

Abiathar is ready to scheme again. But just once can I actually get Adonijah the throne?

On Jul 13, 2018, at 11:07 AM, Wolcott, Jason A <jason-wolcott@uiowa.edu> wrote:

Companions,

Here is a preliminary cast for the Thrice Illustrious Master degree. It is scheduled for Thursday 9 August at 5:00 PM in the Westview Room. (Note the date and time, this is a change from previous years.) Please have parts memorized.

Let me know ASAP if you are unavailable.

Don Moiser – David
Randy Crouch – Zadok
Dennis Boehmer – Adonijah
Charlie Smithson- Abiathar
Shane Harshbarger- Joab
Kevin Smith – Nathan
Rick McCampbell - Beniah

Fraternally,

Jason

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SCENE I

CONSPIRACY TO PLACE ADONIJAH ON THE THRONE

CHARACTERS;

Captain of the Host, whose mother was Zeruah, King David's sister
Adonijah, fourth son of David by his wife, Haggith.
Abiathar, A Priest.

Stage Setting:

Outdoor or forest backdrop preferred.

(Joab and Abiathar enter as in conversation) -

Abiathar:... Long have I known thee, Joab, to have been a ruthless warrior
and as Captain of the Host, to have done much to keep David
on his throne, What cunning art thou now planning?

Joab: ... Why speak to me of cunning, Abiathar, and thou a High Priest?
What we need on the throne is young blood, and tell thee
from what I hear at the Palace, now is the time to place
Adonijah there.

Abiathar:.... *(As if surprised)* Adonijah? Hmm. *(Thinks for a Moment)* Why not?
We could control him better than Solomon. But look, here comes
Adonijah now. *(Adonijah enters)*

Joab:..... Hail, King Adonijah.

Adonijah:... King Adonijah? Why this salutation?

Joab:..... Come closer, Adonijah, we would counsel with thee as to thy
future. You know I have served your father, King David, long
and faithfully. Yes, it was even I who took the citadel at
Jerusalem and was at the time acclaimed chief in command. Then
it was that your father cast the Jebusites out of Jerusalem
and called it by his own name, the City of David. The Canaanites
have been cast out. The Philistines have been conquered.
Damascus and other parts of Syria have been subjugated and all
the tribes are now united under David and - - -

Abiathar:..... *(Interrupting)* Wars, wars, nothing but wars. Yet once did David
fail to hear the voice of Jehovah, speaking through Nathan, the
Prophet, when he ordered thee, Joab, to go and number the multi-
tude. And did not hearken to the voice of God, speaking through
Nathan, the Prophet, but said, "Let me fall now into the hand of
the Lord, for every great are His mercies: but let me not fall
into the hand of man." And because he had chosen against the
will of God, who will ever forget the pestilence that followed
when 70,000 fell by the sword of the Lord. But when David saw
the angel of the Lord, standing between earth and heaven, with a
drawn sword stretched over Jerusalem, then did he cry unto God
saying," Is it not that I commanded the people to be numbered

Even it is I that has sinned and done evil indeed. Let thine hand, Oh Lord, my God, be upon me, but not on my people, that they should be plagued.” Then after an Altar had been set up and burnt offerings and peace offerings had been offered unto the Lord, the angel of the Lord put up his sword and David knew that the Lord was pleased with his offerings. And the pestilence then subsided. Yes, David was a great a warrior, but he was also a God-fearing man.

Adonijah:..... Why, my Companions, has thou told me all this? Everyone knows the part you have both played in helping my father, King David, to build up a mighty kingdom; and also, that because he has polluted himself with wars, God has prohibited him from building the Temple, and that He has charged Solomon to build it.

Joab:..... Listen, Adonijah, now that King David is old and stricken in years, his days are numbered. Cans't thou think of a better time to assert thy right to the Throne.

Adonijah:..... (*Meditating*) Why not? What sayest thou, Abiathar? Thou hast long been a High Priest.

Abiathar:..... They have covered the old King with clothes, but he has no heat. Surely he will not be with us long now.

Adonijah:..... Long have I looked for this hour. (*To himself*) King Adonijah, King Adonijah. (*Exalting himself*) Joab, Captain of the Host, go ye forth and prepare me many chariots and horses and see to it that 50 men run before me. King Adonijah (*Exalting himself*) Abiathar, tonight I prepare a feast in the King's palace. but say ye naught to Solomon or to Nathan or to Zadok. So speaks King Adonijah.

Joab:..... Spoken like the son of a great King, God Save King Adonijah.

Abiathar:..... God save King Adonijah.
(*Exit Joab and Abiathar*)

Adonijah:..... Woe unto thee now, Solomon, my brother, and unto thee, Bathsheba, thy mother, King Adonijah. Ha Ha Ha (*Struts off*)

End of Scene I

SCENE II
PERTAINING TO THE PLEADINGS OF BATH-SHEBA AND NATHAN IN BEHALF
SOLOMON

Characters:

Nathan, the Prophet
Zadok, the High Priest
Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada

Stage Setting:

Outside King David's Chamber in the Palace.

(Zadok and Benaiah are in conversation)

Zadok:.... I tell thee, Benaiah, Adonijah is already exalting himself, for he has called all the sons of the king and - - -

Benaiah..... *(Interrupting)* Yea, Zadok, I know, and he has also called Joab and Abiathar, but you and me and Nathan and Solomon he has not called.

Zadok:..... Tis a sad state of affairs. Hast Nathan spoken unto Bath-Sheba and warned her that she should plead with our Lord David in behalf of Solomon? With Adonijah as King, our lives will be worthless.

Benaiah:... Batha-Sheba has hearkened unto Nathan and even now is pleading with David for, as I came from the other side of the Chamber, I over-heard her saying . . . "My Lord, thou swearest by the Lord, thy God, unto thy handmaid saying 'Assuredly, Solomon, thy son, shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne,' And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth and my Lord, the King, thou knowest it not. And he has slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance and he has called all the sons of the King, and Abiathar, the Priest, and Joab, the Captain of the Host, but Solomon, my son, he has not called. And all the people of Israel are looking to thee, My Lord, O King, that thou shouldst tell them who shall sit upon thy throne after thee. Otherwise, it shall come to pass, when my Lord, the King shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son, Solomon, shall be counted offenders."

Zadok:..... Look, Nathan now cometh from the King's Chambers *(Nathan enters)*
O Prophet, what news?

Nathan:..... Oh, my Companion, I believe the eyes of our Lord, the King, have been opened, for as Bath-Sheba was finishing her plea, I entered the Chamber as we hadst agreed upon and addressed the King with these words: "My Lord, O King, hast thou said, 'Adonijah shall sit upon my throne and reign after me'? My Lord, Adonijah is gone this day and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundan-

ance and hath called all the Kings sons and Joab, the Captain of the Host, and Abiathar, the Priest, and behold, they eat and drink before him and say, "God save King Adonijah." But me, even me, thy servant, and Zadok, thy Priest, and Beniah, Thy Servant, and Solomon, thy son, hath he not called.

Is this thing done by my Lord, the King? And hast thou not showed it unto thy servant, who should sit upon the throne of my Lord, the King, after Him?" Then as I was leaving, King David turned to Bath-Sheba and swore: "As the Lord Liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all distress. I swear unto thee by the Lord God of Israel, assuredly, thy son Solomon shall reign after me and shall sit upon my throne in my stead."

(A servant enters and announces)

Servant:... King David desires the presence of Nathan, the Prophet, at once.

(Servant exits - Nathan follows)

Zadok:..... *(Raising his arms in supplication)* May the God of our fathers open the eyes of David, our King, that he may see the cupidity of his son, Adonijah, and we trust, O Lord, that Solomon may take his rightful place on the throne of Israel.

(Nathan returns with a proclamation in his hands)

Zadok:.... How now, O Nathan?

Nathan:.... Listed, I pray thee, to this proclamation of David:

"Take with you the servants of your Lord and cause Solomon, my son to ride upon mine own mule and bring him to the fountain of Gihon and there let Zadok, the Priest, and Nathan, the Prophet, anoint him King over Israel, and blow ye with the trumpet and say, ' God save King Solomon.' Then shall ye come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judas."

Nathan:.... *(After reading proclamation)* Benaiah, go ye and prepare Solomon for his journey to Gihon.

(Benaiah chooses a candidate from the class and takes him outside to be robed for the ceremony of anointing)

(End of Scene II)

SCENE III
THE ANOINTING

Characters:

Zadok: the High Priest
Nathan, the Prophet
Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada

Stage Setting:

Lodge room with the Altar in center - Great Lights displayed as in the opening. Suitable music maybe played as Zadok and Nathan enter (*slowly*) to take their stations. Nathan (J.W.) in the South, Zadok (S.W.) in the West. East is Vacant. After they are seated, Benaiah conducts candidate through preparation room door. (*Candidate of his left*) and once around the Altar halting at the J.W. Station. As the music fades out he gives (***) with his foot.

Nathan :... (*Rises*) Who come here?

Benaiah:..... Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, who brings Solomon chosen of David.

Nathan:..... My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with Thee, so that thou inclined thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; yea; if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hidden treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous; he is a buckler to them that walk rightly.
(*Prov. 2, 1-7*)

Thus sayeth Nathan: Solomon, thou shalt have knowledge and be the wisest of all men. (*Nathan is seated*)

(*Benaiah conducts candidate once more around the room, halting at SW station where he gives (* * *) with his foot.*)

Zadok:..... (*Rises*) Who come here?

Benaiah,:..... Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, who brings Solomon chosen of David.

Zadok:..... My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the tablet of thine heart; so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways Acknowledge

Him, and He shall direct thy paths. (*Prov. 3, 1-60*)
Benaiah, you will now conduct Solomon to the Altar for the ceremony of anointing. (*Zadok is seated*).

(Candidate is conducted to Altar, caused to kneel on both knees, left hand over heart, right hand stretched forward resting on the Great Lights. When this is done, Zadok and Nathan rise in unison, Nathan goes to South side of Altar, Zadok passing on North goes to East of Altar, after Zadok has passed, Benaiah takes position on North side of Alter) The Class will please rise.

Zadok:..... Solomon, thou hast been this day selected by David, thy father, to be King over all Israel and Judah, and he hath given us strictly in charge to anoint thee to sit upon the throne after him. We now, therefore, ask of thee if thou art willing to take upon thyself an obligation to discharge the duties of this office to which thou art newly elected and to become a Thrice Illustrious Master? (*Candidate answers*) The Class will put your left hand over your heart, the right hand stretched forward. Then say, I pronounce your name is full and repeat after me;

OBLIGATION

I _____, on my honor as a Master and before Jehovah do vow; that I will serve my fellow men with truth and fidelity; that I will rule my subjects with fairness and equality; judge with wisdom and honor; and will never allow the strong to oppress the weak, so far as in my power to prevent it. All this I vow with the hope that should I violate the same that Jehovah will forget me in my hour of need and that my heart will be torn with grief and remorse. Amen.

Zadok:..... Solomon, thou hast assumed the vow and we shall now anoint thee King. (*Candidates may drop their hands*)
(Benaiah presents trowel and Nathan presents vessel containing oil to Zadok. Benaiah and Nathan then step to either side of candidate and with their left hands form a triangle on candidates head)

Zadok:.... *(Dips trowel in oil)* I anoint thee King of Israel and Judah. *(Drops oil on candidate's head.)* May Jehovah bless thee and keep thee.
(Trumpet fanfare sounds after which the officers step back one pace, stretch their right hands forward, palms down and say in unison)
God Save King Solomon.

(Benaiah goes to candidate and assists him to rise)

Zadok:..... This is the due guard of a Thrice Illustrious Master. *(Extends right hand forward, palm down)* It alludes to the position your right hand was placed in when you took the obligation and is the sign with which you salute the presiding officer on entering or retiring from a Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters. This is the sign *(Left hand over heart)* and alludes to the penalty of your vow. The Pass-Word is “:God Save King Solomon”. Benaiah, you will now conduct King Solomon before his father, David. The class may be seated.

(Benaiah conducts candidate to preparation room followed by Nathan and Zadok)

SCENE IV
DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON. DAVID'S DEATH

Characters:

David, King of Israel
A Young Maiden, Nurse to David (*Optional*)
Solomon, David's son and successor
Benaiah, son of Jehoiada

Setting:

The Throne Room of King David

(Scene opens with David lying on a couch, propped up with pillows and covered with blankets, being attended by the nursemaid. A stool is placed on the right of David which may be used by the nursemaid and will later be used by Solomon. Any appropriate hymn is played as the curtains are opened.)

*(Benaiah and Solomon enter and halt just inside door; when the hymn is finished Benaiah gives (***) with foot).*

Optional Prayer

(This prayer may be used after Benaiah and Candidate have entered, but after the hymn is finished and before the knocks by Benaiah)

David:...

Oh Lord, there is none like Thee, neither is there any God besides Thee; and what nation in the earth is like thy People, Israel, who God has redeemed out of Egypt to be his people by driving out other nations from before them. Therefore, O Lord, let the thing which thou hast said concerning thy servant and concerning his house be established as Thou hast said. That thy name be magnified forever saying "Behold, when thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers. I will set up thy seed after thee, and will establish his

kingdom, and thy throne shall be established forever." And now O Lord, let it please thee to bless the house of Thy servant as thou has promised, that it may stand before thee forever.

David:..... Who approaches the Throne of the King?

Benaiah:..... Thy Son, Solomon, who has been anointed King of Israel and Judah.

David:..... My son, come a little nearer. (*Candidate takes a step nearer and remains standing*) Benaiah, let us be alone.
(Benaiah and Maiden retire)

David:..... My son, I am indeed glad that thou hast come to me at this time. Nathan, the Prophet, has been to see me. Thy mother Bath-Sheba has also spoken to me. They both have told me of the plot to make thy brother Adonijah King of Israel. Never. Never. Solomon, thou art the man. Thou art the next of King of Israel and I have so proclaimed

throughout all my kingdom. I wish to speak with about thy great inheritance as father to son and advise thee out of my own experience. I have lived my life, have seen God's hand through and all has been for the best. Now I am old and stricken in years. But thou Solomon art young with thy whole life before thee. Oh, my son, remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, or the years draw night, when thou shalt say,
I have no pleasure in them.

My son, "I go the way of all earth; be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever turnest thyself; that the Lord may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, if thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said the Lord) a man on the throne of Israel." (1 Kings 2, 2-4)

I had long wanted to build a house for the Lord my God, but my hands were stained with blood and mine eyes have grown dim from weeping thereover. Yet my God hath said that he will raise from one who shall do this great work and thou, O my son Solomon, art he who shall construct this magnificent Temple. Be thou faithful to this trust and God will provide ways and means for its erection. Of gold and silver and fine things I have many for he Lord's house, to which thou shalt add and multiply in abundance. My worthy friend Hiram of Tyre will also aid thee in thine efforts. Hesitate not to call upon him.

I soon go to sleep with my fathers and thou alone shalt rule my people of Israel. Do thou deal with them kindly, but firmly. They are but children, yet children grow into strong men. Keep thy faith with thy God and He will ever bless thee and keep thee.

My son, thou wilt approach the throne. Thou wilt kneel before the King.

(Solomon kneels on both knees and David crown him with the following words:)

King Saul is dead, King David is about to die, but Israel has a new sovereign. God save King Solomon (*with sign*). My son, approach the throne. Thou art now privileged to be seated at my right hand while I commune with thee further. (*Solomon is seated at right of David*)

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God my strength in whom I will trust my buckler and the horn of my salvation high tower, I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from mine enemies. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; the sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon

the Lord, and cried unto my God; He heard my voice out of his Temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears (*Ps. 18, 2-6*)

The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recomposed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my god. For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me. I was also upright before him and kept myself from mine iniquity. Therefore hath the Lord recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight. With the merciful thou wilt show thyself merciful; and an upright man thou wilt show upright. With the pure thou shalt show thyself pure; and with the thou wilt show thyself forward. For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but will bring down high looks. (*Ps. 18, 20-27*) The Lord will be thy lamp, my son Solomon; the Lord lighten thy darkness.

As for God, his way is perfect; the work of the Lord is tried; He is a buckler to all those that trust in him. For who is God save the Lord? Or who is a rock save our God? It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. (*Ps. 18, 30-32*)

Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and showeth mercy to his anointed, to David and his seed for evermore. (*Ps. 18, 50*)

OPTIONAL RITUAL

It has been said that when an old man dream of his early childhood, it is a sign of approaching death. Last night as I lay on my couch, I dreamed, yea, I dreamed. It seemed in my dream as if I were a boy again,

a

shepherd boy, and innocence had set its seal upon my brow where mother's lips and kissed. My hands were clasped again in those of her who gave me birth. Once more we walked 'neath the balmy skies of blue and sunshine of a fair summerday disturbed not save by the subdued murmurs of the brook of Cedron gurgling on its way from Jerusalem. The grasses quivered and flower in bloom seemed to tell their secrets to each other. At last we knelt, the mother and her child. The mother prayed for blessings on her boy.

(David raises up and continues in a loud vehement voice:)

What contrast now comes over the spirit of my dreams; all is changed. It seem now as if I were in the city of the dead. The tombs give up their dead and stalking ghosts walk from their graves. Yea, I can see them walking now - stalking -stalking - stalking. These ghosts are waving their bony hands at me. They are beckoning to me. Yea, I recognized these ghosts. Theses are the sins of my past life - hypocrisies, prejudices, compromises, dastardly experiences. Knowing I am about to die,

theses
me, to

ancient enemies of mine have come tonight to make terms with
carry my very soul down to hell.

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Do I, David, King of Israel, make terms with sin? Never - get thee gone.
Ah, my ancient enemies have departed but it grows dark, fearfully
dark.

(End of Optional Ritual)

My son, mine eyes grow dim and the candle of life is near its end, but ere
I go promise me this; That thou wilt serve the Lord thy God with all thy
heart, mind and soul and thy neighbor as thyself. Dost thou promise?

(Candidate says: I do". David drops back exhausted and says:)

I can now die in peace. *(After a short pause David continues)*

wise
sting?

My son, it is through the gates of death that we find an entrance to
the place of wages, refreshment and rest. There the design's upon the
Trestle Board will be seen completed. There the adoration of the twelfth
hour will be everlasting joy. There the noontide bliss will eternally shine.
There the scales of doubt and darkness shall fall from my eyes, and the
purposes of the Divine Architect will be displayed in all their splendor.
With the light of this faith beaming upon me. Oh Death, where is thy
Oh grave where is thy victory?

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my
help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth.
Behold he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. *(Ps. 121, 4)*

*(An appropriate hymn may be played as background music as David
recites the 23rd Psalm)*

(King David's voice grows weaker)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his name sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death I will fear no evil; for
thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the Pres-
ence of mine enemies; thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life; and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord forever. *(Ps. 23)*

(David gives septer to Solomon)

16

The Lord bless thee and keep thee
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee and
be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee
and give thee peace. *(Num. 6, 24)*

(David falls over on his throne - dead)