

S.O.S – “SOMEONE OPPOSES SOLOMON”

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1 Kings 1:1-27 (2 Samuel 12:15-25)

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your covenant love toward your King in whom we have access to your righteous kingdom. May we seek your kingdom and your righteousness; trusting that all things will be given to us, through Christ our King, Your Chosen Son, in Whom we Pray. AMEN.

Our family study has been in the books of Samuel and Kings for some time now, and we, as a congregation, looked at 2 Samuel briefly. Our study of 1 Kings begins a number of years where 2 Samuel left off. King David’s age and humanity are not glossed over by our unknown author of 1-2 Kings. **READ 1 Kings 1:1-4.** God’s anointed king, the one chosen according to God’s own heart and not the people’s as king Saul was, is weak and unaware of his surroundings. Such human frailty, as we will see, demonstrates two things. First, it reveals our human limitations in leading and caring for a community, especially God’s Community. Second, such human limitations leave opportunities for self-severing predators to take charge over God’s People. Both of these reveal our need for a more powerful King.

1. Adonijah, Another Absalom (Verses 5-10)

- a. **READ Verses 5-6** Remember Absalom? He rebelled against his father, King David. **READ 2 Samuel 15:1, 10-12**
 - i. Both sons are arrogant, spoiled, privileged brats living off daddy’s indulgence. They are the by-product of a weak father. Not only is Adonijah like Absalom, but he is like his undisciplined and lustful brother, Amnon whom Absalom killed for raping his sister Tamar after which the most King David did was get angry (2 Samuel 13:21).

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1. Let this be a warning to us as fathers! And let us give thanks for our Father in Heaven; that He loves us enough to rebuke us as His children for our good.
- b. Adonijah has a Party like Absalom’s: **READ Verses 7-10**
 - i. Notice the guest list? Political and religious rebels.
 1. These folks aren’t innocent attendees.
 - ii. Notice those uninvited?
 1. They are faithful to God’s Chosen King.
 - a. It must have been difficult to go against Joab. He was a scoundrel and ruthless who got bolder and bolder toward King David; not to mention that, while David was home having an affair with Bathsheba, Joab was out in the battle field besieging Rabbah which is where David should have been.
 - i. This is a military coup with powerful people taking the side of Adonijah. But...
 - b. ...Nathan, the prophet who boldly rebuked David for his murder of Uriah and his adultery with Bathsheba also knows, clearly, who God’s chosen one is; because, Nathan was also the prophet who delivered God’s promise to David that God would build him a royal house.
 - i. Nathan, with others faithful to David and God’s chosen king, take...
2. ...Action Against Anti-Christ (verses 11-27)
 - a. After all, this is certainly what Adonijah is, an anti-christ; one against God’s anointed king. Adonijah’s name means “Yahweh is my lord.”
 - i. Can God really be your lord if you are opposed to His King?

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1. How often do we thoughtlessly enthrone ourselves and disregard God’s authority over our lives and forget the Great Commission of His King, which is for us to be building up His Kingdom?
 - a. Yet here is a remnant of faithful servants who partner together against this party of anti-christs for the good of God’s Kingdom.
- b. Nathan Advises Bathsheba **READ Verses 11-14**
 - i. Nathan, who is taking the initiative here, certainly knew God’s love for Solomon. It would be logical that Solomon, a blessing from God after David’s sin and “loved by God” would be God’s chosen king to sit upon David’s throne as God had promised through Nathan in **2 Samuel 7:11b-17 (READ)**.
 1. That Adonijah excluded Solomon, his mother, Nathan and Benaiah, who was David’s chief body guard, further demonstrates that it was pretty well known that Solomon was the one favored to be King David’s successor. That’s why David’s inner circle was excluded from the party. That is why Nathan and Bathsheba presumed that, once Adonijah has secured the throne, Solomon and Bathsheba would be killed in order to wipe out any threat to his reign and subsequent revolt.
- c. Bathsheba Advises David **READ Verses 15-21**
 - i. While we have no biblical record of the oath mentioned in verse 17, we can presume that David’s oath that Solomon would be king after him was because Solomon was “beloved by God” as we read from 2 Samuel 12 this morning. Solomon is “Jedediah” - loved by Yahweh. God’s love will never be taken from him like He took it away from Saul.
- d. Nathan Advises David **READ Verses 22-27**

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- i. Note Nathan, God’s prophet, advises both King and Bathsheba, working behind the scenes in way to honor God’s Kingdom and serve His beloved King.
 1. Nathan knows God’s Word, and Nathan ensures there are at least two witnesses to give testimony regarding Adonijah’s rebellious intentions.
- ii. While King David was unaware of the dangerous state of God’s Kingdom under his care, God’s prophet, Nathan, was fully aware, and acted to preserve it and to ensure that the chosen one whom Yahweh loved, Solomon, would be David’s successor. Why would Nathan go through such effort and risk?
 1. Because he believed God’s Word and knew God’s will.
 2. One commentator states, “How crucial Nathan’s role in this story! Nathan was the man who stood in the gap – his vigilance goaded David off his couch and protected Bathsheba and Solomon from almost certain death. One non-royal servant makes a difference and preserves the kingdom” (Davis, p. 19). One person can make a difference!

This passage is about an S.O.S. – “Someone Opposes Solomon” – and this threatens not only David’s Kingdom but God’s Promises to David by Whom His earlier promises to Abraham for the would be fulfilled. Someone, namely Adonijah who is King David’s eldest surviving son and rebellious like his older brother, Absalom, seeks to take the throne, but God’s chosen King will reign despite such opposition.

God remains sovereign over rebellion against His King, and His will for His People cannot be thwarted. Why Solomon? Because he was “beloved of Yahweh” (“Jedidiah”). But, Solomon, as we will see, was not the more powerful king we need. Not only that, Solomon, while his

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reign was great, does not quite fulfill the psalmist’s description of God’s King’s international rule in *Psalm 2:5-8 (READ)*. God’s Chosen One to justly rule over the nations would also be God’s servant. **READ *Isaiah 42:1-4***. That certainly does not fit the description of the misbehaved Adonijah or his rebellious older brother before him, Absalom. This greater King has come though. In the person of Jesus Christ, we have the chosen King loved by God from eternity **READ *Matthew 3:13-17***. Here, God’s sinless son identifies with His Kingdom and His People, which includes individuals from many nations, like us gathered here today; People who believe that Jesus is God’s Chosen King. “This is my Son, Whom I love; with him I am well pleased” is repeated at Jesus’ Transfiguration. And, in case there’s any mistaking that Jesus was also a Servant, He fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy of the Servant who would suffer and die on behalf of His People. Jesus did this upon His Cross as He wore His crown of thorns for our iniquities, so that we may be declared righteous citizens in His eternal kingdom.

And while God is indeed sovereign, He also certainly uses His People in the face of opposition to carry out His will according to His Word.

Are you in the fight? How can others identify whose side you’re on? Are you on the side of God’s King, or are you striving to be your own sovereign ruler? Are you a servant or a rebel? Are you a faithful disciple of King Jesus, or are you part of the anti-christ coalition?

There really is no middle ground. May God use us as His faithful sanctified servants to defend His People, to expand His Kingdom, and to proclaim His Kingship for the glory and honor of His almighty Name. AMEN.