

# LIFE IN THE KINGDOM A STUDY OF 1 AND 2 KINGS

## Preparation for Living in the Kingdom

TEXT: 1 Kings 1-4

### I. THE GIFT OF KINGDOM LIVING

#### A. Came by the grace of God.

2 Sam. 7:8-11 <sup>8</sup> Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup> And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth. <sup>10</sup> Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, <sup>11</sup> since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

#### B. Came through the faithfulness of his father.

1 Kings 1:29-30 <sup>29</sup> And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, <sup>30</sup> just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."

#### C. Came not because Solomon earned or deserved.

#### D. So also is our entrance into the Kingdom of God.

##### 1. By grace, through faith, not of ourselves.

Eph. 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2. **By the faithfulness of others:** parents, witnessing friend, SS teacher, preacher, radio or TV preacher, evangelist

3. Have you entered the Kingdom of God by receiving the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ by coming to faith in Him? Solomon did not have to receive the kingship or the kingdom. It comes as a gift; it must be received that way.

Now the next things we look at are not things Solomon did in order to receive the kingdom, but in order to live in the kingdom he had received by the grace of

God. And as the Holy Spirit leads us to understanding the parallels for the Kingdom of God, let us remember that we are to do these things for successful, happy, living in the kingdom; not as prerequisites for entering the kingdom.

## II. CLEANSING FOR KINGDOM LIVING

### A. There were some folk in the kingdom that were going to hinder successful living in the kingdom.

**They had to be removed.**

#### 1. Solomon's half brother Adonijah - the usurper of the throne.

When King David was on his death bed, Adonijah declared himself king. He knew this was not his father's will or God's will, but he presumed to enact his own will. When Solomon ascended the throne, he at first allowed Adonijah to live. But when Adonijah sought to make David's last wife his own wife, Solomon saw that his wicked ways were unceasing; and he had the usurper of the throne executed.

#### 2. Abiathar, the high priest, sought favor with politically powerful Adonijah more than with God. Solomon replaced him and sent him into exile.

#### 3. Joab, the general of the army who had turn traitor and followed Adonijah. He was executed by the new commander of the military forces of Israel.

#### 4. Shimei, who had been a thorn in David's side for years, was given one final chance to demonstrate loyalty through obedience. He failed and was executed.

**These were removed not in order to gain the kingdom, but to make living in the kingdom and ruling as king successful.** Solomon could have allowed them to live and stay, but these would have always undermined him, circumvented his rule, led others astray, and hindered the purpose God had for him in being king.

**Likewise there are at times in our lives things that hinder our living successfully and abundantly in the Kingdom of God which need to be removed.** It is not that the failure to remove them means we are not in the Kingdom of God, but the failure to remove them hinders our successful living and working in the Kingdom.

#### a. Philosophies that usurp the throne that belongs only to the Lord Jesus.

##### 1) The philosophy of evolution has done this to some.

##### 2) The philosophy of psychotherapy has done this to others.

But even well intentioned philosophies, with many good thoughts within them, can hinder successful living in the Kingdom of God if they are allowed to usurp the throne by leading a person to make decisions not

based upon the Lord Jesus and His Word but upon this controlling and usurping philosophy.

**b. Activities can prove traitorous in reducing our loyalty to the Lord.**

These activities do not in themselves have to be wicked to be traitorous. They just have to infringe upon territory that belongs to the Lord.

When we do not worship, or study the Bible, or pray, or give, or witness, or fellowship with fellow believers because we are too busy with some recreational activity then we have a traitor in the kingdom of our lives that hinders successful, abundant living in the Kingdom of God.

It needs to be removed.

Parents, sometimes we have to do similar things for our kids.

Illustration: I told you this story about 3 years ago, but it so illustrates this point, pardon me if I tell it again: I heard on the radio about a boy's hand which had three scars. If you had asked them how they got there, you might have been horrified to hear him answer, "From my mother's fingernails."

But your impression would change if you heard the whole story. Young Michael was swimming in the middle of a pond with a sister and cousin behind their house here in Florida where the family had just moved. His mother had just come to the shore's edge to call him in to do some chores when she heard a neighbor across the way scream for the kids to swim to shore. She looked, and saw an 11 ft. alligator headed right for the kids.

The girls heard the warning and swam for shore; but Michael had on his mask and snorkel, so with his head buried in the water, calmly moving about with his swim fins, he was oblivious to the danger that glided dangerously straight toward his head.

Actually, the mask and snorkel that kept Michael unaware of his perilous predicament probably saved his life. As the huge jaws of the giant gator engulfed the little boy's head and upper body, the upright snorkel acted like the proverbial stick stuck in the open mouth of the alligator. Michael struggled free, leaving the gator with the mask and snorkel in its jaws. Michael swam for shore, underwater at first, while the gator circled, looking for its prey.

Michael surfaced for air about twenty feet from safety and the alligator immediately spotted him. Just as Michael reached the outstretched arm of his mother, the gator engulfed his legs. What ensued was essentially a tug of war between a 400 lb. alligator and a 100 lb. mother for the life of little Michael. Eventually the swim fins came off in the gator's mouth and Michael's mother pulled him to the safety of the shore.

A few months later, you would hardly have been able to detect any sign of this awesome ordeal in this little boy's life. A long scar on his head was covered by his bushy brown hair. His shoes and socks hid the scars from the gator's teeth imbedded in his feet. The only thing at all that showed were three scars on his hand, caused not by the gator, but by his mother as she hung on to her son with all she had to pull him from the jaws of death.

Oh parents, may the scars on our children's lives be from those times that we wrestled them from those who would usurp the authority of the Lord Jesus in their lives or from some pursuit that would draw their loyalty away from the Savior.

**Like Solomon we learn, to live abundantly, successfully in the kingdom, there are some things we must get rid of.**