

Times of Uncertainty – Solomon

After King David was old and well advanced in years, the time was coming when Israel would need a new king. Seeing King David so feeble and basically bedridden, Adonijah - Solomon's older brother, decided to coup the throne. Adonijah went and got both military and temple support in setting himself up as the new king. By offering symbolic sacrifices, he made a big show in hopes that everyone would just go along with self-proclaimed kingship and accept him. When Adonijah's evil actions were reported to King David, King David immediately had Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet go and anoint Solomon as king. As Solomon was declared to be the rightful king, Solomon's first decree was to put to death all those who opposed him securing his throne and rule.

David had been king in Israel for 40 years. Solomon was now beginning the 1st month of his 40 year reign. King David soon died and the throne was totally his. There was no opposition. There was nobody else to answer to. He had all authority. Solomon could now do whatever he wanted and pleased. It was a time of uncertainty. What kind of king would Solomon be?..... *What king of king would you be if you had unlimited power? How would you spend each day of your reign?*

The grace the Lord had shown to King David, would now be the same grace God would give to King Solomon. The Lord appeared to Solomon and said "*Ask whatever you want me to give you.*" It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to receive anything he wanted. Would Solomon ask for more wealth? Would Solomon ask for more land and power? Would Solomon ask for a long life? Solomon asked.... for none of those things. Solomon asked for wisdom.

What Solomon wanted most of all was to rule as faithfully his father David had done. He wanted to be able to lead God's people. He wanted to continue to uphold the Laws of God. He wanted to continue to worship God and lead the people in their worship. He wanted to be a faithful servant and king, fulfilling the duties and office into which the Lord had placed him. The one thing Solomon had learned from his father was humility. As you read 1 Kings 3 today notice the humility of his words. True humility comes from a heart of faith.

During these past weeks America has been humbled. Our nation has been reduced to the bare bones of life and necessity. As Christians, there are things we can learn in humility. We learn what is most important in life – faith and family. Out of all the things this world offers, we learn how very little we need to survive. We are reminded how temporary this world is and how frail and mortal we are. If it not be for Christ, we would have no hope, only the certainty of our death and eternal judgment of God.

As great as King Solomon would be, we have a greater king in Christ our Lord. He continues to reign in the hearts of his people with forgiveness and grace. His throne has been established for eternity and because of his death and resurrection, we by faith will one day reign with him there. But while we are upon this earth, we remain humble. In humility we continue to serve one another and continue to serve and worship our God. During these days of great uncertainty, let us in humility remember our Savior's love and that he has already blessed us with the greatest of blessings – faith, life, and salvation.

Read Deuteronomy 1 Kings chapter 3 as today's Scripture lesson.

Blessings to you and your families,
Pastor Guse