

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

February 19

MONDAY

Hearing of Adonijah's grab for power from two witnesses, David summons Bathsheba back before him and promises her that Solomon will follow him on the throne. Hearing that, Bathsheba honors her husband, the king.

READ: I Kings 1:28-31

David takes his promises seriously. He knows that a promise is twice made: once to the party before him, and once to God. "As God lives, I will do what I have promised," he repeats. We, too, need to put the highest commitment on our promises, our yes, and our no. "I will do that. I won't do this. I promise to do this or that." Oh, that others might see us as people of such integrity! Whether it's a promise "to love, honor, and cherish another until we both shall die" or a promise "to be home for dinner tonight by 5:00 at the latest," whatever it may be, may we be resolved before God to keep our word always.

TUESDAY

Hearing (in previous verses) that his son Adonijah has claimed the throne, David gives instructions to those he trusts - instructions on how to counteract Adonijah's rebellion. He tells them to anoint Solomon instead, and with as much fanfare as possible, to publicly declare him the next king.

READ: I Kings 1:32-35

Just think: David entrusted his well-being and that of his entire family to three trusted friends. They must announce Solomon to be king. Think how much was riding on them! Just think: God has entrusted you and me with a great responsibility as well - to be those who announce the reconciliation God offers to mankind through the work of Jesus on the cross. (II Cor.5:19) God forgives sin for Jesus' sake. That's the message we are to announce!

WEDNESDAY

Benaiah, son of Jehoida, promises to do as David wishes, and even adds his own blessing upon David's intentions.

READ: I Kings 1:36-37

I love Benaiah's reply to David's directions: "Amen! Thus may the Lord, the God of my lord, say." This is the language of great hope - that because we take God at His word (as we read His Word), that His thoughts will become our thoughts, and His words, our words. May we grow in Him so much that our words reflect the very heart of God Himself. This day, may our speech reflect our Lord, and may we speak as if God Himself were speaking thru us. (II Cor.5:20)

THURSDAY

King David's son Solomon is anointed to be king upon David death. There is great rejoicing among the people.

READ: I Kings 1:38-40

The focus here is on the anointing. That is something which Adonijah did not have. Apparently, it was something he didn't care about, for he could have surely arranged at least a mock anointing of some sort. The anointing of a king was a symbolic way of declaring that God was the One who had chosen this man for this position. I John 2:20 tells us that we are anointed by the Holy Spirit - chosen by God to follow and serve Him! And that means that God Himself has chosen you for the ministry before you. God has chosen you and me to be His witnesses today!

FRIDAY

Adonijah and his supporters hear the sound of the trumpets and the cheering of the crowd for Solomon. As they puzzle to sort out what's going on, a messenger arrives and tells them the story about David's supporters putting Solomon on David's donkey and leading him into Jerusalem.

READ: I Kings 1:41-44

Even at this moment, with an uproar in the streets and a messenger at the door, the would-be-king Adonijah is anticipating good news. How foolish are the wicked. They think that somehow, all will be well. Jesus told of a rich farmer who went to bed gloating over his riches and content with the thought that tomorrow he would build a bigger barn to hold yet more wealth. Yet, that very night, God took him. In telling this story, Jesus called him a fool for not giving attention to his eternal soul. Do not be led astray by those around us who are building bigger barns. Live your life for God and for His Glory! Tell His story! Declare Him to be your King!

SATURDAY

The messenger goes on with his description of the anointing of Solomon as the next king of Israel. He tells Adonijah and those around him every detail that he knew (and that's what we know, as well).

READ: I Kings 1:45-48

In reporting to Adonijah what was going on outside in the city with Solomon and so on, the messenger lists those who are supporting the newly announced king: he's already mentioned the priest and the prophet. Now he adds to that the excitement in the city as the general public welcomes the new king. He also tells how David has honored Solomon as king - bowing to him from his sick bed. He states that Solomon has taken his place on the throne. The contrast to Adonijah is something we cannot miss. While the self-proclaimed would-be king is partying, his throne is taken from him. The triumph of the wicked is short-lived. Don't be impressed by it. But for us who know the Lord and follow in His ways, it's a different story. It's a story of victory and reward which no man can take from us! It's a story of eternal joy, for He has made us to rejoice in Him! And again, I say rejoice!

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