

3/17/19

Solomon's Prayer To Reign
2Chron. 1:1-17

The transition of leadership and power is not always an easy or smooth process, be it in national, state or local government, due to rivals.

Man has an uncanny sin nature that seeks to possess power to control people and benefit himself.

* It has been said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely!

The Bible does not seek to hide this truth, but rather verifies this truth throughout.

* When men are ruled by God, then they have the potential to be godly rulers over people!

We want to look at the confirmation of the kingdom transferred to Solomon that falls into three movements. 2Chron. 1:1-17

- I. The ascension of Solomon to the throne. vs. 1-6
 - II. The petition of Solomon to rule on the throne. vs. 7-12
 - III. The preparation of Solomon to reign on the throne. vs. 13-17
- I. The ascension of Solomon to the throne. vs. 1-6**

A. The affirmation of Solomon to sit on the throne. vs. 1

1. Solomon reigned as the rightful heir to the throne, "Now Solomon the son of David, was strengthening in his kingdom." vs. 1a
 - a. The word strengthened "chazaq" literally means to strengthened himself.
 - 1) The idea being he became firm and established as ruling king.
 - 2) David his father had declared him as his successor by God's revelation.
 - 3) The leaders of the nation heard the words from David and excepted Solomon to be God's choice.
 - b. The context is in "his kingdom".
 - 1) The kingdom was not his, but rather had been bestowed to him by God.
 - 2) Solomon had great responsibility and accountability to align himself with the will and purposes of God for the Kingdom.
2. Solomon had the favor of God for his royal ascension, "and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly." vs. 1b
 - a. The covenant God, LORD "Yahweh" was with Solomon as the ruling king.
 - 1) The presence of God to guide and direct him.
 - 2) The protection of God for the king and the people.

- b. The relationship was not religious, but a personal relational knowledge “his God”.
 - 1) Solomon was not riding on David’s coat-tails.
 - 2) Solomon knew God and chose him.
 - c. The benefit Solomon received from God was that He made him renowned.
 - 1) God exalted “gadal” him that means to become great or important, not by his own doing, but God’s. Josh. 3:7; 4:14
 - 2) The extent is also stated, exceedingly “ma; al”, in a greater measure above the normal.
- B.** The verification of the nation to accepted Solomon as King. vs. 2
- 1. Solomon is now addressing the nation by the authority of God, “And Solomon spoke to all of Israel.” vs. 2a
 - a. These were the people of God, they did not belong to Solomon.
 - b. These were the people Solomon was to serve as God’s representative.
 - 2. The leaders are listed, “to the captains of thousands and of hundreds and to the judges and every leader in all of Israel, the heads of the fathers in the houses.”
 - a. The military men.
 - b. The judges.
 - c. Every leader in the nation.
 - d. The heads of houses.

- C.** The procession of Solomon and the leaders to Gibeon. vs. 3-6
- 1. The journey from Jerusalem to Gibeon is declared, “Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon.” vs. 3a-c
 - a. It says “to a high place”, not “up” to.
 - b. Anyone going to Jerusalem from any place in Israel is said to “go up” to Jerusalem.
 - c. Gibeon was a levitical city of Benjamin, five miles from Jerusalem. Josh. 21:17; 1Kings 3:4
 - 2. The reason is stated, “for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.” vs. 3d-e
 - a. Gibeon was the center of worship at the time, this was a great public festival.
 - b. David had brought the ark to Jerusalem and made another tent at Gibeon.
 - c. It was still called and recognized as “the tabernacle of meeting”.
 - 3. The explanation from where the ark was taken from is given, “But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to the place David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.” vs. 4
 - a. The ark had been at Kirjath Jearim in the house of Abinadab for twenty years since

- the Philistines sent it away with a pagan offering. 1Sam. 7:1-2
- b. David carried the ark improperly so God killed Uzzah for touching the ark, David fearing God left the ark in the house of Ebed-Edom for three months, then to Jerusalem, where it rained, the tabernacle was at Gibeon. 1Chron. 13:1-14
4. The historical commentary is given, “Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him there.” vs. 5
 - a. The one constructed by Bezalel at Mount Sinai. Ex. 36:1-2; 38:1-2Chron. 2:3-20
 - b. The king and all the leaders of the nation were seeking to worship and hear God.
 5. The approach to God was through sacrifice, “And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.” vs. 6
 - a. The five different offerings were accompanied by their laws. Lev. 1-7
 - 1) The burnt offering for Solomon’s dedication and consecration to God.
 - 2) The meal of meat offering for service.
 - 3) The peace offering for fellowship with God.
 - 4) The sin offering to put away sin, the missing of the mark.

- 5) The trespass offering to put away willful disobedience.
- b. The blood of the animal was to token of expiation of sin.
 - 1) The life of the flesh was in the blood, the atonement on the altar. Lev. 17:11
 - 2) The sacrifices were all types pointing to the Messiah Jesus Christ.
 - c. Everything Solomon did, he did big and extravagant.
 - * Solomon offered 1,000 burnt offerings.

Illustration

The Scriptures tell us we have been exalted to be called children of God.

1. “and raised us up together and made us sit together in the **heavenly** places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Eph. 2:6-7
2. John says, “And have made us **kings** and **priests** to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Rev. 5:10

Application

1. Every believer must stand firmly grounded resting in Christ Jesus.
 - a. Knowing that our repentance was genuine and affective in our live, as we have been guided by His word and the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Recognizing that it has been God who has imparted to us wisdom throughout our lives,

and promoted us to know all we are in life is due to the grace and love of God.

* “But God, who is **rich** in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Eph. 2:4-7

2. Every Pastor like Solomon has to go to God for the knowledge and wisdom of God’s word to teach the people and point them to God always.
 - a. A Pastor has to understand the people do not belong to him.
 - b. A Pastor is responsible and accountable to God to feed the people and depend on God to bring into the church.
 - c. A Pastor is to be a servant of the people!
 - 1) God accused the faithless shepherds, “as I live,” says the Lord GOD, “surely because My **flock** became a prey, and My **flock** became food for every beast of the field, because there was no **shepherd**, nor did My shepherds search for My **flock**, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My **flock**” Ezk. 34:8 “
 - 2) Peter warns shepherds to be faithful, “The elders who are among you I exhort, I who

am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: **Shepherd** the **flock** of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

1Pet. 5:1-4

3. Everything that goes on in our lives is to lead us to worship God.
 - a. Through the instruction of God’s word.
 - b. By the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. In the difficult and good times.
 - d. Knowing always God is working on our behalf.

* “But as it is written: “**Eye** has not **seen**, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” 1Cor. 2:9-10

Such was the ascension of Solomon to the throne!

II. The petition of Solomon to rule on the throne. vs. 7-12

- A. The prayer of Solomon to God. vs. 7-10

1. The appearance of God at Gibeon, “On that night God appeared to Solomon.” vs. 7a
 - a. The time of God appeared was at night.
 - 1) On the night of the day they arrived.
 - 2) The book of Kings says it was in a dream. 1Kings 3:5
 - 3) Dreams are while one is sleeping, vision are when the person is awake, both were used by God to speak to kings, priests and prophets.
 - b. There is no attempt to describe the appearance of God.
 - 1) Simply that He appeared.
 - 2) God appeared in many theophanies, such as a cloud, fire, thunder, lightning and a still small voice.
 - 3) God also appeared many times in Christophanies, an appearance of Christ in human form prior to the Incarnation, as when He appeared with two angels to announce Sara’s pregnancy and the birth of Isaac. Gen. 18:1-15
2. The words of God to Solomon at Gibeon were a test, “and said to him, “Ask! What shall I give you?” vs. 7
 - a. An incredible proposal, a blank check.
 - 1) What if God came to you tonight and said, “Ask whatever you will.
 - 2) What would you ask Him?

- b. And though it is commendable Solomon will ask for wisdom, yet he failed to use it to abide with God.
 - 1) He married many pagan women that led his heart away from God when he was old. 1Kings 11:1-4
 - 2) He built high places on the Mount of Olives for Molech and others incense to their gods. 1Kings 11:5-10
3. The thankful words of Solomon, to God “And Solomon said to God: “You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place.” vs. 8
 - a. Solomon acknowledge the great mercy of God to his father David.
 - 1) The word mercy “cheched” means loving kindness and is quantified by the word great “gadowl”, large in magnitude and extent.
 - 2) The word is a covenant word used repeatedly for Israel.
 - b. Solomon acknowledged the very same great mercies of God to have chosen him to replace his father as king.
 - 1) This is a form of praise and worship of Yahweh for His lovingkindness.
 - 2) The idea behind it is gratitude and appreciation of Yahweh.
4. The general petition of Solomon, “Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me

king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.” vs. 9

- a. The petition is the very words God promised David to have an heir on the throne and the Messiah would come through the line of David. 1Chron. 17:11-14; 2Sam. 7:12-16
 - b. The petition was believing the prophecy, confessing the faithfulness of God and to multiply Israel like the dust of the earth.
5. The specific petition of Solomon, “Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?” vs. 10
- a. The essentials for ruling, “give me wisdom and knowledge”. vs. 10a
 - 1) Knowledge “madda”, deals with information, facts and truths.
 - 2) Wisdom “chokmah”, is the result of understanding of fact, perceiving their interrelationship to come to the best decision for the best benefit and outcome, prudence and shrewdness.
 - b. The reason for his specific petition wisdom and knowledge was for the sake of others. vs. 10b-c
 - 1) To sit on his throne to judge the cases of the people, “that I may go out and come in before this people.” vs. 10b

2) The humble attitude is revealed, “for who can judge this great people of Yours?” vs. 10c

- c. Solomon was very wise, “And God gave **Solomon** wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus **Solomon**’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men--than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish. And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of **Solomon**.” 1Kings 4:29-34

- B.** The answer of God to the petition of Solomon. vs. 11-12
1. The commendation of God to Solomon for his general petition. vs. 11

- a. God saw the genuineness of his petition, “And God said to Solomon: “Because this was in your heart,” vs. 11a
 - b. God stated what he could have asked for, “and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life,” vs. 11bc
 - c. God confirmed his selfless petition, “but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—” vs. 11
2. The approvation of God to Solomon for his specific petition. vs. 12
- a. God would give him his specific petition, “wisdom and knowledge are granted to you.” vs. 12a
 - b. God would give him what he could of asked for, “And I will give you riches and wealth and honor.” vs. 12b
 - c. God would endow his blessing, as to no other person, “such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.” vs. 12c-d
 - 1) Solomon was known for his great wisdom and judging and reigning, but when he was old he turned his heart away from God to other gods.
 - 2) Such as being unequally yoked. Such as going back to Egypt. It doesn’t take great wisdom as a Christian to know

- that I’m not to be unequally yoked. It doesn’t take great wisdom to know that I’m not to go back into the world.
- 3) He made tragic decisions, and foolish mistakes. And really, he was the third king of the kingdom and then it went downhill after him. His son Rehoboam came to the throne in chapter 10, and then from there on, it’s king after king. And the kingdom was divided, civil war.
 - 4) It wasn’t God that was taking the kingdom from him, he threw it away, just like many Christians that I’ve known, God having done so much in their lives.
 - 5) It’s not the big sins, but it’s the little foxes that spoil the vine. The little things, bringing total destruction.

Illustration

E.M. Bounds said the about prayer and the church, “When the church is in the condition of prayer God’s cause always flourishes and His kingdom on earth always triumphs. when the church fails to pray, God’s cause decays and evil of every kind prevails. A prayerless pastor, church and Christian are denying God’s ability to direct and provide and man’s privilege to ask and receive.”

Application

1. We are to pray according to the will of God.
 - a. There are men that teach that if you pray “Your will be done”, it is a lack of faith”, this is unbiblical, Jesus did!
 - b. God’s will is found in God’s word, there are general and specific promises given to us.
 - * “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” 1Jn. 5:14-15
2. We are to understand prayer is to tap into the things of God, not simply to get things from God.
 - a. Prayer begins with God and ends with God.
 - b. Prayer is prompted by God and answered by God, as Moses prayed. Ex. 32:32
 - * “So he (Paul), trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do. Then the Lord said to him, “**Arise** and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 8:6
3. We are to know that prayer is a matter of heart posture, not physical posture necessarily.
 - a. Jesus told of a Pharisee and a tax collector who went to pray, one prayed with himself the other prayed to God. Lk. 18:11-14
 - 1) The Pharisee saw himself as self-righteous, prideful.

- 2) The publican saw himself as unworthy and humble.
 - b. The position of the body can be on our feet, knees, backs, face to the ground, hands lifted up to heaven but if the heart is not humble, only desiring to be seen of men, God does not hear, it is hypocrisy. 1Kings 8:22, 54
 - 1) There is a place for some of these in public.
 - 2) Others for private demonstration to God.
3. We are not lacking instruction of prayer.
 - a. Paul said, “Be anxious for nothing but in all things by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7
 - b. Jesus said, “Men ought always to pray and not lose heart”. Lk. 18:1
 - 1) Prayer is an obligation to God of total dependency.
 - 2) We are to live in an attitude of prayer.
 - c. Paul confirms the words of Jesus, “That we are to pray without ceasing”. 1Thess. 5:17
 - d. Prayer is part of the armor for spiritual warfare, “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” Eph. 6:18
 - 1) Payer will open our eyes.

- 2) Don't trust what you see, but what God reveals to you through and in agreement with God's word.
- 3) The servant of Elisha saw the Syrian army around the city and feared, but Elisha prayed, "Lord open his eyes". 2Kings 6
- e. James says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." Ja. 1:5

Such was the petition of Solomon to rule the throne!

III. The preparation of Solomon to reign on the throne. vs. 13-17

- A. The journey of Solomon back to Jerusalem. vs. 13-14
 - 1. The king was a different man, "So Solomon came to Jerusalem from the high place that was at Gibeon." vs. 13a
 - a. Solomon had been endowed by God with knowledge and wisdom at Gibeon, now anointed of God to rule God's people.
 - 1) The Queen of Sheba came to see and hear the wisdom of Solomon, "Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. "However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own

eyes; and indeed the **half** was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard."

1Kings 10:6-7

- 2) The people of Israel heard the wise decision he made between the two-woman declaring the living baby was theirs and he commanded the child be cut in two knowing the real mother would not allow it. 1Kings 3:16-27
- b. Solomon having heard the voice of God made the five miles journey to Jerusalem.
 - 1) Jerusalem was the city of God.
 - 2) Jerusalem was the city of David.
 - 3) Jerusalem was the capital of Israel.
 - 4) Jerusalem was where the temple would be built.
- 2. The king returned to sit on the throne and reign as King, "from before the tabernacle of meeting, and reigned over Israel." vs. 13
 - a. The tabernacle was at Gibeon, but it would be replaced by the temple Solomon would build.
 - 1) The temple would not be a portable building.
 - 2) The temple would be in one location.
 - b. The book of Kings gives us an important detail about the return of Solomon to Jerusalem from Gibeon. 1Kings 3:15
 - 1) "Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to

- Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.” 1Kings 3:15
- 2) So apparently the ark of the covenant remained at Jerusalem, as we noted.
 - 3) This was a second festivity for “all his servant”, as oppose to the public one for all the leaders at Gibeon. vs. 2
3. The king built up his military power, “And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.” vs. 14
 - a. Chariots were comperable to a tank in our day.
 - b. Horsemen prepared the way for the infantry.
 - c. The chariot cities were important cities like Hazor in the north, Gezer in the southwest and the city of Mageddo having about 450 horse stables, these cities protected the highway from the invasion of enemies.
 - d. This verse is idnetical as in kings in cluding the number of chariots and horsemen. 1Kings 10:26-29; 2Chron. 8:6

- B. The resources of Solomon regarding his economic wealth. vs. 15-17
 1. The precious metals are described, “Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.” vs. 15
 - a. The amount of gold is ridiculous, “The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country. And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round at the back; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests. Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom. All King Solomon’s drinking

vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon. For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys. So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.” 1Kings 10:14-23

b. The parallel passages.

1) “All King Solomon’s drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.” 2Chron. 9:20

2) “For the king’s ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.” 2Chron. 9:21

2. The import of horses, “And Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king’s merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.” vs. 16

a. Keveh was Celicia, south Turkey.

b. God through Moses declared to the future kings of Israel not to multiply

horse to himself nor send people to Egypt to multiply horses. Deut. 17:16

b. God also told the kings to not multiply wives, silver and gold “for himself”. Deut. 17:17

3. The import and export business of chariots and horses, “They also acquired and imported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.” vs. 17

a. So, in other words, he began as a humble king and ended up as a horse dealer to the Hittites and Syrians.

b. These versus 16-17 are confirm in the parallel passage of kings. 1Kings 10:27-29

Illustration

A king must never seek war but must be ready for war or his nation will be vulnerable!

Application

1. Oh how we need to rely on the wisdom of God in these last days.

a. For our daily decisions in life for ourselves, wives, husbands and children.

b. For being prudent and discrete in who we are involved with and people that are not godly.

- c. For being cautious against spiritual deception that is so rampant within the church.
 - * “Happy is the man who finds **wisdom**, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.” Prov. 3:13-14

- 2. We need to be good stewards of the money and material things God gives to us through hard work.
 - a. We don't want to live for things or be slaves to things, but use them to meet our needs, not our greeds.
 - b. We need to be faithful to God and benevolent to those in need.
 - * “**Go** to the **ant**, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep--So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.” Prov. 6:6-11

Such was the preparation of Solomon to reign on the throne!

Conclusion

This was the confirmation of the kingdom transferred to Solomon that falls into three movements.

- I. The ascension of Solomon to the throne!
- II. The petition of Solomon to rule on the throne!
- III. The preparation of Solomon to reign on the throne!