

1 Kings 1

Verses 1- 4

Now King David was old, advanced in age; and they covered him with clothes, but he could not keep warm. ² So his servants said to him, “Let them seek a young virgin for my lord the king, and let her attend the king and become his nurse; and let her lie in your bosom, that my lord the king may keep warm.” ³ So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴ The girl was very beautiful; and she became the king’s nurse and served him, but the king did not cohabit with her.

³ So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

Any warn body would have sufficed but royalty is always concerned about appearances so this mundane job was filled by a beautiful girl.

Abishag was from a place called Shunem.

See map 105



⁴ The girl was very beautiful; and she became the king's nurse and served him, but the king did not cohabit with her.

The king needed a warm body not a love interest.

Verses 5 - 10

Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him. ⁶ His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?" And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom. ⁷ He had conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest; and following Adonijah they helped him. ⁸ But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David, were not with Adonijah. ⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fatlings by the stone of Zoheleth, which is beside En-rogel; and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants. ¹⁰ But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, and Solomon his brother.

Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him.

Adonijah copied the example set by Absalom by getting a chariot, horsemen, and fifty runners ahead of his carriage. Now candidates use social media including Face Book, TikTok, Twitter and You Tube.

This was an attempted coup because Solomon had been promised the throne. If he had succeeded his first action would have been to murder Solomon.

⁶ His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?" And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.

Adonijah was the oldest surviving son. David's oldest son, Amnon, was murdered by Absalom. Chileab probably died young since there is no record of his life. And Absalom had been slain by Joab.

See pic 110

These *sons* were born to David in Hebron.

Num.	Child	Mother	Background
1	Amnon	Ahinoam	the Jezreelitess
2	Chileab	Abigail	the widow of Nabal the Carmelite
3	Absalom	Maacah	the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur
4	Adonijah	Haggith	?
5	Shephatiah	Abital	?
6	Ithream	Eglah	?

⁷ He had conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest; and following Adonijah they helped him.

We know Joab was an important ally because he was the head of the army. Abiathar was important because he was the High Priest in Jerusalem.

⁸ But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.

While Joab & Abiathar were important men to have on his side, he lacked the more important coalition.

1. Zadok was the High Priest in Gibeon.
2. Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in charge of David's body guard.

See 2 Samuel 23:22 – 23

²² These *things* Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had a name as well as the three mighty men. ²³ He was honored among the thirty, but he did not attain *the reputation* of the three. And David appointed him over his bodyguard.

3. Nathan the prophet
4. The mighty men who were loyal to David

⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fatlings by the stone of Zohelah, which is beside En-rogel; and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.

See Map 115



¹⁰ But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, and Solomon his brother.

Solomon was the 10th son of David.

See chart 110 above and 120 below.

These sons were born to David in Jerusalem.

Num.	Child	Mother	Background
1	Shimea	Bath-shua	former wife of Uriah the Hittite
2	Shobab	Bath-shua	former wife of Uriah the Hittite
3	Nathan	Bath-shua	former wife of Uriah the Hittite
4	Solomon	Bath-shua	former wife of Uriah the Hittite
5	Ibhar	?	?
6	Elishama	?	?
7	Eliphelet	?	?
8	Nogah	?	?
9	Nepheg	?	?
10	Japhia	?	?
11	Elishama	?	?
12	Eliada	?	?
13	Eliphelet	?	?
?	sons	Concubines	?

Verses 11 - 14

Then Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?¹² So now come, please let me give you counsel and save your life and the life of your son Solomon.¹³ Go at once to King David and say to him, ‘Have you not, my lord, O king, sworn to your maidservant, saying, “Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne”? Why then has Adonijah become king?’¹⁴ “Behold, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words.”

Then Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?”

This sounds like Nathan was asking a rhetorical question but if David had not heard about it then it is possible that Bathsheba had not been informed concerning this matter.

¹² So now come, please let me give you counsel and save your life and the life of your son Solomon.

If Bathsheba had heard the news and was not alarmed or motivated to do anything about it, then she needed to be reminded that this could cost her and Solomon their lives.

¹³ Go at once to King David and say to him, ‘Have you not, my lord, O king, sworn to your maidservant, saying, “Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne”? Why then has Adonijah become king?

Even though Solomon was 10th in line for the throne, David had made a promise to Bathsheba that he would be king after David. David loved Bathsheba more than his other wives and Bathsheba saw the qualities of a king in her son Solomon.

¹⁴ “Behold, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words.”

Nathan planned a timely entrance so he could confirm the words of Bathsheba and guarantee a positive outcome.

Verses 15 - 21

So Bathsheba went in to the king in the bedroom. Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was ministering to the king. ¹⁶ Then Bathsheba bowed and prostrated herself before the king. And the king said, “What do you wish?” ¹⁷ She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the Lord your God, *saying*, ‘Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.’ ¹⁸ Now, behold, Adonijah is king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know *it*. ¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king and Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant. ²⁰ As for you now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹ Otherwise it will come about, as soon as my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be considered offenders.”

So Bathsheba went in to the king in the bedroom. Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was ministering to the king.

David lived to the age of 70 and it says he was very old. The life expectancy of mankind had varied considerably from the time of creation but it seems that it had reached a new low.

¹⁷ She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the Lord your God, saying, ‘Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.’

Bathsheba approached David with a humble attitude calling herself a maidservant. She was the beloved wife of David but she wanted to approach this discussion with a submissive approach.

²⁰ As for you now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹ Otherwise it will come about, as soon as my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be considered offenders.”

David still had the respect of the people and they would follow his lead. But after his death Bathsheba and Solomon would be seen as a threat to the throne and they would be put to death in short order.

Verses 22 - 27

Behold, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. ²³ They told the king, saying, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground. ²⁴ Then Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne’? ²⁵ For he has gone down today and has sacrificed oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king’s sons and the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest, and behold, they are eating and drinking before him; and they say, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ ²⁶ But me, *even me* your servant, and Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and your servant Solomon, he has not invited. ²⁷ Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not shown to your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

²² Behold, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in.

Nathan showed his respect for the king in the same way as Bathsheba, by prostrating himself before the king.

²⁴ Then Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne’?”

He begins his discussion with David by asking a question. He already knew the answer to the question but this gave David the opportunity to express his will concerning the matter.

²⁷ Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not shown to your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

Nathan knew that David did not give Adonijah his approval to set himself as the new king and in the same breathe affirms this by reminding David that he had shown his servants that he wanted Solomon (though not mentioned by name) to follow him as king.

Verses 28 - 31

Then King David said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” And she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king. ²⁹ The king vowed and said, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, ³⁰ surely as I vowed to you by the Lord the God of Israel, saying, ‘Your son Solomon shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place’; I will indeed do so this day.” ³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and prostrated herself before the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever.”

Then King David said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” And she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king.

When the prophet Nathan came in, Bathsheba retired from the king's presence. This may have been a custom of the court or preplanned by Nathan & Bathsheba.

²⁹ The king vowed and said, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, ³⁰ surely as I vowed to you by the Lord the God of Israel, saying, ‘Your son Solomon shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place’; I will indeed do so this day.

David had definitely lost a step or two physically but his response to this situation indicates that he was still in full possession of his mental ability.

Solomon’s reign would start that very day.

Verses 32 - 37

Then King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” And they came into the king’s presence. ³³ The king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. ³⁴ Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, ‘*Long live King Solomon!*’ ³⁵ Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne and be king in my place; for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.” ³⁶ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, “Amen! Thus may the Lord, the God of my lord the king, say. ³⁷ As the Lord has been with my lord the king, so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David!”

Then King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” And they came into the king’s presence.

This was the trifecta of Israelite power, the High Priest, the prophet and the military.

³³ The king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.

Solomon riding David’s mule was symbolic of David turning over the kingship to his son.

Gihon is the spring close to David’s palace.

See map 115 above.

³⁴ Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, ‘*Long live King Solomon!*’

Saul and David had been anointed by Samuel but here the prophet and priest did the anointing.

³⁵ Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne and be king in my place; for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.”

Having Solomon sit on the throne would vanquish any doubt about who David wanted to take over his reign.

Verses 38 - 40

So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David’s mule, and brought him to Gihon. ³⁹ Zadok the priest then took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, “*Long live King Solomon!*” ⁴⁰ All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise.

So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David’s mule, and brought him to Gihon.

The Cherethites and the Pelethites were a group of elite mercenaries (foreigners) employed by King David. Some of them acted as his bodyguards and others as part of his army.

⁴⁰ All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise.

Every administration throws a great party after they take power.

Verses 41 - 48

Now Adonijah and all the guests who *were* with him heard *it* as they finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, “Why is the city making such an uproar?” ⁴² While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. Then Adonijah said, “Come in, for you are a valiant man and bring good news.” ⁴³ But Jonathan replied to Adonijah, “No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king. ⁴⁴ The king has also sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king’s mule. ⁴⁵ Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon, and they have come up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise which you have heard. ⁴⁶ Besides, Solomon has even taken his seat on the throne of the kingdom. ⁴⁷ Moreover, the king’s servants came to bless our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make the name of Solomon better than your name and his throne greater than your throne!’ And the king bowed himself on the bed. ⁴⁸ The king has also said thus, ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has granted one to sit on my throne today while my own eyes see *it*.’”

Now Adonijah and all the guests who *were* with him heard *it* as they finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, “Why is the city making such an uproar?”

This paragraph is a recap of all that had taken place in Jerusalem regarding the coronation of Solomon. This was not good news for Adonijah and his followers.

Verses 49 - 53

Then all the guests of Adonijah were terrified; and they arose and each went on his way. ⁵⁰ And Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, and he arose, went and took hold of the horns of the altar. ⁵¹ Now it was told Solomon, saying, “Behold, Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon, for behold, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’” ⁵² Solomon said, “If he is a worthy man, not one of his hairs will fall to the ground; but if wickedness is found in him, he will die.” ⁵³ So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and prostrated himself before King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”

Then all the guests of Adonijah were terrified; and they arose and each went on his way.

Anyone that was part of this coup was afraid for their lives.

⁵⁰ And Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, and he arose, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

Originally the horns of the altar were appointed as a place of asylum for those who had accidentally committed homicide. But as time passed, other transgressors sought and received refuge there.

⁵³ So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and prostrated himself before King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”

For a brief period of time David and Solomon were co-regents but following the death of David power was soon consolidated by Solomon.