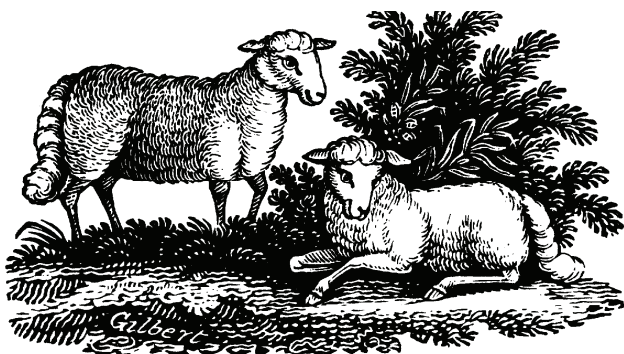




FEED MY SHEEP

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The Stone Kingdom—Whose?

As I head towards the conclusion of both the life of David and of this very lengthy series of studies on *The Character of Saul and David*, I want to draw your attention once more to 1 Kings, chapter 1. Several issues back (#119, the October 2008 issue), we deliberately skimmed over some verses because I did not wish to interrupt the train of thought we were pursuing at the time. Now we can return there to draw out deeper lessons. To set the scene once again, David is on his deathbed and all his family is aware of it. Seeing the opportunity to grab the throne of his father, the late Absalom's full brother, Adonijah, takes action to, in effect, declare himself king.

1 Kings 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom.

Verse 6 records that Adonijah was a “goodly” man. It is the Hebrew word **טוֹב** *towb* {tobe} and it has a wide variety of meanings, depending upon the context. It appears 14 times in the first three chapters of Genesis alone. It can mean morally good or it can simply mean good-looking or handsome. The context of the life of Adonijah suggests it means handsome and not morally good. In other words, he was a good-looking politician, just

as his older brother, Absalom, had been. Verse six also suggests a confirmation of a weakness in David's character which we have seen before in these studies; namely, that David's reluctance to discipline his children. Notice it was not a matter of Adonijah displeasing his father, but it states that David had not displeased Adonijah—in other words, the classic case of a spoiled child. Dr. Spock to David: “Don't you dare upset your son by chiding his wayward behavior, Daddio!”

Having never been subjected to significant and consistent fatherly discipline, Adonijah no doubt thought it would be a piece of cake for him to proclaim himself king. But it would be wise for him to have some powerful allies, so he looked to the chief of the military forces, cousin Joab, and one of the co-high priests, Abiathar.

7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him.

However, Adonijah knew better than to try to obtain support from certain other high officials; namely, Zadok, the other co-high priest, and Nathan, the prophet and Benaiah, another top military man.

8 But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which *belonged* to David, were not with Adonijah.

9 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zohemoth, which is by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not.

11 Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not?

Notice that verse 5 records the number 50. This number has a dual meaning. It is associated with both Pentecost and the Jubilee of Tabernacles. In other words, it is associated with non-overcomer believers (as represented by the OT Pentecostal, King Saul), and it is also associated with the overcomers (as represented by the OT Tabernacles-man, the type of Christ, King David).

For new readers, our reference to Pentecost or Pentecostals is not certainly not aimed specifically at the modern-day Pentecostal movement or its various related denominations. As in all parts of Christianity, there may be some overcomers, while the majority will be non-overcomers (i.e., Pentecostals).

Thus when the number 50 appears, the context will tell us which one is in view. In the case of Adonijah, it is clear that he follows the character of his brother, Absalom, and of King Saul. He follows the non-overcomer path of "let's stop at the Pentecost level." As one applies this to believers of all ages, one must keep in mind that in many if not most cases, they stop at that stage in their spiritual growth because they do not know there is more...Which is a simple example of the sovereignty of God. We all stop or continue according to Father's perfect Plan. Keeping the 50/Pentecost connection in mind, look at verse 9 again.

9 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zohemoth, which is by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

From a types and shadows perspective, this had to have been a Pentecostal event. No numbers are recorded here, but it contrasts with the 1,000 of every animal sacrificed for the inauguration of Solomon, whose reign typifies the Age of Tabernacles. The number 1,000 signifies the glory, which is associated with Tabernacles.

Adonijah was a pretender to the throne. He did not belong there. He was a non-overcomer. Only overcomers are truly qualified to rule. Saul, in a sense, did not belong on the throne either. The monarchy of Israel had been prophesied to come from the tribe of Judah. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin. Thus when God installed Saul as Israel's first king, poor Saul had been set up *by God* to fail. (There's that sovereignty thing again!)

Saul was doomed from the start. He was predestined to fail. Did God make a mistake? Did God forget that He had promised that the monarchy of Israel would come from Judah, not Benjamin? No, He had installed Saul on the throne for a reason: for David's learning, for the nation of Israel's learning, for our learning. Those were/are necessary steps in the progression to perfection.

In the same way, the realm of Pentecost, which Saul symbolized, is predestined to fail. We have seen leadership of both church and state for 2,000 years manifest as a mixture of good and evil, but primarily of evil, of scandals and failure. We do not need to rehearse here the litany of abuses by popes and potentates in Christendom throughout the centuries. We need only note that it continues in our day in all denominations and branches of Christianity—Catholic, Protestant, independents, Eastern Orthodox, et al., and in all governments.

The fact that there are countless failures is not new. What is new is that God is now making the understanding of the "why" of all the failures known—at least to those whom He has called to know. We are putting our understanding of it "out there" for the world to see. God and His Spirit

will cause whom He wills to understand. It is the time for these things to be made public, because there is a New Age coming: the Age of Tabernacles. I seek to be a New Ager in that sense.

Where these two inauguration feasts took place is highly prophetic. Adonijah's false inauguration took place (verse 9) "by the stone of Zohheleth, which *is* by Enrogel." In verse 33, it tells us that Solomon's legitimate inauguration, the place where he was to be anointed king, was at a place called Gihon.

Do you remember that when King Saul was chasing David, and they were in the mountains with Saul was on one side and David on the other, how they were within *hearing* distance? Same here. Adonijah's guests could *hear* the shouts of celebration at the anointing of Solomon. They could hear but they could not see. Pentecost is about *hearing* the voice of God; in Tabernacles we will *see* Him as He is.

Recall further how the name of that mountain between Saul and David meant a "cliff of separation" or "division." It symbolized the division between the wheat and the barley, the non-overcomers from the overcomers, those who stop at Pentecost and those who press on towards Tabernacles.

Do you suppose that at the first resurrection—when the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout (1 Thessalonians 4:16), that the non-overcomers will *hear* the shouts of celebration at the anointing of the overcomers to rule and reign with Christ?

As when Saul pursued David in the "mountains" (nations) of Israel, so here again we have the division: Those who follow the usurper, the one who desires to rule, not to serve the people, but only to satisfy his own lusts for power, wealth and fame. Contrast them to those who follow David, who seek to be humble servants, and whose Father will eventually call them to "come up hither" and sit on my throne with me.

The word Zohheleth in verse 9 means "serpent." Thus Adonijah, the antichrist-type, if you will, is attempting to have himself crowned king of Israel at a place called "the stone of the serpent." The serpent's stone! How fitting for a usurper!

Do you see the consistent pattern of the counterfeit versus the Real? Who is the real Stone? Jesus is the true Stone, isn't He? And the kingdom to come will be **Jesus' Stone Kingdom**, *not the serpent's stone kingdom*.

In contrast, Solomon was anointed at Gihon. Gihon means "bursting forth." It was the **only natural spring of water** in or near Jerusalem. Another Bible reference book says that Gihon was "the **only fountain of living water** in Jerusalem!" Do you see that all this symbolism points to the true Stone, Jesus the anointed, Jesus the Christ? Glory to God!

Another reference source says that Gihon "...is the **one true spring** of Jerusalem." In this event Solomon prefigures Jesus the anointed in the Age of Tabernacles. And in the gospel of John, during the **feast of Tabernacles**...

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast [of Tabernacles], Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Gihon! The only true source of living water for (New) Jerusalem! But was Jesus speaking of natural spring water like Gihon in the Old Testament? No, that was the type and shadow! John explains...

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

At some point early in the Age of Tabernacles, those who are called to be overcomers of the

David Company—the Barley Company—will manifest Christ completely and fully, and out of their inmost being will flow out to all whom they meet, the Holy Spirit of the Living God. For more in this same vein, we recommend the reader obtain our audio album A-127, entitled *Sarah Palin, A Prophetic Perspective* (\$24 ppd.) because parts 3 & 4 of this six-part album is entitled: *Sarah Palin, Sweetwater and Resurrection*.

Conclusion of Series

Well, it has been a long journey in this study of the Character of Saul and David. From the coronation of King Saul to the coronation of King Solomon, it was 80 years in the history of Israel. These several years of *Feed My Sheep* have been based upon my lectures covering 54 CDs/audio tapes. And yet, you know as well as I do, that as much depth and richness as we have seen in the Word, that we have just *barley* scratched the surface. Oh, did I say barley? As in overcomers?

We have tried to show you not only what actually happened in those historical events, but we have tried to show you how they apply to each of us on a personal level as we all struggle to jet-tison the Saul character in us, even as we learn to forgive the Sauls around us...you know, the ones who tend to make our lives miserable—until we see and give thanks for Father's higher purpose for bringing them into our lives. Moreover, we have tried to illuminate how these stories have prophesied of the church age, and how they also still prophecy of the millennial kingdom age just ahead. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

We have seen how King Saul was always associated with wheat and asses and cattle, symbols of Pentecost and the Pentecostal realm. It is a realm of imperfection. A realm of non-overcomers, a realm where Saul-type leaders line their pockets at the expense of the flock. They drive them like cattle rather than lead them like sheep. That is because Saul-type leaders have not the spirit or character of shepherds, but rather of cowboys. I have no comment on former President

Bush in that regard. God will be the judge. More often than not, we find that the leader of a nation is a reflection of the hearts of the people. As it says in the book of Jeremiah...

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it? [NASV]

Is it the leadership (of church and state) that is at fault? Or are the people at fault? How about: both! As a symbol of church rulership for the past 2,000 years, Saul began to rule on his own authority. He gave lip service to God, but he just wanted to do things his own way. And *the people loved it so...* for a while. Throughout history, the cycle repeats, what the people thought were “the good times” soon turn sour and bitter as the oppression and tyranny of a Saul begins to get intense. Sooner or oftentimes later, the people begin to cry out and yearn for freedom.

Finally, either God sends a prophet and the people repent and *then* God sends a godly civil leader. Or—in some cases—God sends a godly civil leader *first*, like David, an overcomer type, who then leads the people *by example* to change their hearts back to God, and the nation is once again blest. As Oswald Spengler and many others have noted, it seems to be the cycle of history.

But behind it all is God Almighty. The Supreme Creator directs *all* rulers of church and state in *everything*. And through the good and the bad—as we see it—Yahweh accomplishes His divine Plan. And He will bring all to perfection in the ages of the ages to come. Glory hallelujah! All praise and honor to the King of kings!

Feed My Sheep is a part of the teaching ministry of James W. Bruggeman and is sent out freely. We reserve the right to discontinue sending it at any time to any one. The tithes and gifts of those who are fed by this publication make it possible for us to continue in ministry. Gifts should be sent to P.O. Box 5695, Asheville, NC 28813. Thank you for your support.