

## **Solomon Established as King**

1 Kings 2:13-46

by Don Falkos

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One day Adonijah begged a favor of Bathsheba, "Ask King Solomon to let me marry the young woman who took care of our father David."

When Bathsheba made the request, Solomon was furious. "How can you possibly ask me that? You might as well ask me to give him the kingdom! He's my older brother, and he already has the support of Abiathar and Joab. That woman belonged to my father. If Adonijah were to marry her, it would strengthen his claim to the throne." Solomon immediately issued orders, and Adonijah was put to death.

Joab fled to the Tabernacle, seeking refuge by taking hold of the horns of the altar. He refused to come out. So Solomon ordered, "Execute him where he stands."

Then the king stripped Abiathar of his priestly office and told him, "Go home. You deserve to die, but I will not kill you, because you carried the Ark of God before my father and shared in his hardships."

The king appointed Benaiah to replace Joab as commander of the army, and Zadok to replace Abiathar as priest.

Solomon sent for Shimei and told him, "You cursed King David and threw stones at him as he was fleeing a usurper. You deserve death, but David himself promised you life. However I did not. Here are my terms. You are to live in Jerusalem for the rest of your life. You must never leave the city. If you do, you will die." Shimei lived in Jerusalem for three years. Then two of his slaves ran away, so Shimei went after them and brought them back. Solomon had him killed.

With his chief adversaries out the way, Solomon was now firmly established as king.