

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

February 26

MONDAY

All the people who had joined with Adonijah (thinking that they might be able to somehow profit from associating with him) were alarmed, to say the least. They scattered! Adonijah was so scared himself, he hurried to the altar in the Temple, thinking that he was surely safe there.

READ: I Kings 1:49-51

It's a picture of a desperate man who knows what he deserves, but hopes that somehow a religious gesture may save his life. Does that sound familiar at all? It should, for in our day, many are hoping that religious activity will somehow save them. As believers, we are confident that it is not our church membership or church activities that save us; rather, it is the relationship we have to God thru Christ Jesus. No wonder the Bible tells us that we should rejoice in that above all things, that God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ Jesus!

TUESDAY

Solomon responds to the news that Adonijah is pleading for mercy at the altar by saying if he truly no longer means harm, he doesn't need to worry that Solomon will kill him. Then he orders him to go home.

READ: I Kings 1:52-53

In acting as he did, Solomon established his throne as a throne of mercy. Power, too, but always power mixed with mercy. His actions shadow what God has done for us. Despite our sin (and the width and depth of that sin!), when we cry unto the Lord, God grants us mercy. The God of all creation rules in glory and majesty and with great power, but His throne is one of mercy. And there, before the throne, we find mercy! We found it when we first came to God in faith, and we find it every day after!

WEDNESDAY

Shortly before he dies, David challenges Solomon to follow the Lord with his whole heart, so that the promise God gave David would be fulfilled. That promise was that David's family would sit upon the throne of Israel.

READ: I Kings 2:1-4

David tells Solomon to show himself to be a man (vs.2) by keeping the charge the Lord gives him. That's so different from how our world today defines manhood. The world says be macho. When necessary, use whatever force you need. Show no weakness. Take no prisoners. But God says the quality of manhood that He looks for is that we would follow Him with all our hearts, resolved to do all that He has commanded us to do! Help us to be determined to live as faithful and true followers of Him!

THURSDAY

David reminds Solomon of some of the really terrible things Joab had done over the years. (remember, he had been part of Adonijah's attempt to steal the throne) And he exhorts Solomon to act wisely in the way he treats Joab, but in no wise, should he let him escape all the evil he had done.

READ: I Kings 2:5-6

The evil that Joab did and that David describes was done while David was king. It was done "on his watch" so to speak. It was done by his general and in his name. David seems to regret that he did not act upon that earlier and decisively himself, and now commits that task to his son. It's a rather sad state of affairs that he must pass on to his son a task which he should have carried out long ago. Saying to the next generation, "Do what I should have done," is a poor legacy indeed. May we be those who leave to those who come behind us an example of faithfulness to do all that the Lord has commanded us, saying to the next generation, "Do what I have done!"

FRIDAY

David gives Solomon instructions on how to deal with Barzillai and Shimei.

READ: I Kings 2:7-9

David remembers the kindness of Barzillai who aided him when he fled Absalom. Apparently Barzillai is dead, and David is thinking of the family as he writes *Show kindness to them; let them set at your table* (that is, honor them). Although the circumstances may vary, the principle is true for us as well: we should not soon or easily forget those who have in some ways helped us or befriended us. Thanklessness is a trait of the last days, and it has already showed itself in a big way in our world today. Let us stand out from the crowd as those who thank the Lord in all things, and thank others from sincere hearts. (maybe we have some thanking to catch up on!)

SATURDAY

King David dies and Solomon takes over the Kingdom.

READ: I Kings 2:10-12

Solomon's rule was firmly established, we read. Why was that so? Because it was established on a solid foundation. David believed, and in some measure, passed that belief onto Solomon, that it is God who establishes a kingdom and puts a king on the throne and who blesses a nation. David, while not perfect, on the whole, lived his life for God - he lived to be God's man in all things. *A man after God's own heart*, the Bible calls him. Because the grace of God has come to you and me, that can be our story, as well. Our commitment to following God in the things of today is not an insignificant thing. A man after God's own heart lives for God one day at a time!