

## 18.01 Adonijah, Abiathar, Joab, and Shimei Removed (1 Kings 2:12–46; 3:1; 2 Chronicles 1:1)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [ . . . ] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- No pictures were found on the internet for this lesson. Use wooden figures for each of the characters, a total of six: Solomon, Bathsheba, Adonijah, Joab, Abiathar, Shimei. Attach a crown to Solomon, long hair to Bathsheba, and a name to the four remaining figures. Or print the clipart masks and the altar found below for visual aids.

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *treason*: betraying a country or its ruler
- *concubine*: wife-like servant

### Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 2:12 So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

13 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, “Do you come peacefully?” He said, “Peacefully.” 14 Then he said, “I have something to say to you.” She said, “Speak.” 15 He said, “You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother’s, for it was his from the Lord. 16 And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me.” She said to him, “Speak.” 17 And he said, “Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife.” 18 Bathsheba said, “Very well; I will speak for you to the king.”

19 So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king’s mother, and she sat on his right. 20 Then she said, “I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me.” And the king said to her, “Make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you.” 21 She said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as his wife.” 22 King Solomon answered his mother, “And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah.” 23 Then King Solomon swore by the Lord, saying, “God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life! 24 Now therefore as the Lord lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of David my father, and who has made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today.” 25 So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he struck him down, and he died.

26 And to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth, to your estate, for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord God before David my father, and because you shared in all my father’s affliction.” 27 So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the Lord, thus fulfilling the word of the Lord that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

28 When the news came to Joab—for Joab had supported Adonijah although he had not supported Absalom—Joab fled to the tent of the Lord and caught hold of the horns of the altar. 29 And when it was told King Solomon, “Joab has fled to the tent of the Lord, and behold, he is beside the altar,” Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, strike him down.” 30 So Benaiah came to the tent of the Lord and said to him, “The king commands, ‘Come out.’” But he said, “No, I will die here.” Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, “Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.” 31 The king replied to him, “Do as he has said, strike

him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause. 32 The Lord will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah. 33 So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever. But for David and for his descendants and for his house and for his throne there shall be peace from the Lord forevermore." 34 Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and put him to death. And he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. 35 The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in place of Joab, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

36 Then the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever. 37 For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die. Your blood shall be on your own head." 38 And Shimei said to the king, "What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do." So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

39 But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei's servants ran away to Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shimei, "Behold, your servants are in Gath," 40 Shimei arose and saddled a donkey and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants. Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath. 41 And when Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned, 42 the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the Lord and solemnly warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die'? And you said to me, 'What you say is good; I will obey.' 43 Why then have you not kept your oath to the Lord and the commandment with which I commanded you?" 44 The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father. So the Lord will bring back your harm on your own head. 45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the Lord forever." 46 Then the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him down, and he died.

So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

2 Chronicles 1:1 Solomon the son of David established himself in his kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Here is a new word for us to learn today. The word is *treason*. Treason is the worst crime one can commit against a country or its ruler. It is to betray a country or to try to get its ruler (king, queen, president, *etc.*) killed or removed from his or her position. The punishment for treason is almost always death.

We've learned about some Bible people who committed treason. Two were David's own sons. Both of their names begin with the letter A. The first took over the kingdom from David, causing David to run away. This son got his head and beautiful hair caught in a tree and died there. Who was that? [Absalom.] The other son was ✓the oldest surviving son and therefore thought he should be David's successor. This second son who committed treason was \_\_\_\_\_? [Adonijah.]

God, however, had decided Solomon should be king. ✓Adonijah was likely jealous of Solomon and might have wanted somehow to gain the throne and get rid of Solomon. Nevertheless, Solomon saved Adonijah from execution with the warning that he needed to prove himself to be a good man.

Two important Israelite men had helped and ✓might still be loyal enough to Adonijah to help get rid of Solomon. One was Joab, David's nephew. This army general was the man whom David condemned because he had murdered two other generals in peace time and because he had slain Absalom. The other important man was Abiathar, the high priest.

Let's go back in time 120 years before this lesson. [1105 B.C. minus 985 B.C. = 120 years.] Let's remember an old story about Eli, the priest, whose sons were also priests but very wicked. When God had spoken to

Samuel in bed one night, He had said, “Eli’s family will be cut off from being priests.” Most of Eli’s family died 77 years later when Saul got revenge against them because they helped David, but Abiathar, a grandson of Eli, had escaped and had gone to David. Abiathar had been faithful to David during Absalom’s acts of treason, but ✓he, too, had sided with Adonijah to become king of Israel.

Another man who had done acts of treason, cursing David and throwing stones at him, was Shimei. What should the punishment for all of these traitors be? [Death.]

**Story:** [Some of this story is quoted from the NIV.]

### *Adonijah*

David, the man after God’s own heart, was dead. Young King Solomon ruled over Israel. ✓Although he seemed to be submissive, Adonijah probably still wanted to be king. ✓He thought of a way to lay claim to the throne—to marry a young concubine,<sup>1</sup> a wife-like servant, of his father David. This is what conquering kings and would-be kings did—they took for themselves the former king’s concubines.

Rather than go directly to Solomon for permission to marry this young woman, Adonijah went to Solomon’s mother, Bathsheba.

“You know,” Adonijah said, “the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king, but the kingdom has gone to my brother because it came to him from the Lord.”

Hmmm. ✓It sounds as if Adonijah might have been a little resentful but acting as if he is humbly submitting to the will of God. Perhaps Bathsheba was impressed.

Adonijah continued, “I have one request. Do not refuse me.”

“You may make your request,” answered Bathsheba.

“Please ask King Solomon (he won’t tell you no) to give me David’s last concubine for my wife,” asked Adonijah.

Oh, oh! Now this is beginning to sound like treason, for, as we have said, taking a former king’s concubine could be a first step in taking a kingdom.

✓I wonder if Bathsheba did not see this possibility, for she replied, “Very well. I will speak to the king for you.” And she did. She entered the throne room. King Solomon, respectful of his mother, stood up to meet her.

(Boys, did you know that if you are seated and a woman comes into the room, you should stand? Try it.)

Solomon the king bowed down to his mother and had a throne for her placed beside his own throne. There she sat.

“I have one small request to ask you. Do not refuse me,” said Bathsheba.

“Make your request, my mother,” answered Solomon.

“Let David’s young concubine be given to Adonijah for a wife.”

Solomon saw through Adonijah’s request, and he saw that it was treason. “Why do you request this wife for Adonijah? You might as well ask for the kingdom. After all, he is my older brother, supported by Abiathar and Joab. May God do to me what I am about to pronounce for Adonijah if I don’t put Adonijah to death this very day because of this request.”

That very day Adonijah, who proved he was not a good man, was struck down by Solomon’s chief soldier, Benaiah.

### *Abiathar*

Then Abiathar, the priest who had sided with Adonijah, came to Solomon. Solomon said, “Although you are guilty of treason, it is because you carried the ark of God and shared in my father’s hardships that I will not slay you. Go home and live in peace, but don’t ever try to be priest again.”

Thus, God fulfilled His prophecy that Eli’s descendants would be cut off from being priests.

### ***Joab***

Who was the other important man who wanted Adonijah to be king? [Joab.] He, too, was guilty of treason. When he heard what Solomon had done to Adonijah and Abiathar, he ran to the “tent of the Lord” and took hold of the horns of the altar, showing he wanted mercy.

“Go strike him down,” Solomon said to Benaiah. Benaiah obeyed orders and followed Joab to the tent where the altar with the horns was.

“The king says to come out,” Benaiah called.

“No!” Joab replied. “I will die here.”

Benaiah was unsure what to do. Should he actually slay Joab at the tent of the Lord? He sent someone to ask King Solomon what to do.

“Strike him down there,” answered Solomon. “Bury him so that the innocent blood of Abner and Amasa will not be on David and his descendants but on Joab and his descendants forever. Rather, let there be the Lord’s peace on David’s descendants forever.”

Again, Benaiah followed Solomon’s order. Then he became the general of the army instead of Joab.

### ***Shimei***

There was one more man who had committed treason. Who was he? [Teacher, hint by making rock-throwing gestures; Shimei.] Solomon sent for him. “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and live here. Don’t leave this city for any reason. The day you leave and cross the Kidron Valley is the day you will die.”

“That’s fair,” answered Shimei. “I will do what you say,” and he did for a long time—three years. But after three years, two of Shimei’s servants ran away. Shimei saddled his donkey and left Jerusalem, looking for and bringing back his servants. Did Solomon find out? Of course. He called for Shimei.

“Didn’t you promise me you would obey? Why, then, didn’t you keep your promise to God? You know all the wrong you did to my father, David. Now the Lord will repay you for your wrong, but David’s throne will remain secure before the Lord forever. Slay him, Benaiah.” It was done as the king commanded.

A Bible verse states, “Be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). These men sinned, and that sin was punished.

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<sup>1</sup>Technically, one might say Abishag was not a concubine since she and David did not have “relations”; however, they were intimate.

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

We, too, sin against the High King of heaven every day. Our treason is also worthy of death, but God sent His Son to pay the punishment for the treason of those who repent and believe on Him. He promises great peace to them too. Our God does right. May you trust His Son, Jesus Christ.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: altar with horns; woman; crown

- Snack: a slice of pizza
- Review Psalm 139 by singing its song.
- Review questions: (Game: Print on card stock the masks, found below, of the characters in this story. For each correct answer, a student may place a picture in a pocket chart after describing the character. The altar may also be used for Joab.)
  1. How did Adonijah prove he was not a worthy man? [He asked to marry his father's concubine.]
  2. Whom did Adonijah ask to plead for him before Solomon? [Bathsheba, Solomon's mother.]
  3. Why did Solomon not allow Abiathar to continue as priest? [He had supported Adonijah as king; God was fulfilling his promise that Eli's descendants would not be priests.]
  4. When he saw that Adonijah and Abiathar were overthrown, what did Joab do? [Went to hold the horns of the altar.]
  5. When Joab refused to move, what did Solomon say should happen to Joab? [He was to be slain where he was, at the altar.]
  6. What agreement did Shimei make with Solomon? [To stay in Jerusalem.]
  7. Why did Shimei leave Jerusalem? [To find some run-away slaves.]

**Memory Verse[s]:** (KJV) A song sheet by Earl Martin for this verse may be found at [STB05SM \(mysteryministries.net\)](http://STB05SM.mysteryministries.net), page 12.

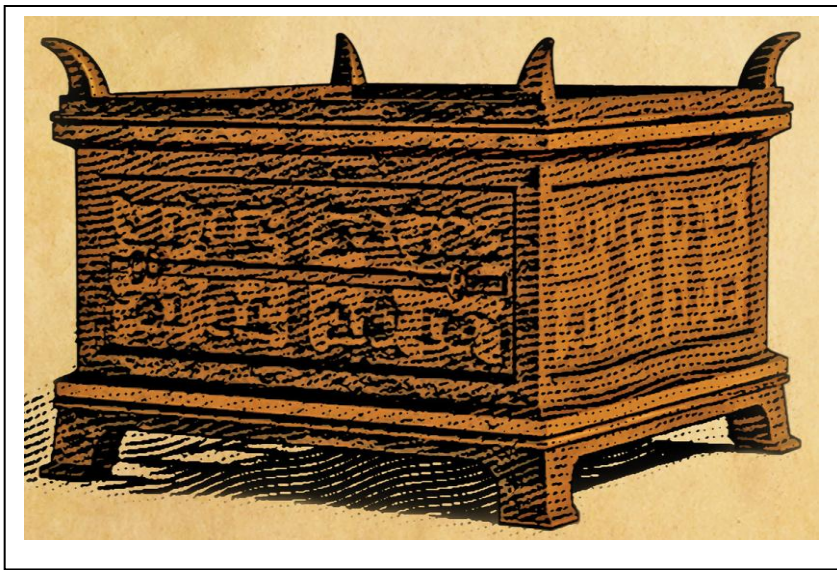
- Proverbs 1:7—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

#### **Handwork:**

- See [\(834\) Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/834/) for an interactive notebook page to make.
- Or color the memory verse. Coloring page is found at [aa4be7fc9eb161a31947371d9abdc49d.jpg \(1238×1600\) \(pinimg.com\)](http://aa4be7fc9eb161a31947371d9abdc49d.jpg).

treason

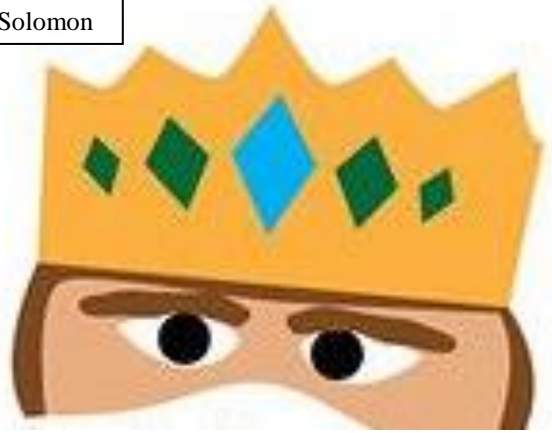
concubine



Abiathar



Solomon



Shimei



Bathsheba



Joab



Adonijah

