

# Solomon Declared Successor

## 1 Kings 1

### Lesson 1

*The books of Kings begin with the death of King David and the accession of his son, Solomon to the throne of Israel. As David was about to die, two of his sons, Adonijah and Solomon, fought for the right to inherit the throne. In the end, David's wishes to make Solomon king prevailed.*

Shepherd's Notes

#### **Background**

At the conclusion of 2 Samuel, information was given regarding King David's later years. In 2 Samuel 21:15-17 the author said, "*After becoming exhausted in battle and nearly losing his life, King David was forbidden to go into any future battles by his mighty men.*" According to 1 Chronicles 22:2-4, what did David turn his attention to for the remaining years of his life?

At this time, how was David's son Solomon described? (1 Chronicles 22:5 a)

And what was David's desire for his final years? (1 Chronicles 22:5)

#### **The main characters**

The narrative of 1 Kings opens by describing the characters. David is now "*old, advanced in years and unable to keep warm.*" What was the solution his servants came up with? (1 Kings 1:2)

Who was Abishag and what was her role? (1 Kings 1:3,4)

Who is Adonijah? (2 Samuel 3:2-5)

#### **Adonijah's plot**

What was Adonijah's ambition and how did he try to achieve it? (1 Kings 1:5-6) Please comment. (See also 2 Samuel 14:1, 14:21-23 & 15:1, 15:10)

David's leadership was divided on supporting Adonijah. How did they finally "vote"?  
(1 Kings 1:7, 8)

Supporters / For	Non-supporters / Against

Adonijah set his plan into action just outside Jerusalem south of the Kidron Valley at a spring called En Rogel. Who was on his guest list? (1 Kings 1:9)

Who was not invited? (1 Kings 1:10)

Nathan (the prophet who confronted David after sinning with Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 12) learned of Adonijah's plan and took action. Please explain. (1 Kings 1:11-15)

Bathsheba took Nathan's advice and presented her case before King David. How did she approach the king and what did she say was her concern? (1 Kings 1:16-21)

As promised, Nathan arrived and backed up her words. How did Nathan approach the king and what were his concerns? (1 Kings 1:22-27)

Having left the king's presence, Bathsheba was called back. What physical position did she take in the presence of the king? (1 Kings 1:28 - see also 1:16)

Why do you think she was in a different position?

What was David's verdict? (1 Kings 1:29,30)

Bathsheba's response is recorded in verse 31; what was it?

King David took action immediately. What did he do? (1 Kings 1:32-35)

Please comment on David's reaction and the possible reasoning in comparison to his response in the similar situation in 2 Samuel 15:13-16 and 2 Samuel 16:11, 12. (See also 2 Samuel 12:24, 25 & 1 Chronicles 22:8-10)

### **Solomon made king**

Describe the coronation of Solomon. (1 Kings 1:36-40)

Meanwhile, "King" Adonijah (at En Rogel) was having his celebration feast and heard the noise coming across the valley. He inquired as to what was going on in Jerusalem. Who brought the news? (1 Kings 1:42)

Adonijah said it must be "good news" because of the one bringing it. What was the news? (1 Kings 1:43-48)

Oops! Adonijah realized the danger he was now in and fled to an unusual place. Where did he go and please comment. (1 Kings 1:49-51)

King Solomon had barely been crowned when he faced his first test that would reveal what type of king he would be. Though Adonijah knew the penalty for a failed coup was death, he asked for amnesty. How did Solomon deal with this rival? (1 Kings 1:52, 53)

**Your observations**

Using only the information in chapter 1, what impression do you get of the young man Solomon?

Try to imagine yourself in Jerusalem around 950 B.C. Your beloved King David's health is failing quickly and his young son Solomon has just been crowned as his successor. What do you think the talk was about and what do you think were the expectations with this new king?