

引言 INTRODUCTION

As we begin a New Year, we will venture into a series of studies on the kings of Israel. We will not cover every chapter in the two books, as our emphases will be on the lives of the kings. We can identify with the situations and weaknesses of the Israeli kings, even though they lived in a different era. Israel is God's chosen nation. It failed miserably because its kings betrayed God. We should keep a few things in mind in our studies. First, God is not shy to include people's sins in the Bible. History books of many countries may hide or justify the mistakes of the past. However, secondly, God allows wickedness to occur does not mean that He condones sins. The same truth applies to the tragic events in the world and in our lives. Thirdly, God is sovereign despite our sins. Nothing would thwart His plans. Fourthly, God will hold sinners accountable for their acts. He will exercise righteous judgment, whether in this life or in eternity. Those are some heavy lessons. Are there any good news? Most definitely! The Old Testament history proves that God is gracious. He is willing to forgive if people repent of their sins. Moreover, God's promises stand forever. Our faith is in Him rather than ourselves or our circumstances.

We will now look at chapters 1 and 2 of 1 Kings. We will read sections of those two chapters later. The episodes evolved around three kings: a frail king, a false king and a fine king. David was the frail king who was advanced in his age. People were waiting for David's successor. The unsettling atmosphere led to power struggle just like the plots in the drama series of ancient dynasties. One of David's son, Adonijah, was the false king. He seized control and crowned himself as the next king. Prophet Nathan swiftly restored things to the right order by helping Solomon the fine king assume the throne. Through the chain of events, God came to the rescue and fulfilled His earlier promise to David. While people may care about their own gain, God's concern is on continuing His covenant.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 年邁老王 Frail King

First, let us look at the frail king. We get a glimpse of David's physical condition in 1:1-2 – 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. 2 So his servants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm." I am a hot-blooded animal all my life. Therefore, if I feel cold then most people may be freezing. David might be getting a little slow in his circulation. His officials suggested to find a young lady to serve the king in two ways. First, she was a personal nurse to David. Second, she would be a warm blanket when the king slept. But where were David's wives? The Bible records that David had four of them. They all married David while the man was much younger. Therefore, the four ladies might be at least middle-aged by this time. They might need someone else to take care of them too. The officials looked around the whole country and found Abishag. The passage describes her as a very beautiful young lady. David's assistants wanted to recruit the best-looking person for the king. The passage specifies that David did not have intimate relationship

with Abishag, even though she was considered a concubine. Perhaps David had lost the ability to perform anyway. All those signs tell us that David's health was going downhill. He must urgently name the next king while his mind was still clear. That brings up the first lesson for us:

A wise leader plans for his successor.

No one will function effectively, let alone live forever. Planning for our future is surely a Biblical teaching. It is wise to figure out ahead of time who will assume your responsibilities and wealth when you leave the scene. Wealthy people who pass away unexpectedly without a will can easily lead to a fierce fight for inheritance. In other instances, a leader does not want to let go of the position, or he does not know to whom to pass the baton. All those scenarios may lead to chaos. There are always people who covet power and money. David might also think of God's promise too. In **2 Samuel 7:16**, God spoke through the prophet Nathan to David: "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." David was confident that God had a candidate in mind. But being the king, David had to publicly declare who his replacement would be. David also knew that God did not necessarily choose the first-born or the brightest son. David himself was the youngest son in the family. You should not feel inferior if you are not as smart or capable as others. God will use you if you submit to Him. Those of you who are highly educated or talented should not take pride in yourself either. God will humble His servants before He uses them.

2. 冒牌假王 False King

The frail king was getting old. People were waiting for a successor. It was at such an uncertain time when Adonijah, a son of David, made himself a king. Let us read from **verses 5-6**: 5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. 6 (His father had never interfered with him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.) Adonijah picked fifty men and ran in front of him. What kind of king was that? It was quite a funny picture. But Adonijah did get support from a few of David's key officials. That included Joab the commander and Abiathar the priest. Both men were close friends and loyal assistants of David. But now they turned their backs to David and sided with Adonijah. A ceremony was then called to inaugurate Adonijah. The most outrageous thing was that Adonijah did not even inform his dad about it. It is like a son taking over as the new CEO while his dad is still the chairman of the company. Adonijah was a typical spoiled kid whose dad never intervened what he did. But now, he was not wasting his dad's money to buy a new car. He seized power to be the king! Did Adonijah actually know what it takes to be a king, or what a king actually does? Perhaps he only focused on the benefits he could reap. If he could live a good life as a prince, how much more he could enjoy as a king! The Bible does not have any explicit record about how David nurtured his children. But there are some clear red-flags. Amnon violated his half-sister Tamar. Her biological brother Absalom thus killed Amnon. Later, Absalom even tried to dethrone David. In the series of incidents, David seemed silent and unwilling to discipline his children. Now another son turned against him. David was a great king. But he did not do well as a father. Here is a second lesson we can learn from the passage:

A home should be a place to mature a person.

The kind of parent you are will determine how your children turn out to be. Whether they are tidy or sloppy, kind or rude, frugal or wasteful, etc., they get it from you. They have a built-in video recorder since babies to capture everything they see at home. They will then imitate after you. Many dads have a successful career. But no one can substitute your roles at home. Before long, your kids will leave home and learn to be independent. How will they make decisions? If they do not commit themselves to God when they are still at home, it will be harder for them to do so later in life. To the dads among us: God entrusts this responsibility to you. Children Sunday school teachers and pastors cannot replace you. Be a godly model to your kids at home. Spend time with them, understand their concerns and use Biblical principles to mold their mind.

3. 果斷新王 Fine King

Now Israel fell into the hands of a false king. But God in His sovereignty frustrated Adonijah's conspiracy. God had in mind a fine king. He accomplished His will through prophet Nathan. Listen to Nathan's suggestion to Bathsheba in **verses 12-14**: 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. 13 Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' 14 While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said." Bathsheba was the biological mother of Solomon. Adonijah was born of another mom. On the surface, it may seem to be a scheme for power struggle. Actually, God had said earlier that Solomon would be the next king. In **1 Chronicles 22:9-10**, David tells Solomon God's instructions for building the temple: 9 "But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. 10 He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever." Therefore, David and Solomon both understood God's will. Bathsheba followed Nathan's advice to bring the request to David. He agreed to make Solomon the next king on the same day. The whole country rejoiced. Later, Adonijah heard the commotion and realized what was going on. He quickly ran for his life. But Solomon declared a pardon and asked Adonijah to go back home.

Soon after that, David knew his earthly life was coming to an end. He summoned Solomon and gave him some final advice. First, there were some spiritual instructions. Let us read from **2:2-4**: 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'" David encouraged Solomon to be a strong man. Besides being a tough guy in battles, the most important thing was to be a man of God. Solomon had to obey God's Law. David was far from perfect. But God described him as "a man after God's own heart." David relied on God in all that he did. He also repented of his sins when confronted. Here we can derive another life lesson:

God does not look at our hands, He focuses on our hearts.

God looks for people who will submit to Him. Whoever He calls, He will equip. Besides spiritual advice, David also offered some political advice. He asked Solomon to take care of some unfinished business. David ordered Solomon to kill a few persons. We may find this section uncomfortable. First, it was Joab. Read [2:5-6](#) – 5 “Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me – what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. 6 Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.” Joab killed two fellow military officers out of rivalry. The accounts are in 2 Samuel chapters 3 and 20, respectively. David asked Solomon to avenge for Joab’s sin of shedding innocent blood. Though Joab was a national hero, he was a crafty person and he had a tendency to take business into his own hands. When David’s son Absalom started a revolt, he quickly fled for his life. Joab violated David’s clear instruction and killed Absalom. David knew that Joab would be a potential threat to Solomon. After all, he conspired with Adonijah to seize power.

Besides Joab, David also mentioned about Shimei. Listen to [2:8-9](#) – 8 “And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the Lord: ‘I will not put you to death by the sword.’ 9 But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him. Bring his gray head down to the grave in blood.” When David ran for his life from Absalom, Shimei cursed David and blamed him for slaughtering the family of king Saul. The story is recorded in 2 Samuel chapter 16. After Absalom was killed, David returned to the palace. Shimei was among the first people to welcome the king. Shimei knew he was in trouble. Therefore, he asked David for forgiveness. David agreed to spare Shimei’s life. Did David retract his promise now? One possibility was that David did not want any remaining supporter of Saul to linger to cause future instability to Solomon’s reign. David’s suggestions for both Joab and Shimei were similar: get rid of them before they got old. Thus, Solomon ordered Benaiah to kill both men.

After Solomon completed his father’s orders, he still had to handle two other men. One of whom was Adonijah. After David had passed away, Adonijah went to Bathsheba and made a request. Let us look at [2:15-17](#) – 15 “As you know,” he said, “the kingdom was mine. All Israel looked to me as their king. But things changed, and the kingdom has gone to my brother; for it has come to him from the Lord. 16 Now I have one request to make of you. Do not refuse me.” “You may make it,” she said. 17 So he continued, “Please ask King Solomon – he will not refuse you – to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife.” On the surface, it seems that Adonijah was interested in a beautiful young lady. But notice Adonijah brought up the matter about who was entitled to be the king. Abishag was viewed as the last concubine of David. By getting the woman, it would symbolically mean that Adonijah usurped authority and became the ruler. Back then when David fled from Absalom, he left his ten concubines in the palace. Absalom did a shocking thing by sleeping with those ladies in the open. It would be like taking a man’s sport cars or paintings and show others who the rightful owner now is. That was exactly how Solomon interpreted Adonijah’s motive. Listen to [verse 22](#): King Solomon answered his mother, “Why do you request Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? You might as well request the kingdom for him – after all, he is my older brother – yes, for him and for Abiathar the priest and Joab son of

Zeruiah!” Adonijah had not rested his ambition to be a king. Solomon had no choice but to sentence Adonijah to a death penalty.

The last person Solomon had to work on was Abiathar the priest. Like Joab, Abiathar was a long-time and loyal assistant to David. In addition, Abiathar had carried the ark of the covenant. Due to those reasons, Solomon spared Abiathar’s life and granted him an honorable discharge. Perhaps Solomon believed that an old minister could not do much harm to his reign. The passage says that by deposing Abiathar, it fulfilled a prophecy Samuel made about the household of Eli. Abiathar was the fifth-generation offspring of Eli the priest. At that time, Eli did not discipline his two sons for their grave sins. Therefore, God declared judgment to the family. Eli’s progenies would not serve as priests forever, and there would not be any old person in the future generations. God followed through what He had said through Solomon’s decision.

After that, Solomon appointed Benaiah as the commander-in-chief to replace Joab, and Zadok to take Abiathar’s position as a priest. With all the old businesses settled, Solomon could focus on his duties as a king. The author describes twice in chapter 2 that the kingdom was now “firmly established.” Israel would be in good shape as long as Solomon continued to rely on God.

結論 CONCLUSION

While people may care about their own gain, God’s concern is on continuing His covenant. We see in the series of events how different characters pursued after their own gain. We will see bigger messes in our subsequent studies. Despite human sinful nature, God looks for people who will obey Him and follow Him. In the end, God will fulfill what He promises. Some of God’s promises are conditional. He will bless us if we submit to Him. But His other promises are unconditional. He will achieve His purposes despite people’s selfish plans. One of the most important promises is that the Messiah came as a descendant of David.

引言 INTRODUCTION

新一年的開始，我們會學習有關以色列君王的故事。我們不會看列王紀上下的每一章，因為我們的重點是在君王生平的事情。雖然他們生活在另一個時代，但我們還是可以認同他們的處境和弱點。以色列是神的選民。但是這個民族徹底地失敗，因為它的君王離棄神。在我們的學習中必須記住幾件事情。首先，神不會覺得不好意思把人的罪放在聖經裡。許多國家的歷史書可能選擇把過去的錯誤掩蓋或合理化。但是，第二，神允許罪的發生並不等於祂認同罪。同樣的真理也適用於我們生活中發生的悲劇事件。第三，儘管人犯罪，神仍然掌權。沒有任何因素能攔阻祂的計劃。第四，罪人要對自己的行為負責。神在今生或是永恆會施行公義的審判。這些都是沉重的信息。有什麼好消息嗎？當然有！舊約歷史證明神是滿有恩慈的。只要人認罪悔改，神是樂意饒恕的。而且，神的應許永遠堅定。我們將信心放在神的身上，而不是我們自己或是環境。

現在，我們來看列王紀上的第 1 章和第 2 章。稍後我們將讀這兩章的部份內容。這些情節是圍繞著三個王：年邁老王、冒牌假王和果斷新王。大衛是那位年邁的老王。人們在等待大衛的繼承人。不穩定的氣氛導致權力鬥爭，就像古代王朝背景連續劇中的情節一樣。大衛的其中一個兒子亞多尼雅是那個冒牌假王。他奪權，然後任命自己為下一任的王。先知拿單幫助所羅門登基，迅速地平息了局面。通過一系列的事件，神保守了祂之前對大衛的應許。人們可能在乎自己的利益，但神所關注的是要延續祂的約。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 年邁老王 Frail King

首先，我們來看看年邁老王。我們可以從 1:1-2 了解大衛的身體狀況：**1 大衛王年紀老邁，雖用被遮蓋，仍不覺暖。2 所以臣僕對他說：「不如為我主我王尋找一個處女，使他伺候王，奉養王，睡在王的懷中，好叫我主我王得暖。」**我一輩子都是熱血動物。因此，如果我覺得冷，那麼大多數人可能會凍僵。大衛的血液循環可能變慢。他的官員建議找一個女孩以兩種方式服事王。首先，她是大衛的私人護士。其次，當王睡覺時，她是大衛溫暖的毯子。但是大衛的妻子在哪裡呢？聖經記載大衛有四位太太。他們都是在大衛年輕時嫁給他的。因此，這四個女人可能至少是中年人了。她們可能也需要別人的照顧。官員們到處尋找，發現了亞比煞。經文形容她是個年輕貌美的女孩。大衛的助手想為國王招募最好的人選。理論上亞比煞應該算是個王妃，但經文強調她和大衛並沒有親密的關係。也許大衛已經是有所不能了。所有這些跡象告訴我們，大衛的健康狀況正在走下坡。他必須在頭腦清晰的時候趕緊地安排接班人。我們可以從這一點學到第一個功課：

有智慧的領袖會計劃他的繼承人。

沒有人能一直保持工作的效率，更不用說永遠活著。為未來做計劃無疑是聖經的教導。明智的做法是預先想好在你退任之後誰來接手你的責任和財富。一些有錢人如果沒有寫好遺囑而意外去世，很容易導致他們後代爭遺產。在其他情況下，一些領袖捨不得放下職位，或者他們不知道把棒子交給誰。所有這些情況都可能導致混亂。世上總是有人渴望獲得到權力和金錢的。大衛也可能會想到神的應許。在撒母耳記下 7:16 中，神通過先知拿單對大衛說：「『**你的家和你的國必在我面前永遠堅立。你的國位也必堅定，直到永遠。**』」大衛確信神心裡肯定有人選。但是作為君王，他必須公開宣布誰將會繼承王位。大衛也知道神不一定會選擇長子或人看為最優秀的人。大衛本人是家中最小的兒子。如果你不像其他人那麼聰明或能幹，你不應感到自卑。只要你願意順服神，神就會使用你。那些很有學問或才能的人也不應該自誇。神在使用一個人之前會先使他謙卑下來。

2. 冒牌假王 False King

大衛這位年邁老王已經體力虛弱。人們在等待繼任者。大衛的兒子亞多尼雅趁機成為冒牌假王。請看第 5-6 節：**5 那時，哈及的兒子亞多尼雅自尊，說：「我必作王」，就為自己預備車輛、馬兵，又派五十人在他前頭奔走。6 他父親素來沒有使他憂悶，說：「你是做什麼呢？」他甚俊美，生在押沙龍之後。**找五十個人走在前面充當王。那是什麼樣的王？那個場面真的挺搞笑的。但是亞多尼雅確實得到了大衛幾位主要官員的支持。其中包括元帥約押和祭司亞比亞他。這兩個人都是大衛的老朋友和忠實助手。但是現在他們背棄了大衛，與亞多尼雅站在一起。然後亞多尼雅舉行了就職儀式，自立為王。最離譜的是，亞多尼雅甚至沒有告訴父親。這就像一個兒子成為新任的總裁，而他的父親仍是公司的董事長。亞多尼雅是一個典型被寵壞的孩子，他的父親從不干預他的所作所為。但是現在，他不是浪費父親的錢去買新車，他是奪權要當王！亞多尼雅是否知道需要什麼本事才能成為王，或者王實際上做些什麼？也許他只專注於他可以得到的利益。如果王子的生活優遊自在，那麼做王豈不是更享受嗎？聖經沒有記載大衛如何教育他的孩子，但是有一些明顯的負面跡象。之前暗嫩侵犯了他同父異母的妹妹她瑪。她瑪的親生兄弟押沙龍因此殺死了暗嫩。後來，押沙龍甚至試圖奪取王位。在這一系列事件中，大衛似乎保持沉默，不願管教自己的孩子。現在另一個兒子反對他。大衛是個偉大的王，但是他沒有盡到父親的責任。這是我們可以從這裡學到的第二個功課：

家必須是一個使人長大成熟的地方。

你是怎麼樣的父母，你的後代便會成為怎麼樣的孩子。他們是整齊或是隨便，友善或粗魯，節儉或浪費等，他們都是學你的。從嬰兒起，他們就有內置的錄影機，捕捉在家中看到的一切。然後他們會模仿你。許多父親都有成功的事業。但是沒有人可以替代你在家裡的位置。不久，你的孩子將離開家，學習獨立。他們將如何做決定？如果他們在家裡時不將自己委身於神，那麼要他們以後信主可能就會更加困難。讓我和中間的父親們互相勉勵：神把這個責任託付給你。兒童主日學老師和牧師無法代替你。你必須在家裡樹立敬虔的榜樣。花時間陪伴小孩，了解他們關心的事情，並以聖經的原則來塑造他們的思想。

3. 果斷新王 Fine King

現在以色列落入一個冒牌假王的手中。但是神以祂的主權挫敗了亞多尼雅的陰謀。在神心目中早已有了一位果斷新王。神通過先知拿單達成祂的旨意。聽聽拿單在 12-14 節中對拔示巴的建議：12「現在我可以給你出個主意，好保全你和你兒子所羅門的性命。13 你進去見大衛王，對他說：『我主我王啊，你不曾向婢女起誓說：你兒子所羅門必接續我作王，坐在我的位上嗎？現在亞多尼雅怎麼作了王呢？』14 你還與王說話的時候，我也隨後進去，證實你的話。」拔示巴是所羅門的親生母親，而亞多尼雅生於另一個媽媽。從表面上看，這似乎是一場權力鬥爭的計劃。實際上，神早些時候曾說過所羅門將是下一任的王。在歷代志上 22:9-10 中，大衛告訴所羅門神給他建造聖殿的指示：9「『你要生一個兒子，他必作太平的人；我必使他安靜，不被四圍的仇敵擾亂。他的名要叫所羅門。他在位的日子，我必使以色列人平安康泰。10 他必為我的名建造殿宇。他要作我的子；我要作他的父。他作以色列王；我必堅定他的國位，直到永遠。』」因此，大衛和所羅門都明白神的心意。拔示巴依照拿單的建議，將請求帶給了大衛。大衛同意就在當天使所羅門成為下一任的王。整個國家都為之歡欣喜樂。亞多尼雅聽到騷動，意識到發生了什麼事，他便馬上逃命。但是所羅門宣布特赦，並要求亞多尼雅回家。

此後不久，大衛知道他離世的日子近了。他召集所羅門，並給他一些最後的吩咐。首先是一些屬靈上的指示。讓我們看 2:2-4：2「我現在要走世人必走的路。所以，你當剛強，作大丈夫，3 遵守耶和華你神所吩咐的，照著摩西律法上所寫的行主的道，謹守他的律例、誠命、典章、法度。這樣，你無論做什麼事，不拘往何處去，盡都亨通。4 耶和華必成就向我所應許的話說：『你的子孫若謹慎自己的行為，盡心盡意誠誠實實地行在我面前，就不斷人坐以色列的國位。』」大衛鼓勵所羅門成為一個堅強的人。除了在戰場上做硬漢之外，最重要的是成為堅守神命令的人。所羅門必須遵守神的律法。大衛並不是個完美的人。但是神形容他為「合神心意的人」。大衛在一切事上都依靠神。當神指出他的罪時，他尋求神的饒恕。在這裡，我們可以得出另一個人生教訓：

神不看我們的手，祂乃是看我們的心。

神尋找願意順服祂的人。祂會裝備祂所呼召的人。除了屬靈上的指示之外，大衛還提供了一些政治上的指示。他要求所羅門處理一些舊帳。大衛命令所羅門殺死一些人。我們可能會覺得這個段落令人不舒服。首先是約押。請讀 2:5-6 - 5「你知道洗魯雅的儿子約押向我所行的，就是殺了以色列的兩個元帥：尼珥的儿子押尼珥和益帖的儿子亞瑪撒。他在太平之時流這二人的血，如在爭戰之時一樣，將這血染了腰間束的帶和腳上穿的鞋。6 所以你要照你的智慧行，不容他白頭安然下陰間。」約押出於競爭而殺死兩名軍官。這些情節分別記載在撒母耳記下第 3 章和第 20 章中。大衛要求所羅門為約押流無辜人的血這個罪報仇。儘管約押是一位民族英雄，但他是一個狡猾的人，並且傾向於自作主張。押沙龍背叛大衛，後來他迅速逃亡。約押違反了大衛的明確指示，殺死押沙龍。大衛知道約押將對所羅門構成潛在威脅。畢竟，他與亞多尼雅串通奪權。

除了約押，大衛還提到了示每。請看 2:8-9 - 8 在你這裡有巴戶琳的便雅憫人，基拉的儿子示每；我往瑪哈念去的那日，他用狠毒的言語咒罵我，後來卻下約但河迎接我，我就指著耶和華向他起誓說：『我必不用刀殺你。』9 現在你不要以他為無罪。你是聰明人，必

知道怎樣待他，使他白頭見殺，流血下到陰間。」大衛逃避押沙龍的時候，示每咒詛大衛，並責怪他屠殺掃羅王的家族。這個故事記載在撒母耳記下第 16 章。押沙龍被殺後，大衛回到皇宮。示每是最早歡迎王歸來的人之一。示每知道自己有麻煩了。因此，他請求大衛的寬恕。大衛願意赦免示每。大衛現在是否收回了諾言？一個可能性是大衛不希望留下任何掃羅的支持者，對所羅門的統治造成影響。大衛對約押和示每的建議是一樣的：在他們年老之前就將他們除掉。因此，所羅門下令比拿雅把他們兩個人殺死。

所羅門完成了父親的命令後，他仍然需要處理另外兩個人。其中一人就是亞多尼雅。大衛去世後，亞多尼雅向拔示巴提出一個要求。讓我們看看 2:15-17 - 15 亞多尼雅說：「你知道國原是歸我的，以色列眾人都仰望我作王，不料，國反歸了我兄弟，因他得國是出乎耶和華。16 現在我有一件事求你，望你不要推辭。」拔示巴說：「你說吧。」17 他說：「求你請所羅門王將書念的女子亞比煞賜我為妻，因他必不推辭你。」表面上看來，亞多尼雅對一位漂亮的女孩很感興趣。但是請注意，亞多尼雅也提到誰有資格當王的問題。亞比煞被視為大衛的最後一個妃子。得到那個女孩子，就象徵亞多尼雅篡位。當初大衛逃避押沙龍時，他把十個嬪妃留在皇宮中。押沙龍做了一件事令人震驚的事，當眾與那些女士睡覺。這就像一個人搶走別人的跑車或油畫，然後公開展示，以為自己是物主。所羅門正是這樣理解亞多尼雅的動機。請聽第 22 節：所羅門王對他母親說：「為何單替他求書念的女子亞比煞呢？也可以為他求國吧！他是我的哥哥，他有祭司亞比亞他和洗魯雅的兒子約押為輔佐。」亞多尼雅沒有死心，還是在做皇帝夢。所羅門別無選擇，只好判處亞多尼雅死刑。

所羅門最後要處理的是祭師亞比亞他。像約押一樣，亞比亞他是大衛的長期忠心助手。此外，亞比亞他也抬過神的約櫃。由於這些原因，所羅門免了亞比亞他的命，並允許他光榮地辭職。也許所羅門覺得一位年老的神職人員不會幹什麼壞事。這段經文說，通過廢除亞比亞他的職位，神應驗了撒母耳關於以利家的預言。亞比亞他是祭司以利第五代的後人。當時，以利的兩個兒子犯了嚴重的罪，但以利卻沒有管教他們。因此，神宣告祂的審判。以利的後代不會永遠當祭師，他的家族也不會有老年人。神藉著所羅門的決定來實現祂的預言。

此後，所羅門任命比拿雅為元帥代替約押，撒督接任亞比亞他的祭師職位。在所有舊帳都解決了之後，所羅門可以專注於王的職務。作者在第二章中兩次描述所羅門的國「甚是堅固」。只要所羅門繼續依靠神，以色列就會前途光明。

結論 CONCLUSION

人們可能在乎自己的利益，但神所關注的是要延續祂的約。我們在一系列事件中看到了不同角色如何追求自己的好處。我們在隨後的學習中會看到更混亂的局面。儘管人是有罪性的，但是神仍然不斷地尋找願意順服並跟隨祂的人。最終，神必然會實現祂的應許。神的某些應許是有條件性的。如果我們順服祂，祂就會祝福我們。但是祂的其他應許是沒有條件的。雖然人有私心，但是神仍會成就祂的計劃。最重要的應許之一就是耶穌這位彌賽亞成為大衛的後裔。