

Some have suggested that King David's commissioning Solomon to take revenge on Shimei after he had made an oath to save his life is a gross error on his part.

However, Scripture says that David's last sentiments were given under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. That being the case, we can be sure he knew that there was no true repentance on the part of this man and so could become a threat to God's revealed will for Israel. The truth of this is revealed in what followed later in the narrative.

This incident is worth mentioning, as it sheds light on the true reason King Solomon had his handsome half-brother Adonijah executed for requesting to take Abishag as his wife.

Many commentaries see the request as a calculated political plot, rooted in an apparent ancient custom that possession of a former king's concubine equalled a claim to the throne.

But Abishag is not mentioned as David's concubine anywhere in Scripture, and we are specifically told the king did not have sexual relations with her.

David suffered from the effects of old age and perhaps poor blood circulation. This prompted his royal servants to find a beautiful young virgin to serve as attendant and to lie in his bosom to give warmth.

Considering these facts, there is nothing to exclude that Adonijah's violation of the agreement with Solomon was not an attempt to usurp the throne, but having the cheek to ask for anything else at all and in such a manner.

