

# Solomon Is Made King

1 Kings 1:28-53

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 KINGS 1:37

“As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Enough stickers for all of the children in your class.

Three or four “fluffy” feathers.

As many “Crown Puzzle” copies as the number of children in your class, crayons, scissors, and paper clips.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **King for a Moment**

What an honor to be chosen to be king. In today’s lesson, Solomon was chosen to follow his father, David, as king over Israel. This activity will help us to know what it is like to be chosen.

Before class, place stickers in places that the children will be using. For example, you can place a couple of stickers on activity sheets, on pencils, or under the children’s chairs (if in classroom). As the children come in, act like nothing is going on with the various stickers.

Next, ask who has the stickers on the worksheets, explain that they have been chosen and have the class applaud for them. Next ask who has the sticker on a pencil. Continue until everyone has had a chance to be chosen. If some children do not have any of the above items with stickers, you can go to them and give them a

sticker and “choose” them. How does it feel to be chosen? God has chosen each one of us who believe in Jesus, and He intends to reveal an awesome plan for our life as we yield ourselves to Him. Solomon was chosen to be king of all of Israel. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

## **LESSON TIME!**

In our lesson today, we are going to get a glimpse of two brothers. One was proud and the other was humble. One came to destruction; the other came to honor. One man, filled with pride, desired to become the next king of Israel; the other waited to be elevated to that position.

While King David lay on his deathbed, very old and nearing the end of his life, the big question in Israel was who would be the next king. Using treachery and deceit, David’s son, Adonijah followed the path that his brother Absalom had taken in trying to overthrow the rulership of their father, King David. Although, Absalom died in his attempt, Adonijah persisted on acting on his pride and secretly attempting to take the kingdom for himself.

Fully aware that Solomon was David’s first choice as king (1 Kings 1:17), Adonijah set up a coronation party for himself at the En-rogel Spring outside of Jerusalem and did not invite Solomon and David’s loyal advisors. Adonijah even had sacrifices offered by Abiathar, the priest, a custom for a newly crowned king. Filled with selfish ambition, he was willing to use a religious ceremony to make it look as though he was God’s choice to succeed his father (1 Kings 1:9).

When Nathan the prophet learned of Adonijah's conspiracy, he immediately tried to stop it. Nathan knew Solomon was God's choice as king. Since, customarily, a new king would kill or get rid of his political enemies when he came into power, the lives of Bathsheba (David's wife) and her son Solomon were in immediate jeopardy. Nathan wasted no time in instructing Bathsheba to save her life and the life of her son.

Bathsheba approached King David, who was confined to his bed, with the reverence due a king, bowing and kneeling before him. With concern and respect, she stated the facts about Adonijah's conspiracy. She called on King David to announce publicly who his successor would be by appealing to his sense of duty (1 Kings 1:20) and his love for her and Solomon (1 Kings 1:21). Shortly after, Nathan entered and expressed his concern with a bit more detail (1 Kings 1:22-26).

Not much is said about Solomon in our lesson, but his quiet humility thunders over the prideful heart of Adonijah. God's Word is true, **"Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor."** (Proverbs 18:12)

### 1 KINGS 1:28-31

Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.

And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress,

"just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."

Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

Adonijah was King David's fourth son and the logical choice to succeed him as king (1 Kings 2:15); but, God had other plans. God directed David to proclaim Solomon as heir to the throne.

With everyone in the room, King David expressed the faithfulness of the Lord, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress..." (verse 29). Adonijah's rebellion had brought heartache and turmoil to his father's heart, but David knew that God would deliver him from this distress just as He had delivered him from "every" distress. God's record of faithfulness is perfect as we allow Him to work in our lives.

King David reaffirmed his promise that Solomon would succeed him as king and sit on the throne that God had promised to bless. All was well with Bathsheba's heart as she expressed her heart to David.

#### 1 KINGS 1:32-40

And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.

The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon.

"There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

"Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so too.

"As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.

Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.

King David requested that Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet make preparations for Solomon's crowning ceremony. Benaiah, as the military commander, would see to it that David's orders would be carried out immediately. Nathan's presence symbolized the divine choice of Solomon as king. Blowing the trumpet signaled the

official nature of the anointing and the ceremony symbolized the coming of the Spirit of God on his chosen leader through pouring oil on his head.

King David ordered that Solomon ride upon his personal mule. Today, mules are not so important; but in David's time, they were prized animals, ridden by the wealthy and powerful. (Compare it to ordering a limousine.) Solomon would be escorted to Gihon where he would be the newly crowned king of Israel.

A big crowd followed to witness this great event. This was a glorious day in the history of Israel and the people celebrated so loud that it shook the ground. Zadok the priest anointed Solomon with the oil that was used to anoint kings and priests from the sacred tent in Jerusalem. Solomon was dedicated to be the servant of God and a leader of His people.

We note that Solomon did not have to boast of himself, nor force his will upon his father David, to be king. He allowed God to work in the hearts of others to make the situation turn out right. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.** Solomon was truly honored in a great way.

## Floating Words

Words are very important, especially when they are instructions from the Lord that we should obey. It was important for David's children to obey his words.

This game is played with a fluffy feather. Get into groups of 5 or 6 children. Form circles while standing up. Move the feather with your breath (by blowing) and pass it around the circle. This gets tough because you cannot allow it to touch the ground and you cannot use your hands! If you have two or three teams, see which team can get the feather around first.

It is important that we listen to God's Word ourselves; then pass it on, just as we did the feather.

### 1 KINGS 1:41-48

Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, "Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?"

While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news."

Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

"The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king's mule.

"So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.

"Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.

"And moreover the king's servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, 'May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.' Then the king bowed himself on the bed.

"Also the king said thus, 'Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!'"

As the celebrations of Solomon's ordination took place, Adonijah's party was feasting only a half-mile south of Gibon. They must have heard the noisy celebration, but it was the blowing of the trumpet, announcing an official function, that made Joab wonder what was going on.

Abiathar's son, Jonathan, had witnessed the great event and arrived at Adonijah's party to report that Solomon was not only anointed king, but sitting on David's throne with his blessing. Confined to his bed, King David was not able to witness the anointing of Solomon but bowed on his bed to thank the Lord that he lived long enough to see the blessed day. Solomon was the new king, anointed by God and King David. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

1 KINGS 1:49-53

So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.

Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

Adonijah soon realized that he was without friends. Adonijah's so-called friends knew that their lives were in jeopardy and fled away from the traitor as soon as they could. During that time, traitors could expect to be dealt with harshly.

Sometimes, it takes getting caught before a person is willing to give up his scheme. When Adonijah learned that his plans had been exposed, he ran in panic to the sacred altar, the highest symbol of God's mercy and forgiveness. He feared for his life and hoped Solomon would extend mercy just as God does for us.

King David had failed to bring up Adonijah in the discipline of the Lord (1 Kings 1:6); and as a result, Adonijah did not know how to work within limits. Adonijah grew up always wanting his own way, regardless of how it affected others. He paid no respect to God's desires.

The proud Adonijah was self-exalted and self-defeated. His rebellion to God and his father only brought him fear and loneliness. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

If Adonijah had sought God's will for his life, laying aside his pride, he could have avoided this trouble, but it was too late. So, we also, can make a big mess of our lives when we fail to put God first and pursue His will for our lives. Do not wait until you've made a mess of things.

While Adonijah feared for his life and expected the severest punishment, Solomon simply dismissed his brother and sent him home. Adonijah received the blessing of Solomon's mercy and kindness. Solomon simply asked for a promise from his half-brother that he would not rebel again, but would show himself to be a worthy and loyal subject. Solomon continually expressed mercy and kindness throughout his reign as king of Israel. His humility brought him honor, but unfortunately for Adonijah, his pride brought him destruction. Soon, Adonijah would make another attempt to secure royal power, and Solomon would be forced to have him executed.

What a tragedy! Adonijah could have become a great man in the eyes of God and man, but pride and selfish ambition made him a man who was despised. God will honor a humble heart. Allow God to have control of your heart at all times, including times of trouble, times when you have been treated unfairly, or times when you must deal with a prideful person. Let God have His perfect way in your life, and you will be blessed. James 4:10 states, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

## **Crown Puzzle**

Make enough copies of the enclosed “Crown Puzzle” template enclosed with your curriculum for each child to have a crown. Allow the children to color them and using scissors, cut around the outer edges of the crown. Next, cut along the thin lines on the crown. After cutting the pieces out, allow the children to mix up their pieces and put together the puzzle.

Use this craft to help reinforce today’s theme. Ask the children what it took for Solomon to become a great king (humility). What does it take for us to become a great man or woman of God?

Helpful hint: Use a paper clip when finished to attach the pieces together for the children to take with them.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer to forsake pride and to commit to walking humbly before God and pursuing His will for their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them the opportunity.

Template - Crown Puzzle

