

## BIBLICALLY PARENTING THE MATURING CHILD

### Part VI: Correcting Rearing Errors In The Late Stage

(David, Solomon and Adonijah - 1 Kings 1:5-53)

#### I. Introduction

- A. All parents have sinned and come short of the glory of God according to Romans 3:23!
- B. That being the case, all of us parents err at points in rearing our children, and sometimes those errors can be rather significant with dramatically calamitous results!
- C. We might wonder what to do when we suddenly wake up to the fact that we have made a mistake, and our maturing children are rather far along in their development where rearing changes are hard to implement.
- D. David had to face a rearing error he had made with his spoiled son, Adonijah. David's effective handling of Adonijah is a lesson to help us parents in similar situations (as follows):

#### II. Correcting Rearing Errors In The Late Stage, David, Solomon and Adonijah - 1 Kings 1:5-53.

- A. David erred in rearing Adonijah, spoiling him apparently in connection with David's awkward relationship with Absalom, Adonijah's brother, 1 Kings 1:5-6b:
  1. Adonijah was a spoiled son of David's; he had never been corrected by his father for sin, 1:5-6a,b.
  2. Adonijah's desires had thus never been checked; he grew up getting everything he wanted, 1:5!
  3. This ambitious spirit in Adonijah was due to a rearing error on David's part, for Adonijah reminded David of Absalom, and so David treated Adonijah similar to how he related to Absalom (as follows):
    - a. Adonijah was born right after Absalom, and he was handsome as was Absalom, 1 Kings 1:6b,c with 2 Samuel 14:25; apparently the two sons were so similar in age and appearance that David tended to treat one like the other; so, in letting Absalom run relatively free, Adonijah was similarly spoiled!
    - b. Indeed, Adonijah realized David treated him similar to Absalom, and took advantage of this: he acted pompously, making for himself a reputation as a rising prince in arranging for chariots and footmen to accompany his moves like had Absalom before him, 1 Kings 1: 5 with 2 Samuel 15:1!
    - c. When Absalom was slain, it deeply grieved David (cf. 2 Samuel 18:33), so David might well have continued to spoil Adonijah the more, giving him unchecked freedom as he had with Absalom!
- B. Eventually, as with Absalom, David's failure to check Adonijah developed its own crisis, 1 Kings 1:7-10:
  1. Solomon had been designated by David to be Israel's next king after him, 1 Kings 1:13.
  2. Yet, with unbridled ambition, Adonijah tried to nullify his father's will and make himself king, 1:5-12:
    - a. Adonijah mustered David's military and religious leaders to join him in his quest, 1 Kings 1:5a, 7.
    - b. He picked the border of Benjamin and Judah to host a meal with the nation's elders and there prepare for his coronation, 1 Kings 1:9. Adonijah thus intended to muster united national support by gaining the favor of the tribe of the previous king, Saul (Benjamin) with that of David (Judah)!
    - c. In the process, Adonijah planned to kill Solomon and his mother, Bathsheba, 1 Kings 1:11-12.
- C. When he learned of the plot, David acted with great power to nullify Adonijah's efforts, 1 Kings 1:11-53:
  1. God sent the prophet, Nathan to tell David of the godless plan of Adonijah, 1 Kings 1:11-27.
  2. Thus informed, David countered Adonijah's efforts by powerfully upstaging Adonijah into submission:
    - a. David mustered his own followers together, 1 Kings 1:32-33a.
    - b. He got them to upstage Adonijah's efforts, coronating Solomon more quickly and closer to the city of Jerusalem, 1 Kings 1:33b-35. This gave Solomon the advantage of igniting the support of the entire city of Jerusalem quickly around him, something Adonijah lacked in the open field!
    - c. God moved the nation to follow David's lead, and Adonijah was completely intimidated into total external submission for the time being, 1 Kings 1:39-41, 49-53. [Later, Adonijah tried to trick Solomon into lending him more power, and Solomon saw through the trick and had him killed for insurrection against the throne, cf. 1 Kings 2:13-25.]

***Lesson:*** When informed of the terrible plot by his spoiled son, Adonijah, David **CORRECTLY** checked Adonijah with a **SUDDEN, OVERWHELMING** show of **FORCE** that **GOD CONDONED** to bring Adonijah into submission for the first time in his life!

***Application:*** If God reveals we have made a rearing error with our maturing child, we must be ready to take a **STRONG** move to **COUNTER** the **STRONGLY SET** errant view we have let develop in the child!