



Lesson 104

Solomon Secures His Throne

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 1 Kings 2:13-46 • Setting: circa 970 B.C. • Main Characters: God, Solomon, Bathsheba, Adonijah, Joab, Abiathar, and Shimei. • Plot: Solomon must bring final judgment against those who wish to steal his throne. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “the kingdom was _____” • Climax: 1 Kings 2:22 <i>“And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also;”</i> |
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Trying for the Throne

1. Previously, Solomon's half-brother Adonijah had tried to steal the throne, but news of the *coup de tat* reached the aged David, and Adonijah's attempts were easily thwarted when Solomon was publicly crowned. Adonijah was placed under house arrest and his co-conspirators (including Abiathar and Joab) quickly _____.

2. (1 Ki. 2:10-18) After David died, Adonijah approached Bathsheba with a simple request: that she would ask King Solomon to give Abishag the Shunammite to him for a wife.
 - (a) Abishag was the young woman who was brought into the royal harem of David to literally _____ in his declining years. The narrative mentions that Abishag remained a virgin (and therefore would've been highly prized as a royal wife. *cf* 1 Ki 1:1-4)
 - (b) Knowing Adonijah's past attempts to supplant Solomon, why do you suppose he wanted to marry Abishag? _____

Tying Up Loose Ends

3. (1 Ki. 2:19-25) Adonijah's subtle treachery wasn't recognized by Bathsheba, and so she made his request to Solomon.
 - (a) But King Solomon was well aware of Adonijah's intentions and said to his mother, “And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the _____ also.”
 - (b) Solomon swore that Adonijah’s treachery would come to an end. _____, one of the Mighty Men, was sent to terminate the traitor.

4. (1 Ki. 2:26-27) Solomon decided to take action against all of Adonijah's leading co-conspirators:
- (a) Abiathar the priest was placed under house arrest and removed from his priestly duties. This fulfilled the prophecy of Samuel that the line _____ would be cut off from the priesthood and also fulfilled the promise of God to the Eleazar/Phinehas line of priests that they would have a covenant of peace and a perpetual priesthood. (Nu. 25:10-13)
 - (b) (2 Ki. 2:28-35) Joab heard of Adonijah and Abiathar's fate, so he fled to the tabernacle and laid hold of the _____ of the altar. There Joab declared, "I will die here." Solomon was more than willing to grant Joab's request, and Benaiah struck him down in the tabernacle.
 - (c) (2 Ki. 2:32-36) Meanwhile, Shimei (who had also been placed under house arrest) went to Gath to fetch back some runaway _____, violating his "parole." Solomon heard of Shimei's infraction and once again Benaiah was sent to dispatch the enemies of the throne.
5. With Adonijah and Joab dead, and Abiathar defrocked, Solomon's throne was secured from domestic threats. Truly, "the kingdom was _____."

Application

6. This story reminds us of the LORD's timing – how that he accomplishes his promises in his time (which is often painfully slow in our eyes). Many years before Abiathar was dismissed from his office, God told Eli that his family would lose the priesthood. And hundreds of years before that, God made a promise of a family covenant to _____. (cf. Heb. 11:13)
7. We should remember that the hope and patience of our faith involves living as if the Lord will return any moment – just as he promised, even if that promise seems to go _____. (Heb. 1:1 cf. 2 Pet. 3:1-9)

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): established • 1. dispersed • 2. a) keep him warm; b) If Adonijah could not take his father's throne, he thought he could take his father's bed – and bit-by-bit he would insinuate himself into the royal court • 3. a) kingdom; b) Benaiah • 4. a) Eli; b) horns; c) servants • 5. established • 6. Phinehas • unfulfilled

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.