

***Why Shofars
Wail in Scripture
and Today***

—The Exciting Stories and Miracles!

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Chapter 22

Solomon – Part 2

Solomon felt the surge of God’s abiding and equipping power that released a rush of excitement. Wailing shofars and the rhythmic clatter of royal mule hooves on cobblestones proclaimed his coming. The crowds cheered, paraded behind him, and chanted, “Long live King Solomon!” The rightful king had claimed his throne.

Adonijah’s guests were still nibbling dessert crumbs and hoping for positions of power in his kingdom when blaring shofar blasts halted the merriment.

Now Adonijah and all the guests who *were* with him heard *it* as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, “Why *is* the city in such a noisy uproar?” While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest.

—1 Kings 1:41–42a

Shofar cries that stimulated shouts of joy in the just incited shrieks of terror in the rebels. Jonathan announced that Solomon was king. Petrified guests paled, panicked, and

pushed through exits to distance themselves from Adonijah, the new King's half-brother and rival for the throne.

Horrified Adonijah fled under a barrage of shofar blasts that pierced his flesh like arrows, and shattered Haggith's dreams. Her son was in hiding. Her bragging rights were gone. It was too late to stop the news releases.

After his failed takeover (which could have meant death for Solomon and Bathsheba) Adonijah got religious in a hurry in 1 Kings 1:49–53. He ran in, grabbed the horns of the altar, and begged Solomon to spare his life.

The new king granted mercy to his conniving brother from a different mother and let him live. Solomon established his reign over Israel and Judah and placed a throne next to his for Bathsheba, whose bold intercession had saved his throne, and their lives.

Seven Steps to Success

From his deathbed, King David gave Solomon seven steps to success, plus a death list, and then ordered him to bless some faithful men who had stood by him when times were tough, and to deal with Shimei (the curser).

Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;"

—1 Kings 2:1–3

King David's *Seven Steps to Success* were clear:

1. Be strong.
2. Be a man and keep the charge of the LORD your God.
3. Walk in God's ways.
4. Keep God's statutes.
5. Keep God's commandments.
6. Keep God's ordinances.
7. Keep God's testimonies.

God's Book of the Law became Solomon's royal university that made him unusually wise and very prosperous. His insightful writings in the book of Proverbs can bring wisdom to each new generation of kings and priests to God.

Death List

After the spiritual matters, David issued a *death list* and urged Solomon to deal wisely with some ungodly men whose grace period would expire with David.

“Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, *and* what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that *was* around his waist, and on his sandals that *were* on his feet. Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

“But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

“And see, *you have* with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, ‘I will not put you to death with the sword.’ Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you *are* a wise man and know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood.”

—1 Kings 2:5–9

If Joab, first on the death list (He killed Absalom), thought his dastardly deception, defiance, and devious deeds had dodged David’s attention, he was wrong—*definitely wrong*. David clearly remembered when Joab had killed Abner and Amasa, his fellow commanders. Innocent blood had gushed over Joab’s belt and splattered his feet. David ordered Solomon to act wisely and not let Joab die in peace. Joab would plead for mercy and find none.

Bittersweet memories stirred David’s heart regarding Barzillai’s sons and their unwavering loyalty. They had stood by him, and had honored him when Absalom, his own son, had defied him. Solomon must always give them VIP status to dine at the royal table.

Shimei was last on the list. He seemed blind to a huge problem that his cursing had created. His cruel words still stung as David neared death.

Jesus may have been thinking of Shimei in the following passage from Matthew 12:36, when He warned about idle words that come from of one’s mouth.