

# 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**

It is an honor to be chosen for something. Today we are going to learn about the time when Solomon was chosen to be the king of Israel to follow his father, King David. 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 don’t have any of the above items with stickers you can go to them and give them a sticker and “choose” them. Ask the children how it felt to be chosen and

everyone applaud for them.

Explain that Solomon was chosen to be king of all of Israel. It wasn't something that he asked for, but he is chosen to do great thing for the Lord and His people. **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 filled with pride and the other was filled with humility. One came to destruction, the other came to honor. One was a man filled with pride and his desire to become the next king of Israel, the other waited to be elevated to that position.

King David is now very old and at the end of his life. The question is coming up as to who will be the next king of Israel. Using treachery and deceit Adonijah follows the path that his brother Absalom had taken in trying to overthrow the rulership of their father King David. Absalom died in his attempt, but Adonijah didn't learn from Absalom's bad example. His pride led him to act out to take the kingdom for himself.

In contrast to Adonijah's pride, we see the humility of Solomon, his half-brother. Not much is said about Solomon in our lesson, but his quiet humility thunders over the prideful heart of Adonijah. The truth of God's word reveals to us His promise to stand behind what He says, **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. Many expected Adonijah to be the next king (1 Kings 2:15), though David, with God's direction had other plans. Adonijah decided to seize the throne without David's knowledge of it. He knew that Solomon was David's first choice to be the next king (1 Kings 1:17). This is why he did not invite Solomon and David's loyal advisors to his coronation that he set up himself (1 Kings 1:9,10). But his deceptive plans to gain the throne were unsuccessful. The proud Adonijah was self-exalted and self-defeated. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

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. The consequences of it brought heartache to the household of King David. Adonijah grew up always wanting his own way, regardless of how it affected others. He did whatever he wanted and paid no respect to God's wishes.

As King David lay on his deathbed at the age of seventy, his son Adonijah crowned himself king at the En-rogel Spring outside of Jerusalem. To make his coronation seem legitimate, Adonijah

wanted sacrifices offered by Abiathar the priest, which was the custom of a newly crowned king. Adonijah's self-ambition led him 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. He was a man of both faith and action (1 Kings 1:11-14). He didn't waste any time and instructed Bathsheba to save her life and the life of her son Solomon. He knew the right course to take, for it was Solomon who should be king. Their lives were in jeopardy and there was no time to waste. Customarily a new king would kill or get rid of his political enemies when he came into power.

Confined to his bed, Bathsheba approached King David with reverence as the king, bowing and kneeling before him. King David invited her to explain what she wanted. 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 (verse 20) and his love for her and Solomon (verse 21). Shortly after, Nathan would enter and express his concern with a bit more detail (verses 22-26).

With everyone in the room King David expresses the faithfulness of the Lord, when He delivered David from all his troubles (verse 29). Adonijah's rebellion had brought heartache and turmoil to his father's heart, but David knew that God would turn it around for a blessing, just like He did with Absalom's rebellion. The God who had delivered David would now through David help Bathsheba and her son. 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.

This is a good example for us to wait upon the Lord to take care of things for us. Even though it looks like things aren't going the way that we want them to or even the way that we think the Lord wants them to we have to trust in Him to work everything out. Nathan, Bathsheba and Solomon could have looked at the big ceremony that Adonijah was doing and get upset, give up and not do anything about it; but they knew it was wrong what Adonijah was doing, so they went to King David to talk to him. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

### 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 requests that preparations for Solomon's crowning ceremony be made by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet. 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 made sure that Solomon would ride upon his mule. Back then they didn't have limousines but riding on the king's mule was an honor. Today mules aren't so important but in David's time they were prized animals, ridden by the wealthy and powerful. As a sign that he had been chosen king, Solomon was given David's personal mule to ride. He would be escorted to Gihon where he would be the newly crowned king of Israel.

A great 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 priest from the sacred tent in Jerusalem. Solomon was dedicated to God as a servant to him and a leader of His people.

Solomon didn't have to boast of himself and 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.** The Lord will bless us when we respond with humility and allow Him to have His perfect way in our heart. 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 can't allow it to touch the ground. Also, you can't use your hands! If you have two or three teams, see which team can get the feather around first.

As we listen to God's word, we can also pass His word along to others like 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 heard the celebration easily. But it was the blowing of the trumpet the sign that an official function was taking place that made Joab wonder what was going on.

Abiathar's son Jonathan had witnessed the great event and arrives at Adonijah's party to report that Solomon is 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. They became terrified and fled as far away from the traitor as they could. During that time, traitors could expect to be dealt with harshly. Adonijah's so-called friends knew that their lives were in jeopardy. Adonijah's pride and rebellion to God and his father only brought him fear and loneliness. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

Sometimes it takes getting caught before someone 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. If Adonijah had first considered what God wanted, laying aside his pride, he could have avoided this trouble, but it was too late. He now fears for his life and hopes Solomon will extend mercy as God does for us. We need to remember that we should always go to God to seek His will for our lives. We should never wait till we make 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. **Pride brings destruction, but humility brings honor.**

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. A heart of humility pleases God, and a humble heart He will honor. Allow God to have control of your heart in times of trouble, when you have been treated unfairly, or even when you deal with someone who is prideful. Let God have His perfect way in your life, and He will truly bless and honor you.

### **JAMES 4:10**

**“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”**

## **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 all of the pieces together for the children to take with them.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to forsake any pride in their lives. Also, to commit themselves to a life of humility as they seek the Lord and His will in their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Crown Puzzle

