

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 22. While she yet talked. Bath-sheba, the queen, and mother of Solomon, was in the presence of David, giving him information of Adonijah's conspiracy. **Nathan.** He was to David the faithful friend, the prudent counsellor, and the inspired messenger of God. **The prophet.** The prophets were men who lived in communion with God, and instructed the people in religious truth. Some of them possessed gifts of inspiration, and bore God's messages to kings and people. **Also came in.** To the palace of King David, who was now in old age and infirmity.

23. They told the king. Nathan entered the palace, but did not come into the king's chamber until summoned: and at his coming, Bath-sheba retired. **Ver. 28. He bowed himself.** There was evidently far more ceremony in David's court than in Saul's, as was natural with the growth and prosperity of the kingdom. As the king was the representative of the Almighty, even the prophet bowed low before him. **1.** He who is faithful to God is the most loyal to the State.

24. Nathan said. There was courage, statesmanship, and religion in the conduct of Nathan: courage, for if Adonijah's plan had succeeded, himself and all the friends of Solomon would inevitably have been put to death; statesmanship, in perceiving where the true interests of Israel lay, and in promptly working for them; religion, because as prophet he knew that Solomon was God's choice as the successor of David. **Hast thou said.** Literally, "thou hast said:" no question being asked, in order to make the disclaimer of David more emphatic. **Adonijah shall reign.** Adonijah was a man between thirty and forty years old, and the next in order of David's sons after Absalom. He was handsome, vain, and ambitious; but cowardly, since he renounced his plan and forsook his friends at the first news of opposition. His failure was fortunate for Israel, for his success would have been a worldly prosperity, without the spiritual results of Solomon's reign. **2.** God knows how to overrule wicked ambition in the accomplishment of his own purposes.

25. He is gone down. To hold at En-rogel a feast which was to inaugurate his accession to the throne. **Slain oxen.** At oriental feasts the animals to be eaten are slain on the spot, immediately before the banquet. **Called all the king's sons.** There were living as many as fifteen sons of David, each of whom had his own little court and family. Adonijah's purpose was to enlist as many as possible of the royal household in his conspiracy. **The captains of the host.** Joab, the commander of the army, and his immediate followers. **Abiathar the priest.** He had been the friend of David in his wanderings, but had perhaps become jealous of Zadok, who was associated with him in the

priestly office. **God save king Adonijah.** The customary acclamation of a new king.

26. But me. Nathan himself had not been invited, because he was known to be friendly to Solomon. **Zadok the priest.** Belonging to the line of Eleazar, as Abiathar to the line of Ithamar. Both priests exercised office, and were probably opposed to each other's influence. **Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.** The chief of David's body-guard, and a brave soldier; who was rising to influence above the veteran Joab. His exploits are narrated 2 Sam. 33. 20, 21. **Thy servant Solomon.** He was passed over in the invitations because he was known to be an aspirant for the crown, and designated by the prophet as David's successor.

27. Done by my lord. Nathan well knew that it was against David's will, but put his statement into the form of an indirect question, to gain an answer. **Not showed it.** As the chief counsellor and divinely-appointed prophet, Nathan might expect to share the knowledge of the king's plans. **3.** It is wise in public matters to take counsel with men of God.

28, 29. King David answered. His words and acts were those of a king, who knew his own will, and gave prompt direction for its execution. **Call me Bath-sheba.** Who had gone out when Nathan entered the room. **As the Lord liveth.** Notice how every act of David is performed in God's name. **4.** There is a profane and there is a reverent use of the holy name in our speech. **Redeemed my soul.** David never forgot that it was God's hand which had led and preserved and uplifted him. **5.** Let us always see and own God's mercy in our lives.

30. I swear unto thee. We do not know when this promise of David was made, but it was doubtless under a divine direction. **Solomon....shall reign.** Solomon, the younger son of David and Bath-sheba, was chosen as king to the exclusion of the older sons of David, because in him David saw those kingly qualities which would make his throne illustrious and religious. **This day.** He proceeds at once to fulfil his earlier promise.

31, 32. Bowed with her face. Grateful for this pledge, which was without doubt the means of saving her life from the hands of Adonijah's partisans. **Call me Zadok.... Nathan....Benaiah.** Three of the highest personages in the court, and most intimately associated with the king; the high-priest, the prophet, and the chief of the body-guard. Their presence would show that the coronation of Solomon was by David's orders.

33. The servants of your Lord. The royal body-guard, composed not of Israelites, but of foreigners; and called "the Cherethites and Pelethites." **To ride upon mine own mule.** The animal set apart for