

May 28 Answers

- 1) Adonijah's attempted coup d'état. Adonijah, David's **oldest** living son, decided that he, not **Solomon** (cf. 1 Chr 22:9), should be the next king. He began by imitating the example of **Absalom**: "He prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and **fifty** men to run before him" (cf. 1 Kgs 1:5 and 2 Sam 15:1). How could he get away with such behavior? Because his father never corrected or **disciplined** him (1 Kgs 1:6a). This teaches us that it's possible for great and godly men to **fail** as parents. It also shows us that our children do not **inherit** our faith. Godly character must be instilled in them from the earliest age, and much **time, effort, patience** and discipline must be expended to set them on the right path (cf. Prov 22:6). David failed to correct his son, and rather than being a source of **pride** in his old age, Adonijah was busy plotting to seize the kingship. His plan almost worked, and if not for **Nathan's** quick thinking and **Bathsheba's** reminder, Adonijah would have been Israel's next king. David took decisive action and had Solomon crowned king at Gihon. Solomon's first decision was to dismiss Adonijah and send him home. He could have killed Adonijah, but instead he had **mercy**. This was not weakness on Solomon's part; rather, it demonstrated his authority and power. Choosing to **forgive** a personal attack shows more strength than lashing out in revenge.