

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**TAKING CARE OF OLD BUSINESS!**  
**1 KINGS 2:26-34**

**Introduction**

In this Chapter we are going to see how Solomon **took care of some old, unfinished business** for his father, King David whose **reign had ended**, whose **days had ended**, and he was now **gone home to be with the LORD!**

**Last week, WE SAW THE DEMISE OF ADONIJAH!**

Solomon's half-brother, Adonijah, **met his demise when he couldn't leave well enough alone**. After a failed attempt to become king in his father David's place, Adonijah thought he was toast!

We saw how Scripture says that *"...he feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar."* (1 Kings 1:50)

*The altar was the place of God's mercy and forgiveness. Running to the altar and catching hold of the horns of the altar is picture of him trying to find mercy and forgiveness when he was worthy of death.* Understand that if Adonijah had considered what God wanted instead of what he in his foolish pride had wanted, had lusted after, and had gone about to get for himself, he could have avoided his troubles in the first place!

So it **appeared on the surface that Adonijah was repentant by this action!** But don't be fooled, his repentance was a false repentance! Adonijah wasn't interested in doing the RIGHT thing! He was only interested in trying escape the consequences of having done the WRONG thing!

Only eternity will show how many folks sought out God, not in repentance, but only in hopes of sloughing off the consequences of their sin!

Solomon had mercy on Adonijah and let him live but told him that he needed to *"shew himself a worthy man."*

Well, what does that mean. That would be along the same line as what John the Baptist said to the Pharisees and Sadducees that came to one of his Baptism services.

*Matthew 3:8 – "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance."*

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**TAKING CARE OF OLD BUSINESS!**  
**1 KINGS 2:26-34**

What one does after their *"repentance,"* shows the true nature of that *"repentance!"*

But, **it wasn't in Adonijah to just leave well enough alone because he had not truly repented! There had been no change in Him!** He showed this when He devised another scheme in hopes of still trying to get his way to the throne through the backdoor.

But as we saw when we left, his plans backfired and he wound up losing his life over that one when he underestimated Solomon's reaction!

Well, tonight we'll see that Adonijah is not the only one to use this tactic of running to the altar and catching hold of the horns of the altar!

But first we see Solomon deal with Abiathar the priest. (Vs 26-27)

**THE DISCHARGE OF ABIATHAR THE PRIEST!**

According to *1 Kings 1:7*, when Adonijah had exalted himself and was looking to steal the throne, Scripture says that **Abiathar the priest followed Adonijah and helped him.**

**Now up to that point, Abiathar had not shown any treason toward David. Nevertheless, his lone act of treason was "worthy of death," but Solomon showed him mercy because of his past acts alongside of David.**

Solomon discharged him from the priest's office fulfilling the Word of the LORD, which He spoke concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh. (Cf. *1 Samuel 2:31-35*)

Well, word got to Joab of all the current events that were going on. (Vs 28a)

**THE DEMISE OF JOAB!**

Both the fate of Adonijah and Abiathar the priest led Joab to rightly believe that he was next! However, I doubt that Joab knew the charge that David gave to Solomon regarding Joab as Solomon ascended the throne.

(See *1 Kings 2:5-6*)

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**TAKING CARE OF OLD BUSINESS!**  
**1 KINGS 2:26-34**

We see here that Joab pulled Adonijah's stunt that had initially worked for Adonijah thinking that maybe it might work for him! He ran to the altar and caught hold on the horns of the altar. (*Vs 28*)

*Now remember, the altar was the place of God's mercy and forgiveness. Running to the altar and catching hold of the horns of the altar is picture of him trying to find mercy and forgiveness when he was worthy of death.* But there was no true repentance to be found in Joab! This was just an outward display of desperation on his part! Joab had not changed in any way!

What he should have done is run to the altar years earlier and allowed the LORD to truly change his heart and life! But even here, he wasn't looking to change! He was just looking to escape the consequences of his sins that were about to catch up with him here!

So we see, that just as he feared, Solomon sent his executioner (and soon to be captain of the host I might add), Benaiah, to execute Joab! (*Vs 29-34*)

We see that Joab wouldn't budge from the altar! He probably thought the altar was a safe place and that surely Solomon wouldn't have Benaiah take his life there! He said, if you are going to kill me you're going to have to kill me here!

Benaiah delivered that message to Solomon looking for further instructions. Solomon said: ***"Do as he hath said..." Vs 31***

It seems appropriate that this death of Joab on the altar acts as an atonement for the murders that Joab had committed, apparently in David's name.

HERE WE FIND A REAL SAD PICTURE: JOAB LAYING ON A BLOOD SOAKED ALTAR, DEAD! And from what we have seen of him, this is the only time he's been anywhere near the altar.

As far as we can tell, he was a man of war and self...He had shown little respect for God, or the Tabernacle, or the Priests, or the Altar during his whole lifetime!

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**TAKING CARE OF OLD BUSINESS!**  
**1 KINGS 2:26-34**

But when his life was in danger, he fled to that which he had avoided, and sought to make a refuge of that which he had neglected. Yes, Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the Lord, and even went to the altar... BUT HE CAME IN THE WRONG WAY AND FOR THE WRONG REASON!

He came in the fear for his fleshly life rather than in repentance to bring forth real change to his life!

**THE DEMISE OF SHIMEI!**

Shimei is the rock throwing, name calling, king cursing fellow that David had decided to let live twice. When he was on the run from Absalom, Shimei threw rocks at and verbally assaulted him and his men...David let it slide.

After David was back in power, Shimei came to make up with David to save his own hide! There was no indication that he was repentant for what he had done other than his words! **Words of repentance do not equal repentance!** Again, **true repentance is shown by ones actions after they have repented!**

*(See 1 Kings 2:8-9)*

So, in **1 Kings 2:36-37**, Solomon calls for Shimei to take care of this old business of David his father!

So Solomon puts Shimei's life in Shimei's hands! He puts him under house arrest at Jerusalem with instructions to stay put! If he doesn't stay put, he will have chosen to take his own life! Notice that Shimei agrees to Solomon's terms there in **Vs 38!**

After three years it appears that two of Shimei's servants had enough of Shimei and left Jerusalem and headed to Gath. We see that someone sent word back to Shimei telling him his servants were in Gath! (**Vs 39**)

We don't know if Shimei has forgotten what Solomon said, or if he has so much rage against his servants that it has caused him to have a Senior moment regarding what Solomon said, or if Shimei was just dumb enough to think he could sneak out and sneak back in without Solomon knowing.

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**TAKING CARE OF OLD BUSINESS!**  
**1 KINGS 2:26-34**

*(Read verses 40-41)*

We see that word got back to Solomon and he calls Shimei back in again!

*(Read verses 42-43)*

We see that Solomon was true to his word! *(Read verses 44-46)*

David's old business was now taken care of and Solomon could reign knowing he had fulfilled the requests of his Father regarding these men!

**Conclusion**

Next time, Lord willing we'll look at some of Solomon's early reign after these things as the LORD appears to him in a dream and gives him one grand opportunity that Solomon makes the best of! God says to him, "***Ask what I shall give thee!***" Wow, what an opportunity!

But you know what, we have such an opportunity available to us also!

**Hear the words of Jesus in the famous Sermon on the Mount!**

*Matthew 7:7-8 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

**Hear the words of the Apostle Paul:**

*Ephesians 3:20-21 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

**Hear the words of the Apostle John:**

*1 John 5:14-15 "14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."*