

Israel in Danger

The Kingdom of David
Part II

The Situation

- King David made things difficult when he married Bath'sheva.
- The controversy between Amnon and Tamar started a major rift in the family.
- The rebellions of Avshalom and Sheva started to take a toll on David's health.
- In the last battle he fought in, King David "waxed faint" suggesting he was beginning to have heart problems. (II Samuel 21:15)
- After that last battle with the Philistines, King David was no longer permitted to go out with the Israelite Army.

The Situation

- With a lot more time on his hands, King David listens to Satan and improperly orders a census.
- This census was improper because the king only wanted enumeration of what his manpower reserves were.
- He did nothing to establish family lines among the Israelites as the Book of Numbers did.

The Situation

- After 70,000 people died in the subsequent plague, King David does an intercessory prayer for the rest of Israel so that they do not die.
- Yahuah directs King David to buy (at considerable cost) the threshingfloor of Onan the Jebusite.
- He is then directed to personally build a new tabernacle on that site. At age 69 and with heart problems, constructing a tabernacle takes a toll on his health.

King David's Sickness

1. Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he got no heat.
2. Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my master the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my master the king may get heat.
3. So, they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.
4. And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not. (I Kings 1:1-4)

King David's Sickness

1. When a head of state gets sick, a nation enters a time of peril.
2. As often happens with heart patients, circulation problems caused King David to be cold all the time.
3. The palace staff decided to bring in a fair damsel to “warm up” the king. While this might have worked with a younger King David, an old king was just not interested.
4. A lot of the king's subjects realized that his time was soon approaching when he would die, they wanted to be well-placed when he did die.

Things Left Undone

- There are several major issues that remain undone:
 1. He has NOT publicly declared who the next king will be.
 - We do know that King David has sworn seven oaths to Bath'Sheva, his wife, that Solomon would reign after him.
 - But since these seven oaths were NOT made public, they were not legally binding on Israel.
 2. He has NOT dealt with Yo'av's sin of murdering Avner and Amasa in time of peace.
 3. Who will be in charge of building the new temple?

Adoniyahu Appoints Himself King

5. Then Adoniyahu the son of Chaggiyth exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.
6. And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.
7. And he conferred with Yo'av the son of Tseruyah, and with Avyathar the priest: and they following Adoniyahu helped him. (I Kings 1:5-7)
 - Adoniyahu took advantage of his father's sickness to appoint himself king.
 - He conferred with Yo'av (Chief of Staff, Israelite Army) and Avyathar, the head priest (who would be expected to supervise the building the temple) to establish his place on the throne of Israel.

Nathan's Plan to Save the Kingdom

11. Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bath-sheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adoniyahu the son of Chaggiyth doth reign, and David our master knoweth it not?
12. Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon.
13. thee and thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my master, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, "Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adoniyahu reign?"
14. Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee and confirm thy words. (I Kings 1:11-14)

Nathan's Plan to Save the Kingdom

- Part I of the plan:
 - ✓ Have Bathsheba get an audience with the king.
 - ✓ When she gets the audience, she will proceed to tell him what is going in his kingdom behind his back.
 - ✓ Remind her husband that he swore seven oaths to install Solomon on the throne after he died.
 - ✓ Emphasize that her and her son Solomon are in danger of being killed.

Nathan's Plan to Save the Kingdom

- Part II of the plan:
 - ✓ As a primary advisor to the king, Nathan the Prophet could go into the king anytime he wanted.
 - ✓ This time, he would go in while Bath'sheva was already addressing the king.
 - ✓ Since Nathan was a primary advisor in affairs of the kingdom, Bath'sheva would be moved to an antechamber until Nathan was done with his business.
 - ✓ Nathan would use a different tactic. He would ask King David if he had changed his mind and appointed Adoniyahu to be his successor?
 - ✓ He would then repeat what Bath'sheva had said about current events...

Bathsheba's Plea to King David

15. And Bath-sheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king.
16. And Bath-sheba bowed and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou?
17. And she said unto him, My master, thou swore seven oaths by Yahuah Elohayka thy Elohim unto thine handmaid, saying, "Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne." (I Kings 1:15-17)
 - Despite an awkward situation, Bathsheba comes into the king's chamber and bows before him as she had done many times in the past.
 - Bathsheba reminds King David of his seven oaths that Solomon would reign after him.

Bathsheba's Plea to King David

- 18. And now, behold, Adoniyahu reigneth; and now, my master the king, thou knowest it not:
- 19. And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Avyathar the priest, and Yo'av the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called.
- 20. And thou, my master, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my master the king after him.
- 21. Otherwise, it shall come to pass, when my master the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders. (I Kings 1:18-21)
 - Bathsheba continues to make her case while she waits for Nathan the Prophet to come in.
 - She reminds David that if he does not make a statement now, She and her son will die.

Nathan the Prophet Speaks to King David

22. And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.
23. And they told the king, saying, "Behold Nathan the prophet." And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground.
24. And Nathan said, My master, O king, hast thou said, "Adoniyahu shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne?" (I Kings 1:22-24)
- Nathan the Prophet was one of David's closest advisors...
 - If there is anything that would raise the blood pressure of the king, this statement would be sure to do it.
 - Kings do not appreciate their people NOT following their orders!

Nathan the Prophet Speaks to King David

25. For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Avyathar the priest; and behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, Elohim save king Adoniyahu!
26. But me, even me thy servant, and Tsadoq the priest, and Benayahu the son of Yahuyada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called.
27. Is this thing done by my master the king, and thou hast not shewed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my master the king after him? (I Kings 1:25-27)
- King David's already high blood pressure gets higher as Nathan tells him what has happened.
 - Nathan is careful to presume that what happened might have been David changing his mind.
 - Nathan knows that something is wrong when Adoniyahu does not invite him to his gathering but also excludes Benayahu and Tsadoq. Adoniyahu KNOWS these men do not approve of him!

King David's Promise to Bathsheba

28. Then king David answered and said, Call me Bath-sheba. And she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.
29. And the king swore seven oaths, and said, "As Yahuah liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress,
30. Even as I swore seven oaths unto thee by Yahuah Elohai of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day.'"
31. Then Bath-sheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, "Let my master king David live for ever!" (I Kings 1:28-31)
- King David assures Bathsheba that Solomon will be king after him.
 - It is certain that Bathsheba must have been in tears after watching David settle this matter.

King David Installs Solomon as King

32. And king David said, Call me Tsadoq the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benayahu the son of Yahuyada. And they came before the king.
33. The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your master, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon:
34. And let Tsadoq the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, Elohim save king Solomon. (I Kings 1:32-34)
- King David dictates the program for making Solomon king instead of him.
 - David realizes that in his sick state, continuing to remain king would be detrimental to the Kingdom of Israel. Having Solomon be king while David is still alive also gives Solomon the benefit of having his father around for advice, even on his sickbed.

King David Installs Solomon as King

- King David literally dictates the program for making Solomon king instead of him.
- He remembers that when he was anointed King of Israel by Samuel, he had two roles in the Kingdom of Israel:
 1. Samuel's primary role in Israel was as the nation's first major prophet after Moses.
 2. Samuel's secondary role in Israel was as the nation's head priest in the tabernacle.
- David realizes that in his sick state, continuing to remain king would be detrimental to the Kingdom of Israel.
- Having Solomon be king while David is still alive also gives Solomon the benefit of having his father available for advice, even on his sickbed.

King David Installs Solomon as King

35. Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.
36. And Benayahu the son of Yahuyada answered the king, and said, amein: Yahuah Elohia of my master the king say so too.
37. As Yahuah hath been with my master the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my master king David. (I Kings 1:35-37)
- King David makes it clear that from this point forward, that Solomon is the king.
 - He further reinforces this statement by making the declaration that Solomon's throne would be greater than his ever was.
 - He reinforces the point that Yahuah made Solomon king, not him!

The Coronation of King Solomon

38. So Tsadoq the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benayahu the son of Yahuyada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon.
39. And Tsadoq the priest took a horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, Elohim save king Solomon.
40. And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them. (I Kings 1:38-40)
- The coronation ceremony was very basic but made its point.
 - The people readily accepted Solomon as their king.
 - But what would Adoniyahu have to say about this? Will there be another civil war?

Continued Next Week