



Why does King David need a human hot water bottle? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 1:1–27 prepares us for the first serial reading in Public Worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-seven verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that even when the kingdom is threatened from within by great weakness such as David's, or threatened from without by such strong wickedness as Adonijah's, it is invincibly preserved by God's will through God's Word.

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 ▫ Read 1Kings 1:1–27

Questions from the Scripture text: What was David's condition (v1)? What was one thing his servants did about this (v2–4)? What does the end of v4 make clear? Whom does v5 introduce, and whom does he sound like (v6b, cf. 2Sam 15:1)? What hadn't David done? What is he determined to do, and with whom does he collaborate on this (v5, 7)? Who did not join him? What does Adonijah do in vv9? Whom doesn't he invite (v10)? What does Nathan say to Bathsheba that this implies (v11)? What does he say is at stake (v12)? What does he say to do (v13)? What does he say he will do (v14)? How does Bathsheba's follow-through go (v15–19)? What does she especially add in v20 and 21? Who does his part (v22–23)? How did they both approach? What does Nathan say in vv24–26? With what question does he conclude (v27)?

The kingdom is weak. David is old (v1a). Advanced in years (v1b). Can't get warm (v1c). Only use for a wife is as a hot water bottle (v4). Doesn't know what's going on (v18, 27). Needs his wife and the prophet to prompt him to remember that he has made promises, and that he retains the authority to run the kingdom and choose his successor.

Its enemies are strong. Adonijah is pulling an Absalom 2.0 (v5, cf. 2Sam 15:1). David does not seem to be better at parenting in his declining years than he had been in the second half of 2Samuel (v6). He has some big names from the pro-David crowd with him (v7, 19, 25).

But God's Word (in the form of His servant) intervenes. The day isn't won yet, but it will be. David needs a (literal?) wake-up call, but the only one he might pay attention to at this point is Bathsheba. But even she doesn't seem to be aware of what's going on (v11).

Dear believer, there have been many times when God's kingdom seemed to be hanging by a thread, but that thread is the unthwartable purpose of our God, through the appointed means of His Word. And how much more hopeful we ought to be in the wake of Christ's resurrection and enthronement!

So, however bleak it may look for the church, or however in-control the wicked appear to be, let us be sure that Christ is building His church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it (cf. Mat 16:18). Let us be sure that God is working all things according to the counsel of His will (cf. Eph 1:11). He is still the One who upholds all things by the Word of His power (cf. Heb 1:3), and He is still sending forth His powerful Word (cf. Isa 55:10–11). It's not in a single man like Nathan was, but now a multitude of preachers whom the Lord has sent with His faith-giving Word (cf. Rom 10:13–17). Take heart. The God of this passage reigns now, during your life.

What weakness in the church or aggressiveness in the world has you concerned? How will it end? Why? By what means?

Sample prayer: Sovereign Lord, the godly disappear from the land, and the wicked are emboldened by every success. Forgive us for when our anxiety or discouragement show that we have been walking by sight instead of faith. Grant to us confidence in You, in Your work, and Your word by which You do it. And send forth that word with power, we pray, through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP11 "My Trust Is in the Lord" or TPH233 "O Father, You Are Sovereign"

For more Hopwell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpcHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First Kings, chapter 1, verses 1 through 27. These are God's words. Not King. David was old advanced in years and they put covers on him but he could not get warm for his servants. Sent him. Not a young woman. A virgin be sought for our Lord. The king, and let her stand before the Lord.

Before the king and let her care for him and let her lie in your bosom that our Lord, the king may be warm. So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel and found every sagged. The sunamite and brought her to the king. The young woman was very lovely and she cared for the king and she served him but the king did not know her.

Then Adonaija son of Hagit. Exalted himself saying I will be king and he prepared for himself, chariots, and Horsemen and 50 men to run before him and his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, why have you done? So he was also very good looking, his mother had borne him after Absalom.

Then he conferred with Joab, son of Zeroiah and with Abiath are the priest and they followed and helped at Elijah. But Zadek, the priest Banaya? Son of Jehoyada, Nathan, the prophet, She may Rei and the mighty men who belong to David were not without an idea. And and then, I just sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the sterners Ohlet, which is by and Roguel.

He also invited all his brothers, the king's sons and all the men of Judah, the King's servants, but he did not invite Nathan. The prophet Banaya Mighty men or Solomon, his brother. So Nathan spoke to Bathshevo the mother of Solomon saying, Have you not heard that? I don't eat y'all.

Son of Agit has become king and David. Our Lord does not know it. Come please. Let me now give you advice that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. Go immediately to King David and say to him. Did you not My Lord? Okay, swear to your maidservant saying that surely your son Solomon.

Shall reign after me And he shall sit on my throne. Why then has Adonyaba come King Then while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you then confirm your words. So, bad shape of went into the chamber to the king. Now, the king was very old and heavy shagged.

This inamite serving the king and that shave off about and denomage to the king. And the king said, what is your wish Then? She said to him My Lord. You swore by Yahweh, your God, to your maidservant saying assuredly, Solomon. Your son shall reign after me and he shall sit on my throne.

So now look, I don't eat. Y'all has become king and now my Lord the king. You do not know about it. He has sacrificed oxen and fat and cattle sheep and abundance. He has invited all the sons of the king. Um Abby at are the priest and Joab, the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant, he has not invited and that's for you.

My Lord O King. The eyes of all Israel are on you that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my Lord. Looking after him, otherwise it will happen when my Lord the king rests with his father's that. I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders and just then, while she was still talking with the king Nathan, the prophet also came in.

So they told the king saying here is Nathan the prophet and when he came in, before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. And Nathan said my lord O King. Have you said? I don't. He also rain after me and he shall said, oh my throne for, he has going down today and his sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep been abundance.

That is invited all the king's sons and the commanders of the army. And maybe I thought the priest Look. They are eating and drinking before him, and they say long live King atoneeah but he is not invited me. Me your servant nor Is that the priest nor banaya's Deloitta, nor your servants Solomon.

Has this thing been done by my Lord, the king. And you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my Lord. The king after him.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inerrant work.

And So coming out of first and second Samuel, We learned, especially in first Samuel, that David was the man after God's own heart, Although the people had wickedly desired a king, other than God, God would provide for them a king according to his own wisdom and the king who would rule and reign according to God's own mind, God's own art, and David was a fulfillment of that initially, but we know from the rest of the story that this is about how God himself would become not only this Son of God, but also the Son of David Jesus.

The son of David according to the flesh would be declared by his resurrection. From the dead, the Son of God with power.

And then in second Samuel, there was the promise of the Forever King who had come from David's line and the promise of the temple, which would be built by Solomon and Solomon, being the one through whom the Christ would come through whom the temple would come. And so King, David is the one through whom God's reign over his people and God's Christ would come.

But we have a problem in first Kings 1 versus 1 through 27, David is old and David is cold and David is in great decline. Can't even keep himself warm. He has not been a good king. He's not in charge, all sorts of things are happening with, even Joab and Abiath are.

And the many of the king's sons, all of the king's sons but one and David doesn't even seem to know what is going on. Is just shivering in bed. They get him basically a nursing home nurse is kind of how he said functions within and when she lies and snuggles up to him, it's not at all as a wife.

It's as a hot water bottle, who has been assigned to the service of of the king. So the kingdom is very weak and the king is very weak and this is this is a problem because not only as the kingdom itself very weak but the enemies of the kingdom are strong are done y'all or at an idea.

As I started out reading, and as you will hear, most people say, means my Lord is Yahweh or Yahweh. Is my master problem is sometimes often people have and names superficially but they do not have the reality. You always may have been at Elijah's master by name, but Absalom was at an I just template the good-looking guy, the guy who gathers for himself chariots and horsemen and has 50 men running front of him, the guy who has the hearts of the people and a plan by which to consolidate the government under himself.

He even employs Abby, Athar and Joab. Who had been on David's side during the whole absolute incident and he gathers them under himself and in verse 6 when it says she had borne him after Absalom with reference to his mother and it's not just after Absalom in time. But after the example of Absalom in the mold of Absalom.

So David is old and David as cold. And at Elijah is in the mold of King Absalom and he declares himself, King Adenija. So the the kingdom is weak. It's enemies are strong and everything seems to be hanging by the thread. By thread the forever, king, the promise of the Christ, the promise of the temple, and the all that, which would look forward to and be one of the means by which, eventually the Lord would comment to the world to save us.

So when Nathan comes and he says, Bathsheba your life is in danger and Solomon, your son's life is in danger. The text is telling us that our eternal life is in danger. It's under threat by the fact that Adenija is sitting as it were on the throne and people are not saying long live King Solomon.

They're saying long live King Ediniyah. And yet, whenever the kingdom hangs by a thread, It is not ultimately in danger of being destroyed or not coming or not succeeding. Because that thread is the will of God, which he accomplishes by the Word of God. And so Nathan, the prophet, the servant of God whose primary role is to have in his mouth.

God's Word comes and he is as it were the embodiment of the Word of God, by which he preserves his people, He is the one remember whom the Lord had sent to David saying that he would give David a build David, a house. And the David wouldn't get to build the temple but a son would.

And that he would have a son who is a forever king. He was the one whom the Lord had sent to David. When the kingdom was threatened, not by David's weakness. But by David's wickedness with Bathsheba and the adultery and Uriah and the murder And Nathan was the one, whom the Lord sends a.

You are the man and Nathan comes now and he has used of God to awaken this cold and weak king to his to his duty and he and Bathsheba come up with a plan and they carry out the plan. So the kingdom is weak. The enemies are strong but God's word intervenes because God's will cannot be broken.

This is a very encouraging passage for us because we are in an age in which the churches weak at least in our land. And in our day, the church is weak. It very little holds to the Word of God. There are believers that the Lord is saving even yesterday.

I sat down with a young man who's been in a bunch of churches and just presented him. Basic biblical. Things about who Christ is and what Christ has done and what it means to walk with him. And he was so excited to to put all of these things together.

Even though he'd been in churches, where they talk about, God, becoming a man, and, and dying for our sins and rising again from the dead. And yet he had had so little exposure to the reality of knowing and walking with the living Christ in his life. And it's just so excited at the church's week, even though there be many of them.

And even though they have something of the appearance of the gospel, We live in an age and which the church's old and the church's cold, and the enemies of God are in the mold of Absalom and Adenija, they are organized. And they are clever. And they are beautiful and they win the people's hearts.

And it seems in many places like the kingdom of God is hanging by a thread. But that thread is still the will of God as carried out by the Word of God. And we see that it cannot be broken that the Lord Jesus is building His church, because it is not David on the throne of glory.

It is the resurrected and ascended, and reigning, Lord Jesus Christ. And yes, he is old. But he is the ancient of days and his strength, and his knowledge, and his wisdom. And his ability are not waning but he is almighty. God. And now all powerful and authoritative, man. The God man who sits and reins on the throne of glory and he is not cold and he sees and he knows and he acts and he is with us always and he takes all things that are done to his true church has done to him.

And he works in all things and upholds, all things by the Word of his power. So what we see to be true, to some extent. And first Kings 1:1-27, we know to be true to a perfect extent. Even now in the Lord, Jesus, sitting and reigning. Let appearances be what they may.

We know what the reality is, is Kingdom cannot fail. It's a last forever. Praise God. Let's pray.

Lord. Thank you for what you did through Nathan stirring, David back up to his duty. Thank you for ordaining that your kingdom. And this period that we've just read about would come under threat. So that when we live in a time, in which your kingdom is under threat, We might have unshakable confidence in you for your kingdom.

Cannot be shaken. They'll have an earth. Be shaken. Help us by your word as you shake Evan and earth. Preserve us for that kingdom. Which will be unshakable. We pray that you would revive your church, that you would pour out your spirit that you would cause your word to go forth with power.

And that we might see your enemies brought low, and your kingdom, reasserted your church's healthy. Your gospel proclaimed, repentance and remission of sins, coming to many as this is preached in Jesus's name throughout all the earth, even as it began to be. So at Jerusalem and we pray that you would help us our God to have the courage of a Bathsheba or of a Nathan who with confidence in you are willing to fulfill whatever role you have assigned us by your word and by your providence by faith in Jesus Christ.

In His name, we ask it. Amen.