

# Life of David: Getting Ready to Grow Old in a Godly Way

## Psalm 71

We have come to the closing years of David's life. David, about whom we know more than any other human recorded in God's Word.

Because God spends so much time capturing David's life, seen through the lens of Scripture, we have more truth explained about each era of life we face, than in any other place.

There are four concluding eras, or stages through which David passes on his way to Heaven. Those are what we'll walk through in the days ahead. First let's survey some of the nuggets of truth for each stage. These are:

## Truths that Can Anchor our Lives

**Life Lesson 1:** As we open to Psalm 71, we will see God show us through David's life: How to get ready for growing old in a godly way. God has truths to anchor us in godliness through the closing days of our lives.

Note especially these words in v. 18:

Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded,  
O God, do not forsake me,  
Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,  
Your power to everyone *who* is to come.

**Life Lesson 2:** Then, as we turn back to Psalm 18, will see God show us through David's life: How to magnify God to the last breath. God has truths to anchor us in magnifying Him through the closing days of our lives.

The verse to note is v. 1. This verse is the most outspokenly clear declaration of love for God found ANYWHERE in the Old Testament. This verse is the manifesto that shows why God said that he was the 'man after God's own heart'. Listen to David's cry:

I will love You, O LORD, my strength.

**Life Lesson 3:** Then, we will go to Psalm 116 and see God show us through David's life: How to die gracefully. God has truths to anchor us in gracefulness through the closing moments of our lives.

Look at v. 15 that sets the tone for this entire Psalm.

Precious in the sight of the LORD *Is* the death of His saints.

Someone wisely said that we are not really ready to live until we are ready to die. This Psalm shows ten ways to live that make us ready at ANY moment to die. This is a must read, must understand, and must apply Psalm for believers of any age!

**Life Lesson 4:** Finally, we will turn to Psalm 23 and see God show us through David's life: How to follow the Good Shepherd safely home. God has truths to anchor us as we follow Christ down the pathway of the closing days of our lives.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is perhaps the simplest and yet most profound Psalm of David's life. Probably his first, and most assuredly on his heart as he slowly felt the weaknesses of his physical body, bring him to the doorway of the Valley of the Shadow of Death. There the Lord, at just the right time, led David safely home.

## **David Heads into The Sunset of a Great Life**

That is where we are going in the days ahead. To prepare us, turn with me now to I Kings as we see David headed into the sunset of his life.

1 Kings 1:1-40 (NKJV) Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. <sup>2</sup> Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm." <sup>3</sup> So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. <sup>4</sup> The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

<sup>5</sup> Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. <sup>6</sup> (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He *was* also very good-looking. *His mother* had borne him after Absalom.) <sup>7</sup> Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah. <sup>8</sup> But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who *belonged* to David were not with Adonijah.

<sup>9</sup> And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which *is* by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants. <sup>10</sup> But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

<sup>11</sup> So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?" <sup>12</sup> Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. <sup>13</sup> Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' <sup>14</sup> Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

<sup>15</sup> So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.) <sup>16</sup> And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?"

<sup>17</sup> Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, *saying*, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' <sup>18</sup> So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about *it*. <sup>19</sup> He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited. <sup>20</sup> And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. <sup>21</sup> Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders." <sup>22</sup> And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. <sup>23</sup> So they told the king, saying, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. <sup>24</sup> And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? <sup>25</sup> For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest; and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, 'Long live King Adonijah!' <sup>26</sup> But he has not invited me—me your servant—nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon. <sup>27</sup> Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

<sup>28</sup> Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. <sup>29</sup> And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, <sup>30</sup> 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."

<sup>31</sup> Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' <sup>35</sup> 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."

<sup>36</sup> Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so *too*. <sup>37</sup> 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."

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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!" <sup>40</sup> 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.

## Pray

As David faced his waning years—**He had to come to terms with old age and impending death.**

During this stage, David most likely wrote **Psalm 71**—how to overcome feelings of loneliness when you're about to leave behind health, comforts, friends, family, and security.

## Loneliness is a Tool God Can Use in Our Lives

Loneliness is a tool to glorify God, to turn and trust and triumph, and to make some great discoveries about God. From David's life as captured in the Psalms, we have seen how God used loneliness to refine and sharpen David's usefulness for the Lord.

Note what we have learned:

- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of youth? *The Lord taught him that he was never alone, God was always with him!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of life facing family conflict and danger? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of job loss, and family separation? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of moving to a new location that is very foreign to you? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of living and working with a tough crowd? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of unemployment and unsettled home life? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of betrayal by friends? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of being wronged in a business deal? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of the complete loss of his family, friends, and finances? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of temptation and failure? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of chastisement and restoration? *The Lord says I am always with you!*
- Like David, are you feeling the loneliness of old age? *The Lord says I am always with you!*

The key to finishing life by ending well like this is the long term cultivation of godly habits.

Life is a constant stream of choices, and each choice we make has a consequence. The consequences of godly habits are good; the consequences of ungodly habits are bad.

## Truths that Can Anchor our Lives

**Life Lesson 1:** In Psalm 71, God shows us through David's life: How to get ready for growing old in a godly way.

God has truths to anchor us in godliness through the closing days of our lives.

Remember the power of the Cross that gives us the hope found in these words in v. 18:

Now also when *I am* old and grayheaded,  
O God, do not forsake me,  
Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation,  
Your power to everyone *who* is to come.