

~JONATHAN 3 (126)

(Jon'a-than) [Yehowah Has Given]

- A son of High Priest Abiathar and one who served as a courier when David fled Jerusalem during Absalom's revolt but who apparently later sided with rebellious Adonijah.
- **Jonathan's** father Abiathar traveled with David when the future king was outlawed by Saul, and later he was made High Priest. At the time of Absalom's usurpation, David sent Abiathar and Zadok back to the capital so they could supply information.
- Abiathar's priestly son Jonathan is here first brought into the Biblical account. He and Ahimaaz the son of Zadok were to carry vital messages from their fathers and from Hushai to David.
- And the king went on to say to Zadok the priest; You are a seer, are you? Do return to the city in peace, and also Ahimaaz your son and **Jonathan** the son of Abiathar, the two sons of you men, with you. (2 Samuel 15:27)
- See, I am lingering by the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you men to inform me. (2 Samuel 15:28)
- Accordingly Zadok and Abiathar took the ark of the true God back to Jerusalem, and they continued to dwell there. (2 Samuel 15:29)
- Look! There with them are their two sons, Ahimaaz belonging to Zadok and **Jonathan** belonging to Abiathar, and by means of them you men must send to me everything that you may hear. (2 Samuel 15:36)
- The two couriers could not enter the city without being recognized, so they waited at a spring or well named En-rogel near the city.
- When Absalom seemed to accept Hushai's counsel, word was sent to the two waiting messengers, **Jonathan** and Ahimaaz. They sped to convey word to the king.

- **Spotted and pursued, they were almost apprehended. With the help of a woman, they hid in a well until the danger was past and then went to David and advised him to cross over the Jordan.**
- **Later Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests; This and that was the way that Ahithophel counseled Absalom and the older men of Israel, and this and that was the way that I myself counseled. (2 Samuel 17:15)**
- **And now send speedily and tell David, saying; Do not lodge in the desert plains of the wilderness tonight, but you also ought to cross over without fail, for fear that the king and all the people that are with him may be swallowed up. (2 Samuel 17:16)**
- **As Jonathan and Ahimaaz were standing at En-rogel, a maidservant went off and told them. So they themselves went off, as they had to tell King David, for they were not able to appear entering the city. (2 Samuel 17:17)**
- **However, a young man got to see them and told Absalom. So the two of them went off speedily and came to the house of a man in Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard, and they went down into it. (2 Samuel 17:18)**
- **After that the woman took and spread out a screen over the face of the well and heaped up cracked grain upon it, and not a thing became known of it. (2 Samuel 17:19)**
- **The servants of Absalom now came to the woman at her house and said; Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan? At this the woman said to them; They passed on from here to the waters. Then they kept on searching, and they did not find them and so returned to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 17:20)**
- **And it came about after their going away that then they came up out of the well and went on and told King David and said to David; You people, rise up and speedily pass over the waters, for this is the way that Ahithophel counseled against you. (2 Samuel 17:21)**
- **Immediately David rose up and also all the people that were with him, and they kept crossing the Jordan until the morning became light, until not a one was lacking that had not passed over the Jordan. (2 Samuel 17:22)**

- In David's closing days his son Adonijah conspired to become king instead of Solomon, and Abiathar linked up with him. Perhaps being influenced by his father's lead, **Jonathan** evidently defected to the side of Adonijah.
- It was **Jonathan** who brought to the banquetting usurper the disquieting news that David had foiled the plot by making Solomon the king.
- The Bible does not say anything further about **Jonathan**. He may have shared his father's banishment, but whatever occurred, the office of High Priest did not continue in his family.
- And Adonijah and all the ones 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**)
- And to Abiathar the priest the king said; Go to Anathoth to your fields! For you are deserving of death, but on this day I shall not put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah before David my father, and because you suffered affliction during all the time that my father suffered affliction. (**1 Kings 2:26**)
- So Solomon drove out Abiathar from serving as a priest of Yehowah, to fulfill Yehowah's word that he had spoken against the house of Eli in Shiloh. (**1 Kings 2:27**)