

# APRIL 11

## Read 1 Kings 2-3

### CHAPTER 2

**N**OW the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,

2 I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;

3 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 thou turnest thyself:

4 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 their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

5 Moreover thou knowest also what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me, *and* what he did to the two captains of the hosts of Israel, unto Abner the son of Ner, and unto

Amasa the son of Jether, whom he slew, and shed the blood of war in peace, and put the blood of war upon his girdle that *was* about his loins, and in his shoes that *were* on his feet.

6 Do therefore according to thy wisdom, and let not his hoar head go down to the grave in peace.

7 But shew kindness unto the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be of those that eat at thy table: for so they came to me when I fled because of Absalom thy brother.

8 And, behold, *thou hast* with thee Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite of Bahurim, which cursed me with a grievous curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim: but he came down to meet me at Jordan, and I sware to him by the LORD, saying, I will not put thee to death with the sword.

9 Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou *art* a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood.

10 So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

11 And the days that David reigned over Israel *were* forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

12 ¶ Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

13 ¶ And Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, Comest thou peaceably? And he said, Peaceably.

14 He said moreover, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And she said, Say on.

15 And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and *that* all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.

16 And now I ask one petition of thee, deny me not. And she said unto him, Say on.

17 And he said, Speak, I pray thee, unto Solomon the king, (for he will not say thee nay,) that he give me Abishag the Shunammite to wife.

18 And Bathsheba said, Well; I will speak for thee unto the king.

19 ¶ Bathsheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king's mother; and she sat on his right hand.

20 Then she said, I desire one small petition of thee; *I pray thee*, say me not nay. And the king said unto her, Ask on, my mother: for I will not say thee nay.

21 And she said, Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah thy brother to wife.

22 And king Solomon answered and said unto his mother, And why dost thou ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? ask for him the kingdom also; for he *is* mine elder brother; even for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruah.

23 Then king Solomon sware by the LORD, saying, God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah have not spoken this word against his own life.

24 Now therefore, *as* the LORD liveth, which hath established me, and set me on the throne of David

my father, and who hath made me an house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day.

25 And king Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him that he died.

26 ¶ And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou *art* worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.

27 So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

28 ¶ Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

29 And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the LORD; and, behold, *he is* by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him.

30 And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.

31 And the king said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.

32 And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing *thereof, to wit*, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.

33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the LORD.

34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

35 ¶ And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar.

36 ¶ And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.

37 For it shall be, *that* on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head.

38 And Shimei said unto the king, The saying *is* good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

39 And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants *be* in Gath.

40 And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath.

41 And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to

Gath, and was come again.

42 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word *that* I have heard *is* good.

43 Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

44 The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;

45 And king Solomon *shall be* blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever.

46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

### CHAPTER 3

**A**ND Solomon made affinity with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter, and

brought her into the city of David, until he had made an end of building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall of Jerusalem round about.

2 Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days.

3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that *was* the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.

5 ¶ In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I *am but* a little child: I know not

*how* to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14 And if thou wilt walk in my

ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

15 And Solomon awoke; and, behold, *it was* a dream. And he came to Jerusalem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

16 ¶ Then came there two women, *that were* harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we *were* together; *there was* no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

21 And when I rose in the morn-

ing to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living *is* my son, and the dead *is* thy son. And this said, No; but the dead *is* thy son, and the living *is* my son. Thus they spake before the king.

23 Then said the king, The one saith, This *is* my son that liveth, and thy son *is* the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son *is* the dead, and my son *is* the living.

24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

26 Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, *but* divide *it*.

27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she *is* the mother thereof.

28 And all Israel heard of the

judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of

God *was* in him, to do judgment.

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## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

King David was now old and stricken in years and was not able to perform his royal duties. His son, Adonijah, took advantage of the situation, and proclaimed himself king of Israel. He was deliberately rebelling against the will of God, for he knew that God had appointed Solomon to succeed David. Some of David's confidential advisors even fell in with Adonijah's wicked plot, including Joab and Abiathar, the priest. However, three loyal servants informed Bathsheba of the plot and she went to King David. She knew he would not break his oath that Solomon, he son, would be the next king. Solomon was made king and Adonijah fled to God's altar for protection. As a result, Solomon promised not to kill him. It is sad that wicked men flee to God for help without really repenting in their hearts. The altar was not a place of repentance or fellowship for Adonijah, but simply a means of escape.

In chapter 2 David gives his charge to Solomon. He emphasized the spiritual before the political, for he wanted his son to walk in the ways of the Lord. David's death is recorded in verse 10. In the latter verses of the chapter Adonijah stubbornly refuses to follow the leadership of Solomon, and he was judged for his sins.

In chapter 3 Solomon receives wisdom from God, and the account of the two mothers is but one illustration of that wisdom. Also, since the mothers had direct access to Solomon, it indicates that Solomon loved his people and wanted to serve them.

It is wonderful that every Christian has access to God, who is greater than Solomon. And God promises to give wisdom to meet every need. James 1:5 tells us, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 9 (found on page 10).

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## BIRTHDAY TODAY

**HARRY WILLIAMS**

## HYMN FOR TODAY

### ROCK OF AGES

by Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

This fervent plea for Christ our eternal rock to grant salvation through His sacrifice and to be a place of refuge for the believer is one of the most popular hymns ever written. With strong, emotional impact, it proclaims Christ's atonement on the cross to be the only means of salvation, making man's tears and efforts to justify himself of no avail. Also it urges us to find consolation and security in Christ our rock—even at the time of death.

Augustus Toplady's strong and passionate lines were actually written to refute some of the teachings of John and Charles Wesley during a bitter controversy with them concerning Arminianism (which stresses man's free will) versus John Calvin's doctrine of election. "Rock of Ages" was the climax to an article that Toplady wrote in *The Gospel Magazine* in 1776, in which he supported the doctrine of election by arguing that just as England could never pay her national debt, so man through his own efforts could never satisfy the eternal justice of a holy God. Despite the belligerent intent of this text, God has preserved this hymn for more than 200 years to bring blessing to both Arminian and Calvinistic believers around the world.

At the age of 16, as he sat in a barn and listened to the preaching of an uneducated man, Toplady was dramatically converted. Later, he became a powerful and respected minister of the Anglican church. While he was the busy pastor of several churches in England, Augustus Toplady wrote many hymn texts, but few have survived. "Rock of Ages" is the one for which he is known today.

*Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;  
let the water and the blood, from the Thy wounded side  
which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make  
me pure.*

*Could my tears forever flow, could my zeal no languor know,  
these for sin could not atone—Thou must save and  
Thou alone:  
In my hand no price I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall  
close in death,  
when I rise to worlds unknown and behold Thee on Thy  
throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.*

## **ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY**

**1814**

**NAPOLEON ABDICATED.**

**1861**

**THE CIVIL WAR BEGAN.**

Pray for peace today.

**1862**

**THE BIRTHDAY OF CHARLES EVANS HUGHES.**

It is said that one day Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes was joining a church in Washington, D.C. New members were lined up across the front. On one end of the line was Mr. Hughes, and on the other end of the line was a poor man of a minority race. The pastor, of course, read Charles Evans Hughes' name first, whereupon, Mr. Hughes said, "Pastor, read the name of the man at the other end of the line first. The ground is level at the foot of the Cross."

**1893**

**DEAN ACHESON WAS BORN.**

**1951**

**PRESIDENT TRUMAN RELIEVED MacARTHUR**

## **OF ALL COMMANDS.**

There are many who think that this was one of the greatest mistakes of history.

## **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1865**

**PRESIDENT LINCOLN RECOMMENDED SUFFRAGE** for black veterans and blacks.

**1881**

**SPELMAN COLLEGE FOUNDED.**

**1899**

**PERCY L. JULIAN BORN.** He was the chemist whose research helped create drugs for the treatment of arthritis.

**1956**

**SINGER NAT COLE ATTACKED ON STAGE** of Birmingham theater by whites who were "very intelligent."

**1972**

**BENJAMIN L. HOOKS, A MEMPHIS LAWYER-MINISTER, NAMED TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.**

**1966**

**EMMETT ASHFORD BECAME THE FIRST BLACK MAJOR LEAGUE UMPIRE.**

**1967**

**HARLEM VOTERS DEFIED CONGRESS** and reelected Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr.



# A Christian Life:

## ADONIRAM JUDSON GORDON

### 1836-1895

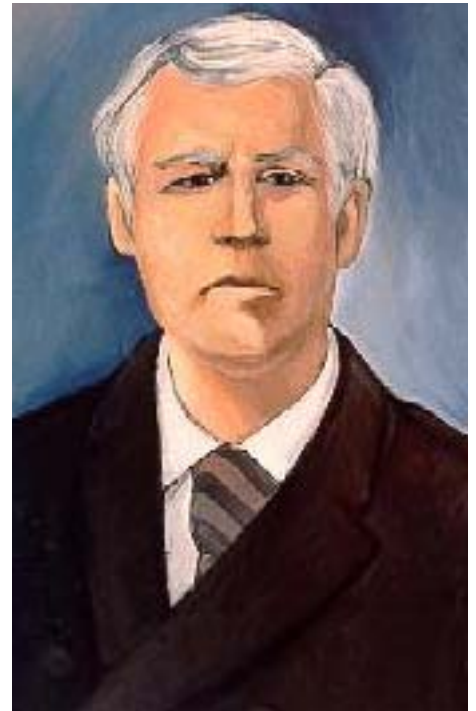
A.J. Gordon was born in New Hampshire April 13, 1836. His parents were devout Christians. At about 15 years of age, Adoniram became interested in the salvation of his soul. Soon after his conversion to Christ, he was baptized and received into the church. One year later, he openly confessed to the church his desire and determination to prepare for the ministry.

In 1856 he went to Brown University, and in 1860 he entered the Newton Theological Seminary. Upon graduation in 1863, he accepted a call to become pastor at Jamaica Plain, near Boston. After six very successful years there, he accepted the pastorate of the Clarendon Street Baptist Church in Boston, the church where he was destined to become famous.

Boston was full of skepticism and unbelief, and Clarendon Street Church was in a very sluggish spiritual condition when Gordon became pastor. Dr. Gordon remained pastor of Clarendon Street Church for more than a quarter of a century by persevering in preaching the plain, unvarnished truths of the Gospel. He at last saw the church completely transformed into one of the most spiritual and aggressive churches in America. Dr. Gordon's Spirit-filled life and deeply spiritual books have had a powerful influence throughout the world, and his memory has the sweet savour of a saintly life. He was one of the most prominent leaders and speakers in Mr. Moody's great Northfield conventions, and one year Mr. Moody left the convention entirely in his charge.

In his "Ministry of the Spirit," which is perhaps his greatest work, Dr. Gordon presents the work of the Holy Spirit in a threefold aspect: sealing, filling, and anointing. Dr. Gordon was also a firm believer in the premillennial coming of Christ. He preached much on these deeper spiritual themes in many conventions.

On the morning of February 2, 1895, Dr. Gordon, with "victory" as the last clearly audible word on his lips, fell asleep in Jesus.



## **MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 9 (for review):**

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

### **GOD'S GREAT DESIRE**

#### **That none should perish.**

(       ) 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

#### **That none be condemned.**

(       ) John 3:17 (John 5:24; 8:11)

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

#### **So He calls him.**

(       ) Genesis 3:9

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

#### **He seeks him.**

(       ) Luke 19:10

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

#### **He loves him.**

(       ) 1 John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.