 2 Samuel 17:27-29; 19:31-39)
5. And finally Shimei, the Benjamite from the tribe of King Saul. What did David ask Solomon to do about him and why? (vs. 8,9; 2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:16-23)
6. David's death is recorded in 1 Kings 2:10, 11 and 1 Chronicles 29:26-30. What is recorded?

Solomon Cleans House

7. Adonijah had a new plan. Who did he approach for help? (vs. 13, 14)
8. What did he say were the expectations of Israel and the reality? (vs. 15)

9. From verse 15, what do you think he was saying between the lines?

10. What's his request? (vs. 16-18; 1 Kings 1:1-4)

11. What type of relationship is implied in verse 19 between King Solomon and his mother?

12. How does Bathsheba broach the subject with Solomon? (vs. 20)

13. She said, "*Let Abishag the Shunammite be given in marriage to your brother Adonijah.*" From what you've learned in the past studies, in the cultural context, what was he trying to do?

14. What was Solomon's answer? (vs. 22-25)

15. Solomon then dealt with those who had helped Adonijah in his rebellion. How did he handle Abiathar, the priest who had been so faithful to his father David, and why? (vs. 26, 27)

16. Joab heard what Solomon did with Abiathar and in anticipation that he would be next took his own precaution. What did he do? (vs. 28)
 - What do you think he hoped for?

17. How did Solomon deal with Joab? (vs. 29-34)

18. Who replaced Abiathar as priest and Joab as army commander? (vs. 35)

19. Shimei was the last person David mentioned. He'd asked Solomon to use wisdom in dealing with Shimei. (vs. 9) How did Solomon handle Shimei? (vs. 36-38)

20. Shimei said, "*What you say is good. Your servant will do as my lord the king has said.*" What happened? (vs. 39-46)

With those who had opposed him and his father dealt with, "*The kingdom was now firmly established in Solomon's hands.*"

Solomon Began His Reign - Chapter 3

21. To further ensure the security of his kingdom, Solomon began making political alliances. What was the first one mentioned? (vs. 1)

22. "The Law" (The Books of Moses), given while Israel was just an infant nation in the wilderness, had given God's statutes and commands. Since Israel was now a mature and powerful nation several hundred years old, we assume they were following "The Law" fully. What clue was given in 1 Kings 3:2 and 3 that revealed that was not the case and why?

23. Solomon went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to the Lord. It was called "*The most important high place.*" Why? (2 Chronicles 1:1-6)
 - While Solomon was there, the Lord appeared to him in a dream. He said, "*Ask for whatever you want Me to give you.*" Why do you think God did this?

24. Solomon answered God by sharing his heart. What did he say in each of the following verses?
- 3:6

 - 3:7

 - 3:8

 - 3:9 and 2 Chronicles 1:9, 10
25. What did God say to Solomon's request? (vs. 10-13 and 2 Chronicles 1:11, 12)
26. What additional assurance did God give in 1 Kings 3:14?
27. Following this event, how did Solomon honor the Lord? (vs. 15)

Application

28. Solomon's request for discernment and wisdom pleased the Lord because Solomon's heart was right. God knew Solomon would need an abundance of wisdom to rule His people. Does the New Testament teach that we can make such a request of God today? Please explain your answer. (James 1:2-8)