

# Oops...

## Taken From 1 Kings 1-2

### Foundation

Start your time today by telling God five things for which you are thankful. Use it as a time to praise Him for the blessings He's brought into your life. If you have a hard time coming up with five things to praise God for, then tell Him that, too. Be honest before Him. Let the Lord examine your heart and show you areas in your life that need to be dealt with.

**Focus**

*Have you ever schemed and pushed in order to get what you want—only to have it backfire on you?*

*Hmmm, Adonijah mused to himself, King David is now at the end of his years. According to custom, his oldest son should inherit the throne. Since I am his son and my two older brothers are dead—that means I automatically get to be king! The thought of power and honor excited Adonijah greatly. The only problem is what to do with my half brother, Solomon...he thought. Feeling worried about not getting his way, Adonijah came up with a scheme. He would influence others to help him get what he wanted and thought he deserved.*

"It's my right to be king!" Adonijah declared to himself and even to others. To strengthen his case, Adonijah assembled horses and chariots along with fifty men to run in front of him. It would be a spectacular display of his power,

splendor, and worthiness for all of Israel to see.

In order to be king, Adonijah reasoned he needed to begin acting like a king. He gave no honor to his father who was still on the throne. Adonijah didn't care about that small detail and cared even less that King David hadn't yet named his successor to the throne.

*Perhaps if I get my father's commander, Joab, and Abiathar the priest to support me, it'll be better for my cause. These men hold authority and positions of power. Others will see their approval of me and want to go along with it. Things couldn't be better!* At least, this is what Adonijah thought.

Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and a few members of David's special guard, including Benaiah, did not lend him their support.

Still determined, Adonijah felt pleased with the support that he did have. He was a handsome man and easily won favor with the people. King David was old and dying; Adonijah was young and exciting. *I am the only logical choice for king!* he assumed.

Quickly, Adonijah gathered supplies to make sacrifices—sheep, cattle, and fattened calves. He also made arrangements to be crowned. *I'll go to the large rocky plateau by the spring at En Rogel and invite all my brothers—except Solomon—and all the king's royal officials to join me. Since Nathan, Benaiah, and some of the king's guards didn't show me their support, they won't be invited. Today I shall become king, and I want everything to go well!*

It wasn't long before the prophet Nathan heard of Adonijah's plans to crown himself king that day. But God had already established the fact that David's son, Solomon, would be next to sit on the throne. Nathan knew this and realized something must be done quickly about the situation at hand . . .

"Bring in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah," King

***Beautiful Abishag had been King David's personal nurse and companion in his final days. To marry a king's companion was considered the same as publicly claiming the rights of the king. Adonijah was still trying to lay a claim to the throne.***

David demanded upon hearing Adonijah's plans. Once they arrived, he said, "Give my favored son Solomon my mule and accompany him to Gihon. Once you are there, Zadok and Nathan, you are to anoint him as ruler of Israel. You are to blow the trumpets loudly and proclaim, 'Long live Solomon, our king!' Then, bring Solomon back here to sit on my throne. It is my choice to appoint him king over Israel and Judah."

King David's words were carried out as requested, and Solomon was crowned king that very day. All the people cheered and rejoiced at his crowning.

"What's that noise?" Adonijah asked upon hearing the shouts and celebration. When it was discovered Solomon had just been crowned king, Adonijah's party quickly ended, and the alarmed people went home.

Adonijah feared for his life. *What if Solomon plans to kill me as I had planned to kill him?* he thought. Seeking refuge, Adonijah ran to the altar, clung to the horns on it, and wouldn't let go. He begged for mercy from Solomon and was granted it—as long as he demonstrated that he was worthy of mercy and turned away from evil. Relieved, Adonijah headed home. Unfortunately, his heart still wasn't content with what he did have—his life—and he soon began to push for more. This time, it would prove to be a deadly mistake.

### Footwork

To learn what Adonijah did next, you'll have to open your Bible to 1 Kings 2 and read verses 13-25. Notice Adonijah's struggling attitude in verses 15 and 16? He still couldn't let things go! What was his request? Why do you think he didn't ask Solomon himself? What was the response? Do you think Solomon over-reacted? Before you answer this last question, be sure to look back at 1 Kings 1:52 and see Solomon's warning to Adonijah.



There are many people in this world who push to get what they want. To them, “no” doesn’t mean no; it simply means: my original plan didn’t work so I need to approach it from a different angle in order to get what I want. As a result, they push, nag, manipulate, and scheme in order to get their heart’s desire—unable to rest until they’ve accomplished their goal. Thinking they’ve won a great victory, they often suffer defeat and fall victim to their own selfishness, just like Adonijah. Don’t go down that path. Once you start pushing to get what you want, it’s hard to stop. Learn to be content with what you have (or don’t have).