

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
THE END OF DAVID'S EARTHLY LIFE-PART 1
1 KINGS 1:1-10

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Introduction

Someone has said, we know we're getting older when...

More and more of our body begins to hurt, and what doesn't hurt,
doesn't work!

The gleam in our eyes is from the sun hitting our bifocals or trifocals!

We look forward to a dull, uneventful evening at home in our PJ's.

We sit in our favorite rocking chair but have trouble keeping it going.

Our knees buckle too easily but our belt won't!

You like to sink your teeth into a good steak and but they'd stay there.

Age has a way of creeping up on us and it is not kind! And the longer we live the more we will deteriorate. That was the case with King David as it is with anyone who grow old!

Here as we begin the book of 1 Kings, we find David in the December years of his life. The shadows of the grave are getting closer—David is getting older. Notice verse one.

I. WE SEE THE AGING OF DAVID! (1:1a)

This word *stricken* means "advanced." "*Stricken with age*" implies that he is "run down."

Now think about this...David is ONLY about 70 years old, but he has worn himself out! Think about how his years had affected him:

A. Some Things In David's Life Took A Physical Toll!

1. David's years of shepherding.

Being out in the elements take their toll on the body!

2. David's years of conflict and warring.

3. David's years of being on the run fleeing Saul first and then fleeing his own son Absalom!

B. Some Things In David's Life Took An Emotional Toll!

Doctors say that emotional stress can cause physical problems!

1. Times Of Guilt And Stress Over Unconfessed Sin!

Stress can sponge the life out of a person.

In David's case, much of his stress came from his sin and disobedience to the Lord and his not dealing with it right away!

The same thing can happen to us if we live a carnal life. Sin creates stress! And when sin is not dealt with properly it can age you...it can literally wear you out!

Times Of Guilt And Stress Over Unconfessed Sin!

2. Times Of Grief And Stress Over Sin's

Consequences!

After David's sin, the prophet Nathan told David that part of the consequences of his sin was going to be that the sword would never depart his house and that the LORD was going to raise up evil against him out of his own house.

Can't you imagine how David watching that happen and experiencing that happening caused him both grief and stress!

All those victories over the lion, the bear, the giants, and the various armies are all just cloudy memories now.

David, the mighty warrior, was now feeble and weak. In fact, we see here that he has a circulation problem and has difficulty in getting warm. He's grown old and cold...literally!

Psalm 107:17—Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

Proverbs 13:15—Good understanding giveth favor: but the way of transgressors is hard.

Romans 2:9—Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

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God wants us to have His rest and peace in our life. This rest comes from being broken by the Lord and yielded to Him.

Matthew 11:28-30 28 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

God doesn't want us to be all stressed out. He wants to give us His peace and rest by depending upon Him for our needs.

When age comes on us there can be health problems, loss of youth, losing friends in death, losing your abilities, or getting closer to death yourself?

Any of these concerns should motivate us in our younger years to make our life physically count for Christ while our bodies are still strong and not hindered by common health problems of the elderly.

Live your life for God and start while you are young.
Ecclesiastes 12:1—*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

WE SEE THE AGING OF DAVID...

II. WE SEE THAT AN ATTENDANT IS SOUGHT! (1:1b-4)

A medical solution for chills in David's day was to try to use the body heat of another to keep the person warm. That had to be a chilling experience for the one who was warm. **(Vs 1b)**

David's servants talked David into letting them seek out a young virgin to bring in to him for the purpose of trying to warm him up! **(Vs 2)**

(Vs 3-4) A search was made throughout Israel and Abishag, a Shunamite, was picked. She was an incredibly beautiful, young woman and but in spite of her beauty and her efforts David was unresponsive.

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III. WE SEE THE AMBITION OF DAVID'S SON, ADONIJAH! (1:5-7, 9)

As the shadow of death is approaching David, we see that his home problems still plague him as another of his sons seeks to take the throne. Understand that this is Absalom's younger brother.

He is also said to have been a "goodly man," meaning that he was handsome.

Vs 5 says that Adonijah **exalted himself** saying, "**I will be king!**"

So we see Adonijah was motivated by his pride! He was handsome and no doubt had a very high opinion of himself, just as his brother Absalom had!

In Vs 6 we see that Adonijah's ways went unchecked by and were not discouraged by his father! So we get the idea that he is a spoiled and undisciplined man!

Amnon, David's firstborn son by Ahinoam, was killed by Absalom. Chileab, David's second born son by Abigail is believed to have died at an early age. Absalom, David's third son by his wife Maacah was killed by Joab. Adonijah was the fourth son of David and was next in line for the throne and so he assumed that he would be the king.

This is why he exalted himself the way that he did. Obviously Adonijah had forgotten the God factor. Adonijah was not God's man or part of God's will and plan for the nation of Israel!

Solomon was the tenth son of David and second by Bathsheba! (Remember her firstborn by David died shortly after birth!)

Solomon was the one whom God chose to be king after David from even before he was born! **(1 Chronicles 22:6-10)**

I want you to note several insights at this point in the story.

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A. We See The Folly Of Exalting One's Self!

When someone exalts and lift up themselves, they will eventually fall down and their glory will fade!

The Bible warns of this:

Proverbs 16:18—Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Luke 14:11—For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

B. We See The Failure to Properly Discipline One's Children Leads to Problems!

When a parent fails to properly discipline their child, they are failing in their love for that child. Now that may sound weird and is totally, politically incorrect, but listen to what God's Word says about it.

Proverbs 13:24—He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. (betimes = early)

How does a failure to properly discipline a child show hate? Because that child will grow up expecting to get their own way. They will wind up being selfish, irresponsible, wild, unhappy, frustrated, and have difficulty in getting along with other people.

Such actions can lead to a broken marriage, difficulty in getting and/or keeping a job, and it can lead to jail, or imprisonment.

Proverbs 29:15—The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 29:17—Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

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When parents spare the rod on their misbehaving or rebellious child, they eventually bring problems on themselves.
i.e. You have to deal with the aftermath of what it brings!

David's neglect of the rod brought what we saw in Absalom's life and it brought what we are seeing here in Adonijah's life!

Conclusion

Are you under stress and guilt from some unconfessed sin—that can possibly affect you physically and cut years off of your life?

Minimize the damage by seeking God's forgiveness!

Are you living for yourself or the Lord? Adonijah was all about self and next week, Lord willing, we'll see some others that were all about themselves!

Are you exalting yourself above God's will? Stop before you suffer a terrible fall! Humble yourself before the Lord!

James 4:6—But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:10—Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

We need to be about the LORD and serving Him! If you are a child of God but you are not already serving the LORD, begin right now!