

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

RLJ-1696

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MARCH 24, 2019

### PART 29: SIN VS INTEGRITY

#### **SOLOMON ESTABLISHING HIS THRONE**

The first person Solomon ordered murdered was his half-brother. Adonijah wanted Abishag, the virgin who kept King David warm in bed during his last years on earth. **1 Kings 1:1-4**

Instead of going to his half-brother and asking for Abishag as a wife, Adonijah bypassed Solomon and went to Bathsheba. **1 Kings 2:12-14**

Adonijah said the throne should have been his but that the Lord had chosen Solomon. **verse 15**

Once he had established his position on the throne, he asked Bathsheba to speak to Solomon about Abishag becoming his wife. **verses 16-18**

Bathsheba went to the palace and Solomon greeted her warmly but became enraged when he heard what she had to say. Adonijah had gone to his mother and turned her into an ally. To justify his action, he invoked the name of God, declaring that he was justified in ordering the murder of Adonijah. **verses 19-24**

Solomon did not want to personally kill his half-brother and so he sent Benaiah, the commander for the elite mercenary force to murder Adonijah. **verse 25**

Once Adonijah was dead, Solomon then turned his attention to Abiathar the priest who had previously aligned himself with Adonijah, stripping him of priestly authority and banishing him from Jerusalem. **verses 26-27**

Once Joab heard what had transpired, he realized that he was next on Solomon's hit list. Joab had been the commander of the army for many years and had support from the officers and soldiers. As long as Joab was alive, Solomon could not fully rely upon the army of Israel.

Joab fled to the tent where the ark and the altar were located. This was considered a sanctuary and Joab knelt down before the altar and held on to its horns. This didn't stop Solomon's murderous rampage. **verses 28-29**

Benaiah had some respect for the "holy place" and initially refused to kill Joab there. **verse 30**

When Benaiah told Solomon, the latter gave his second order to murder Joab.

It is noteworthy that Joab was older than Benaiah and not able to fight any more. The killing of Joab was nothing more than cold-blooded killing. Solomon tried to justify the homicide by holding Joab accountable for Abner and Amasa's deaths because they were somehow more righteous and noble. This was a bold faced lie since both of these men sought to kill King David and this statement showed Solomon's true character – he was a liar and a murderer! **verses 31-34**



With Joab out of the way, Solomon solidified his power over Israel and appointed Benaiah commander of the army and Zadok was given the role of the chief priest of Israel. **verse 35**

## **SETTING UP THE MURDER OF SHIMEI**

Shimei did not live in Jerusalem and was not a threat to Solomon, but since he had promised his father to eliminate Shimei, Solomon set a trap that would give him a “legitimate reason” to murder Shimei. The young king ordered Shimei’s relocation to Jerusalem and put him under house arrest with instructions that he would be killed if he left the city. **verses 36-38**

Two of Shimei's slaves escaped after a number of years and fled to the city of Gath. Shimei felt justified to go and retrieve his slaves. **verse 40**

Shimei was arrested when Solomon learned of his departure. After a phony speech indicting Shimei as wicked and deserving of death, he once again ordered Benaiah to execute an innocent man.

With three murders and one banishment under this belt, Solomon established himself as the absolute ruler of Israel, propped up by the army under the command of Benaiah. The people of Israel learned that Solomon was different from David in that Solomon would kill anyone who threatened his power. David was loved by the people but Solomon was feared by the people. **verses 41-46**

## **BREAKING GOD'S COMMANDMENT**

God knew the power of Satan and the pagan religions that had come into being. When Jesus brought the people out of Egypt, He removed them from paganism and instructed them to have nothing to do with people from other nations, including Egypt. **Deuteronomy 7:1-6**

Solomon was a shrewd politician and wanted to build an alliance with Egypt. This was accomplished by marrying Pharaoh’s daughter. An agreement was made and the Egyptian princess was brought to Jerusalem where she became one of Solomon’s wives. **1 Kings 3:1**

## **SOLOMON LOVED THE LORD**

The Bible tells us that Solomon loved the Lord and at the same time he eliminated people whom saw as a threat. **1 Kings 3:3**

The following Scriptures were available to Solomon:

- ❖ Five books of Moses
- ❖ Book of Joshua
- ❖ Book of Judges
- ❖ Book of Ruth
- ❖ Book of Job
- ❖ The Books of Enoch

Salvation in the Old Testament was made possible by having faith in God and believing in the future Messiah that would take away the sins of mankind. We are told that Abraham believed in God this way and was granted salvation. **Romans 4:1-5**

King David was forgiven of his sins. **verses 6-8**

Job had a deep understanding of his salvation. **Job 19:23-27**

## **SOLOMON'S GOVERNMENT**

None of Solomon's half-brothers were given a prominent position in his government; instead, he appointed princes from outside his family to help govern the nation. **1 Kings 4:1-3**

The army of Israel was commanded by Benaiah, who had been in charge of David's mercenaries, and Solomon also kept the priests of his father. **verse 4**

Solomon appointed Azariah, the son of Nathan the prophet, to be in charge of the civil government. His brother Zabud served as chief of staff. **verse 5**

Ahishar was assigned to be in charge of the food and other household chores at the palace and Adoniram was in charge of collecting taxes. **verse 6**

Solomon kept the tribal areas set up by Moses and Joshua and appointed a governor over each tribal area. They were mandated with supplying food and other commodities to the palace in Jerusalem for one month, which meant that Solomon had supplies coming in every month from different tribal areas. **verse 7**

David conquered a number of small kingdoms around Israel, including the Philistines, and Solomon now reigned over these conquered areas and received taxes from the people living there. **verses 21; 24**

Since Solomon had a huge amount of people working for him in Jerusalem, he also needed large amounts of daily supplies like 196 bushels of fine flour and 391 bushels of grains. **verse 22**

In addition, Solomon and his members of court consumed 10 fatted oxen, 20 lean oxen from the pasture, 100 sheep, fatted birds and wildlife. **verse 23**

Due to the size of Solomon's armed forces, the people in Israel lived in peace and security all the days that he was king. **verses 25-26**

The prophetic word from the Lord had been fulfilled. **1 Samuel 8:11-17**

## **A VISIT BY THE LORD**

Once Solomon had established his rule over Israel, he traveled to Gibeon to visit the old tabernacle that Moses had manufactured some 480 years earlier. **2 Chronicles 1:1-3**

The Ark of the Covenant had been removed and placed in a tent at Jerusalem but the original brazen altar was still at the tabernacle site. **verses 4-5**

A thousand burnt offerings were made on that altar to the Lord. **verse 6**

When the evening came and Solomon went to sleep, the Lord appeared to him in a dream and told him to ask for anything. **verse 7**

Solomon asked for wisdom to rule Israel. **verses 8-10**

God granted his request and told Solomon that he would also prosper him in all things. **verses 11-12**

## **SUMMARY**

Solomon was born with every advantage. He inherited a powerful kingdom that God was overseeing and nourishing. He asked for wisdom and God granted it in addition to riches, power and fame. He was given the great privilege of building the temple and seeing the glory of God fill it. He just had one weakness – women!

Satan has not changed his program over the years. He continues to snare Christians with sex, booze, drugs and ungodly entertainment. Solomon was incredibly wise yet stupid at the same time. Where do you stand? **Ephesians 5:14-20**

***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?***