

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

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PART 28: THE LAST YEARS OF KING DAVID

HANGING SEVEN MEN

There was a three year famine in Israel during the reign of King David. It wasn't until the third year that he asked the Lord why there was a famine. God said it was a curse because King Saul had slain some Gibeonites. **1 Samuel 21:1**

Joshua and the princes of Israel had made peace with the Gibeonites some 500 years earlier and signed a covenant with them. **Joshua 9:15-21**

David realized that Saul had brought a curse upon Israel but he sought out the Gibeonite leadership instead of going to the Lord. **2 Samuel 21:3**

The leaders of the Gibeonites told David they did not want silver or gold; David bound himself to the Gibeonites when he heard this and told them that he would carry out whatever they wanted. **verse 3**

The Gibeonites demanded that seven descendants of King Saul be rounded up and delivered to them so they could be executed. This request was not from the Lord, but since David had given his word, he agreed to the murder of seven men. **verse 6**

David had sworn an oath to Mephibosheth and wanted to make sure that he did not break the covenant with the grandson of King Saul. **verse 7**

Saul had a concubine named Rizpah who had two sons and the five sons of Merab, whom Michal raised for Adriel. **verse 8**

These two sons of Saul and his five grandsons were adults when they were handed over to the Gibeonites. I am sure they protested and tried to evade the king's men, but they were pawns in the hands of David and received no pity. Remember, God will remember the sins of a father unto his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Saul's two sons were the second generation and the grandsons were the third generation. **Exodus 20:1-5**

The seven men were hanged. **verse 9**

Rizpah was devastated as Saul and her two sons were dead, leaving her with no way to make a living. **verses 10-12**

David collected the bones of King Saul and Jonathan and had them reburied at the grave of Saul's father. The famine came to an end after these events. **verses 12-14**

DAVID'S LAST COMBAT

After many years, the Philistines rallied and began attacking Israel. David led the army into battle but he failed to take into account his age and he was no longer able to fight like the younger soldiers, much less defend himself. It was his nephew, Abishai, that came to his aid and killed the son of a giant. David was told by his soldiers not to join them in battle anymore. **verses 15-17**



The last of the giants were killed in subsequent battles by David's commanders. **verses 18-22**

SATAN PROVOKES DAVID

In examining the life of King David as written in the Bible, it is clear that Satan placed demons in David that overpowered him at times. With David no longer able to personally lead his troops, he was provoked by Satan to take an inventory of the fighting men in Israel. **1 Chronicles 21:1-2**

Joab protested and told David this was against the will of God and a sin. **verses 2**

David refused to listen and ordered his general to count the number of fighting men. **verse 4**

Joab did not like this assignment and skipped the Levites and Benjaminites. **verses 5-6**

God revealed his displeasure with David and judgment fell upon Israel. David realized his sin and sought forgiveness. **verses 7-8**

A SECOND JUDGMENT FROM GOD

God answered David through the prophet Gad. David was given the choice of selecting which judgment was to befall Israel. **verses 11-12**

1. Three years of famine
2. Three months of destruction by the enemy
3. Three days of judgment, when the angel of the Lord would move over Israel with destruction.

All three options were poor choices and David threw himself upon the Lord's mercy. **verse 13**

God responded by sending an angel and killing 70,000 men. **verse 15**

David was given the ability to see the angel with a drawn sword in the spirit world and he realized this was a dire situation. He asked the Lord why 70,000 innocent men were smitten who had nothing to do with his transgression. **verse 16-17**

The angel of the Lord told the prophet Gad that David was to erect an altar on the threshing floor of Ornan. **verses 18-22**

Ornan was willing to give what was needed to build the altar and perform the sacrifice. **verse 23**

David refused to give God something he had not paid for and insisted on paying Ornan for the things needed to worship the Lord. **verses 24-25**

David built the altar, sacrificed to the Lord, and the plague ended. When David saw that God had accepted his sacrifice and answered his prayer, he ritualistically began to worship at this altar since he was afraid of the Lord and did not dare to go to Gibeon where the tabernacle was located. **verses 26-30; 1 Chronicles 22:1**

DAVID BEGAN TO PREPARE FOR THE TEMPLE

Solomon was still young and David realized he needed to prepare the items needed to build the temple. He told Solomon God had denied him the honor of building the temple because of all the bloodshed for which he was responsible. **verses 2-8**

David became feeble and lost a lot of weight during his last years and was always cold as a result. His palace staff found a young virgin that could sleep in the king's bed and keep him warm with her body. David never tried to have sexual relations with this woman. **1 Kings 1:1-4**

ADONIYAH - A SECOND ABSALOM

Adonijah tried to secure the throne for himself just like his older brother Absalom. There was one other son of David further in line for the throne and that was Daniel. It is likely that this son of Abigail died at a young age since the Bible doesn't mention him at this time.

Adonijah mimicked his dead brother and sought Joab to build political support for his rise to the throne. He also went to Abiathar the priest and received his pledge of support. **verses 5-7**

We don't know why Adonijah simply didn't go to his father and ask for his blessing to become the next king since he saw himself as the crown prince. It was a well-known rumor at the palace that David favored Solomon. So Adonijah tried to circumvent his father by gathering support from Joab and Abiathar. However, Benaiah the commander of David's foreign bodyguards, Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and other prominent men at the palace wanted nothing to do with Adonijah. **verse 8**

Adonijah raised cattle and sheep, and when the time came to slaughter the animals, he used the occasion to invite his half-brothers and other prominent leaders of Israel to a banquet where he planned to announce his ascension to the throne. He did not invite Solomon, Nathan and Benaiah. **verses 9-10**

BATHSHEBA ENTERS THE FRAY

Nathan independently decided to take action because he did not want to see another civil war. As a result, he did not approach David but spoke to Bathsheba. Most likely he felt that David was too feeble to handle this crisis by himself. Since almost all of the king's sons were with Adonijah, Nathan realized that unless something was done quickly, Adonijah would kill David, Solomon and Bathsheba. **verses 11-14**

Bathsheba knew all about the intrigues at the palace and spoke privately with David in his bedroom. **verses 15-21**

Once Bathsheba had softened up the king, Nathan made his move and requested permission to enter the bedroom, where he repeated what Bathsheba had told David. Nathan then asked David if he had given the command that Adonijah should be crowned king. **verses 22-27**

David understood something bad would happen if he did nothing. He had delayed in officially designating an heir and recognized that he had to act quickly. David summoned Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah and told them to take

Solomon to the spring Gihon just outside the gate of Jerusalem. Solomon was to ride on King David's personal mule, and once at the spring, Zadok was to anoint him king of Israel. As this procession traveled from the palace to the spring, thousands of inhabitants of Jerusalem would see the royal procession and follow it to Gihon. **verses 28-35**

Benaiah accepted the order and told David that it would be carried out. He was confident that the people of Jerusalem would rejoice once they saw what was happening. **verses 36-40**

THE END OF ADONIJAH

As Adonijah and his guests were having a great time, they suddenly heard the celebratory noise from the city and the banquet came to an abrupt end when the trumpet sounded. **verse 41**

Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest, stated that David had just crowned Solomon king of Israel. **verses 41-48**

The men that had sided with Adonijah realized they had supported the wrong prince and there would be retribution from Solomon. **verse 49**

Adonijah went to the tent that housed the ark and the altar of God and grabbed hold of the horns of the altar in an effort to save his life. Solomon sent soldiers to pick him up and he was told he would live if no was found wickedness in him and then sent him home. **verses 50-53**

DAVID'S LAST WORDS ON EARTH

David showed his double nature during his last days when he began charging Solomon to keep God's commandments. **1 Kings 2:1-4**

After admonishing Solomon to walk with the Lord, David then ordered the murder of his nephew. This was ironic since Joab had been intensely loyal; risking his own life to make sure that David was not killed. **verses 5-6**

The murder of Joab was ordered by Solomon, who claimed that Abner and Amasa were more righteous than his cousin. **verses 28-34**

David also vindictively ordered the death of Shimei, the son of Gera, who had cursed king when he fled from Absalom. Shimei was supposedly forgiven but we can see that it wasn't from the heart and because David still harbored a grudge. **2 Samuel 19:16-23**

In speaking to Solomon before his death, David ordered the murder of Shimei. **1 Kings 2:8-9**

Solomon did not murder Shimei outright, but set a trap, knowing that sooner or later Shimei would be tempted to leave Jerusalem. **1 Kings 2:36-46**

THE DEATH OF KING DAVID

Shortly before his death, David ordered a great coronation for Solomon. **1 Chronicles 28:1**

David's final prayer was not fully answered by God. **1 Chronicles 29:10-19**

David gave a final farewell address to the nation of Israel at the end of the coronation.
verses 20-22

SUMMARY

David was a key player in the preparation for Jesus to come and save the human race.

David became known as the sweet singer of Israel and he wrote most of the psalms in the Bible. There is no question that he was anointed by God when he wrote these psalms. Regardless of the poor decisions made by David, the gifts and the calling of God upon him were irrevocable. **Romans 11:29**

In examining the life of King David, it drives home the truth that man is saved by grace, not by works, and despite the sins committed at the end of his life, it was the work of Christ on the cross that paid for all his sins and made it possible for God to use David, regardless of his personal condition. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

David ended up in Paradise at his death, and at the ascension of Jesus, he was among the Old Testament saints who went to heaven with Jesus. **Ephesians 4:8-10**

David will receive his resurrected body when Jesus returns to earth to set up the 1,000 years kingdom and rule over Israel once again, but this time he will be a righteous king without sin. **Ezekiel 37:21-28**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?