

## ~ADONIJAH 1 (383)

(Ad-o-ni'jah) [Yehowah Is Lord]

.. Seeks Kingship Against His Father's Will

.. Solomon Orders Adonijah's Death For Treachery

- David's fourth son, born of Haggith in Hebron.
- And the fourth was **Adonijah** the son of Haggith, and the fifth was Shephatiah the son of Abital. (2 Samuel 3:4)
- And the sixth was Ithream by Eglah, David's wife. These were the one's born to David in Hebron. (2 Samuel 3:5)
- Though of a different mother, **Adonijah** was quite similar to Absalom in being very good-looking in form and in his ambition.
- All the while **Adonijah** the son of Haggith was lifting himself up, saying; I myself am going to rule as king! And he proceeded to have a chariot made for himself with horsemen and fifty men running before him. (1 Kings 1:5)
- And his father did not hurt his feelings at any time by saying; Why is this the way you have done? And he was also very good-looking in form, and his mother had borne him after Absalom. (1 Kings 1:6)
- Now compared with Absalom there proved to be no man so beautiful in all Israel as to be praised so much. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there proved to be no defect in him. (2 Samuel 14:25)
- And it came about following such things that Absalom proceeded to have a chariot made for himself, with horses and with fifty men running before him. (2 Samuel 15:1)
- He becomes prominent in the Bible record during David's waning years. Despite Yehowah's declaration that the kingship would go to Solomon
- Look! There is a son being born to you. He himself will prove to be a restful man, and I shall certainly give him rest from all his enemies all around. For Solomon is what his name will become,

and peace and quietness I shall bestow upon Israel in his days.  
(1 Chronicles 22:9)

- It is he that will build a house to my name, and he himself will become a son to me, and I a father to him. And I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingship firmly over Israel to time indefinite. (1 Chronicles 22:10)

### • Seeks Kingship Against His Fathers Will

- **Adonijah** began boasting that he would be Israel's next king. Since Amnon and Absalom, and probably Chileab, were dead, **Adonijah** doubtless founded his claim to the throne on the basis of his being the eldest son. Like Absalom, he made a showy display of his pretensions and went uncorrected by his father. He built up party support by gaining the favor of the head of the army, Joab, and the head of the priesthood, Abiathar.

- All the while **Adonijah** the son of Haggith was lifting himself up, saying; I myself am going to rule as king! And he proceeded to have a chariot made for himself with horsemen and fifty men running before him. (1 Kings 1:5)
- And his father did not hurt his feelings at any time by saying; Why is this the way you have done? And he was also very good-looking in form, and his mother had borne him after Absalom. (1 Kings 1:6)
- And he came to have dealings with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they began offering help as followers of **Adonijah**. (1 Kings 1:7)
- As for Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and the mighty men that belonged to David, they did not become involved with **Adonijah**. (1 Kings 1:8)
- He then held a sacrificial feast near En-rogel, a short distance from the city of Jerusalem, inviting most of the royal household, but not Solomon, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah. His obvious purpose was to have himself declared king.
- Eventually **Adonijah** held a sacrifice of sheep and cattle and fatlings close by the stone of Zoheleth, which is beside En-rogel,

and he proceeded to invite all his brothers the king's sons and all the men of Judah the king's servants. (1 Kings 1:9)

- And Nathan the prophet and Benaiah and the mighty men and Solomon his brother he did not invite. (1 Kings 1:10)
- For he has today gone down that he might sacrifice bulls and fatlings and sheep in great quantity and might invite all the sons of the king and the chiefs of the army and Abiathar the priest, and there they are eating and drinking before him and they keep saying; Let King **Adonijah** live! (1 Kings 1:25)
- Nathan the prophet acted promptly to block **Adonijah's** scheme. He counseled Solomon's mother Bath-sheba to remind David of his oath in favor of Solomon's kingship and then appeared after her at the king's quarters to confirm her words and alert David to the gravity of the situation, also, in effect, indicating that he felt David may have been acting behind the backs of his close associates.
- Nathan now said to Bath-sheba, Solomon's mother. Have you not heard that **Adonijah** the son of Haggith has become king, and our lord David does not know of it at all? (1 Kings 1:11)
- So now come, let me, please, solemnly counsel you. And provide escape for your own soul and for the soul of your son Solomon. (1 Kings 1:12)
- Go and enter in to King David, and you must say to him; Was it not you, my lord the king, that swore to your slave girl, saying; Solomon your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne? So why has **Adonijah** become king? (1 Kings 1:13)
- Look! While you are yet speaking there with the king, then I myself shall come in after you, and I shall certainly confirm your words. (1 Kings 1:14)
- Accordingly Bath-sheba went in to the king in the interior room, and the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was waiting upon the king. (1 Kings 1:15)
- Then Bath-sheba bowed low and prostrated herself to the king, upon which the king said; What do you have to ask? (1 Kings 1:16)

- At this she said to him; My lord, it was you that swore by Yehowah your God to your slave girl; Solomon your son is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne. (1 Kings 1:17)
- And now, look! Adonijah himself has become king, and now my lord the king himself does not know of it at all. (1 Kings 1:18)
- So he sacrificed bulls and fatlings and sheep in great quantity and invited all the sons of the king and Abiathar the priest and Joab the chief of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited. (1 Kings 1:19)
- And you my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are upon you, to tell them who is going to sit upon the throne of my lord the king after him. (1 Kings 1:20)
- And it will certainly occur that as soon as my lord the king lies down with his forefathers, I myself and also my son Solomon shall certainly become offenders. (1 Kings 1:21)
- And, look! While she was yet speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet himself came in. (1 Kings 1:22)
- At once they told the king, saying; Here is Nathan the prophet! After that he came in before the king and prostrated himself to the king with his face to the earth. (1 Kings 1:23)
- Then Nathan said; My lord the king, did you yourself say; Adonijah is the one that will become king after me, and he is the one that will sit upon my throne? (1 Kings 1:24)
- For he has today gone down that he might sacrifice bulls and fatlings and sheep in great quantity and might invite all the sons of the king and the chiefs of the army and Abiathar the priest, and there they are eating and drinking before him and they keep saying; Let King Adonijah live! (1 Kings 1:25)
- But as for me your servant, me and Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Solomon your servant he has not invited. (1 Kings 1:26)
- If it is from my lord the king that this thing has been brought

about, then you have not caused your servant to know who should sit upon the throne of my lord the king after him. (**1 Kings 1:27**)

- This stirred the old king to action, and he promptly gave orders for the immediate anointing of Solomon as coregent and successor to the throne. This action provoked a joyful uproar by the people, which was heard at **Adonijah's** banquet.
- Soon a runner, priest Abiathar's son, appeared with the disquieting news of David's proclamation of Solomon as king. **Adonijah's** supporters quickly dispersed, and he fled to the tabernacle courtyard seeking refuge. Solomon then granted him pardon on the provision of his good behavior.
- Immediately King David said; You men, call for me Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. So they came in before the king. (**1 Kings 1:32**)
- And the king went on to say to them; Take with you the servants of your lord, and you must make Solomon my son ride upon the she-mule that belongs to me and lead him down to Gihon. (**1 Kings 1:33**)
- And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet must anoint him there as king over Israel, and you must blow the horn and say; Let King Solomon live! (**1 Kings 1:34**)
- And you must come up following him, and he must come in and sit upon my throne, and he himself will be king in place of me, and him I shall have to commission to become leader over Israel and over Judah. (**1 Kings 1:35**)
- At once Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said; Amen! Thus may Yehowah the God of my lord the king say. (**1 Kings 1:36**)
- Just as Yehowah proved to be with my lord the king, so let him prove to be with Solomon, and may he make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David. (**1 Kings 1:37**)
- And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites proceeded to go down and make Solomon ride upon the she-

mule of King David, and then brought him to Gihon. (**1 Kings 1:38**)

- Zadok the priest now took the horn of oil out of the tent and anointed Solomon, and they began to blow the horn, and all the people broke out saying; Let King Solomon live! (**1 Kings 1:39**)
- After that all the people came on up following him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by the noise of them. (**1 Kings 1:40**)
- And **Adonijah** and all the one's invited that were with him got to hear it, when they themselves had finished eating. When Joab got to hear the sound of the horn, he at once said; What does the noise of the town in an uproar mean? (**1 Kings 1:41**)
- While he was yet speaking, why, here Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. Then **Adonijah said**; Come on in, for you are a valiant man, and you bring Good News. (**1 Kings 1:42**)
- But Jonathan answered and said to **Adonijah**; No! Our lord King David himself has made Solomon king. (**1 Kings 1:43**)
- So the king sent with him Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and they made him ride upon the she-mule of the king. (**1 Kings 1:44**)
- Then Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed him as king in Gihon, after which they came up from there rejoicing, and the town is in an uproar. That was the noise that you men heard. (**1 Kings 1:45**)
- And, besides, Solomon has sat down upon the throne of the kingship. (**1 Kings 1:46**)
- And, another thing, the servants of the king have come in to wish our lord King David well, saying; May your God make Solomon's name more splendid than your name, and may he make his throne greater than your throne! At that the king bowed down upon the bed. (**1 Kings 1:47**)
- And too this is what the king said; Blessed be Yehowah the God of Israel, who has today given one to sit upon my throne, with

my own eyes seeing it! (1 Kings 1:48)

- And all those invited that were with **Adonijah** began to tremble and rise up and go each one on his own way. (1 Kings 1:49)
- And **Adonijah** himself was afraid because of Solomon. So he rose up and went away and grabbed hold of the horns of the altar. (1 Kings 1:50)
- In time the report was made to Solomon, saying; Here **Adonijah** himself has become afraid of King Solomon, and here he has taken hold on the horns of the altar, saying; Let King Solomon first of all swear to me that he will not put his servant to death by the sword. (1 Kings 1:51)
- To this Solomon said; If he will become a valiant man, there will not fall a single hair of his to the earth, but if what is bad should be found in him, he will also have to die. (1 Kings 1:52)
- So King Solomon sent and they brought him down from off the altar. Then he came in and bowed down to King Solomon, after which Solomon said to him; Go to your own house. (1 Kings 1:53)
- However, following David's death, **Adonijah** approached Bath-sheba and induced her to act as his agent before Solomon to request David's youthful nurse and companion, Abishag, as his wife. **Adonijah's** statement that the kingship was to have become mine, and it was toward me that all Israel had set their face for me to become king indicates that he felt he had been deprived of his right, even though he professedly acknowledged God's hand in the matter.
- In time **Adonijah** the son of Haggith came to Bath-sheba, Solomon's mother. At this she said; Is your coming peaceable? to which he said; It is peaceable. (1 Kings 2:13)
- And he went on to say; There is a matter I have for you. So she said; Speak. (1 Kings 2:14)
- And he continued; You yourself well know that the kingship was to have become mine, and it was toward me that all Israel had set their face for me to become king, but the kingship turned and came to be my brothers, for it was from Yehowah that it became his. (1 Kings 2:15)

- And now there is one request that I am making of you. Do not turn my face away. Accordingly she said to him; Speak. (**1 Kings 2:16**)
- And he went on to say; Please, say to Solomon the king, for he will not turn your face away, that he should give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife. (**1 Kings 2:17**)
- To this Bath-sheba said; Good! I myself shall speak for you to the king. (**1 Kings 2:18**)
- So Bath-sheba came in to King Solomon to speak to him for **Adonijah**. At once the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat down upon his throne and had a throne set for the mother of the king, that she might sit at his right. (**1 Kings 2:19**)
- And she proceeded to say; There is one little request that I am making of you. Do not turn my face away. So the king said to her; Make it, my mother, for I shall not turn your face away. (**1 Kings 2:20**)
- And she went on to say; Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to **Adonijah** your brother as a wife. (**1 Kings 2:21**)
- While his request may have been based solely on the desire for some compensation for the loss of the kingdom, it strongly suggested that the fires of ambition continued in **Adonijah**, since by a rule in the ancient East the wives and concubines of a king would only become those of his legal successor.
- Now Saul had had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. Later Ish-bosheth said to Abner; Why was it that you had relations with the concubine of my father? (**2 Samuel 3:7**)
- Then Ahithophel said to Absalom; Have relations with the concubines of your father, whom he left behind to take care of the house. And all Israel will certainly hear that you have made yourself foul-smelling to your father, and the hands of all those who are with you will certainly become strong. (**2 Samuel 16:21**)

## •• Solomon Orders Adonijah's Death For Treachery



- Solomon so viewed this request made through his mother and ordered **Adonijah's** death, which order was promptly carried out by Benaiah.
- At this King Solomon answered and said to his mother; And why are you requesting Abishag the Shunammite for **Adonijah**? Request also for him the kingship, **because he is my brother older than I am**, even for him and for Abiathar the priest and for Joab the son of Zeruiah. (**1 Kings 2:22**)
- With that King Solomon swore by Yehowah, saying; So may God do to me, and so may he add to it, if it was not against his own soul that **Adonijah** spoke this thing. (**1 Kings 2:23**)
- And now, as Yehowah is living who has firmly established me and keeps me seated upon the throne of David my father and who made a house for me just as he has spoken, today **Adonijah** will be put to death. (**1 Kings 2:24**)
- Immediately King Solomon sent by means of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he proceeded to fall upon him, so that he died. (**1 Kings 2:25**)