

RUSSELL SANDERS

7-8-2020

SOLOMON'S ASCENSION

Solomon's ascension to David's throne was not a foregone conclusion, although it was God's plan. There were other sons of David who were greedy for the power. David had many sons by many different women, six of which were born in Hebron while he was still battling Saul for the kingdom. Two of those six tried to usurp David's throne, Absalom and Adonijah, during the kings' later years.

Absalom was a magnificent figure to look at, very appealing to the eyes. His pride was in his extremely long hair. He was a schemer. Over a 3 to 4-year period he made a name for himself. He eventually took an army of men to Hebron and declared himself to be king of all Israel. Fearing for his life, David fled Jerusalem along with some faithful followers. David went into hiding.

Eventually, Absalom's army fought David's men in a battle where 20,000 were killed in a single day. When Absalom went to negotiate with David's men, his hair got caught in the branches of an oak tree and he could not free himself. David's men killed him as he hung there.

Later on, an elderly David lay on his deathbed. His son Adonijah gathered David's sons (except Solomon) and David's servants to a great feast where he declared himself to be king. David's prophet Nathan learned of it and consulted with Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. David had years earlier sworn to her that Solomon would succeed him. Bathsheba and Nathan informed David, who knew nothing about Adonijah's conspiracy. David took measure to elevate Solomon who was then placed on the throne. Adonijah backed down.

Solomon, a much younger man than his older half-brothers, was a man of peace. While others conspired, seeking power and control, Solomon did nothing to be elevated. It was God, who elevated him.

As he ruled, God brought great favor to him from all the surrounding kings, queens, nations, and people groups. They even brought him great wealth in gold, silver, precious gems, horses, spices, and everything of high value. His wisdom was noised abroad. His reign of 40 years was in peace; there was no war or conflicts. No other king in the history of Israel or Judah had so many years of peace.

Solomon simply "waited in the wings" while others tried to force their way into power. Perhaps you have also been "waiting in the wings" for God's plan to unfold. Be patient and trust in His promises. Within time, He will bring it to pass.