

1st Kings Chapter 1

Introduction:

1. The two books of 1st and 2nd Kings, in the Hebrew Old Testament, were one book. They were separated by the translators of the Septuagint version of the OT by subjects.
 2. 1st Kings opens with the Hebrew nation united in its glory, in the reign of Solomon. 2nd Kings closes with the nation divided in ruin and the Babylonian captivity. Together they cover about 400 years of history from approximately 1000 – 600 BC.
 3. While the book is historical in nature, we'll get a report card on each of the kings of Judah and of the Northern Kingdom, or Israel, sometimes referred to as Ephraim, a spiritual analysis of the kings as to whether they served the Lord or idols, or somewhere in between being half hearted toward the Lord.
 4. We'll have dramatic examples of how God rewards loyalty and punishes apostasy.
 5. Authorship is uncertain: Jewish tradition says it was Jeremiah, but Ezra and Ezekiel are in the running as well, but no one knows for sure.
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V: 1-4 David is old; he's in declining health, bad circulation being part of that and thus unable to warm up.

- David is about 70 years old, he's lived a full and exciting life – but at this point he's pretty used up.
- Trying to help warm David up, they find a suitable young woman to lie with the king to keep him warm.
- Why wouldn't one of his many wives and concubine suffice for this ministry?
- They engage in a national search; what were the criteria? Chubby & cheerful?
- Abishag (My Father is a Wanderer) a Shunammite (Map: North Mt. Gilboa)
- She became a concubine of sorts but did not have physical relations with David.

V: 5 David is more or less on his death bed, but he has one more battle to fight, one more controversy within his family to deal with – the battles never end until we're home with the Lord.

- Adonijah – a beautiful name, compound word / name: “Adoni” (Lord), “Jah” a contraction for “Yahweh” or “Jehovah” – “Jehovah is my Lord.”

- Adonijah is an opportunist, he exalted himself, lifted himself up saying “I will be king...”
- Sounds a lot like his older brother Absalom – who did the same thing.

Jesus said:

Luke 18:14 “... for every one that exalted himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

- Now you know how this story will ultimately end...

V: 6 His father had not displeased him, had not questioned or corrected him – but he was good looking and handsome.

- David was a very poor or perhaps non-existent disciplinarian; he didn't seem to discipline his children at all.

Solomon reflects and corrects this:

Proverbs 22:15 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

- Adonijah and Absalom had different mothers; this is just saying that Adonijah was next in order after Absalom.

V: 7-10 Conferred or conspired? Joab & Abiathar up to now loyal to David, but no longer, they would work to place Adonijah on the throne contrary to David's wishes and stated intent.

- “But” – on the contrary: Zadok the priest, Benaiah captain of the guard, Nathan the prophet, and two other men remained loyal to David and Solomon.
- Adonijah begins his pre-mature celebration at En-rogel. Just below Jerusalem where the Kidron and Hinnom Valleys meet.

Psalms 9:16 “The Lord is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the works of his own hands.”

- This big feast and celebration is the very thing that alerted Nathan the prophet who spoke to Bathsheba, who spoke to David, who as we'll see isn't dead just yet, and responds forcefully.

V: 11-12 Nathan the prophet is a true friend to David. He encouraged David through hard times, he rebuked David over his sin with Bathsheba, and went on to assist his son in his kingdom, he was always loyal to the Lord and to David.

- As Nathan see's all this going on with Adonijah – he intervenes and advises Bathsheba to talk to David.

- Adonijah knew that David had made a vow to the Lord, and would have both Bathsheba and Solomon killed after David's death, eliminating any potential rivals to the throne.

When God told David that he couldn't build Him a house; He also told him about his son, directing that Solomon follow him on the throne:

1 Chronicles 22:9-10 ⁹“Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. ¹⁰He shall build an house for My Name; and he shall be My son and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.”

1 Kings 2:15 “... howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the Lord.”

- It is inherently dangerous to purposefully go against the will of God.
Psalms 33:11 “The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations.”

V: 13-14 Nathan counsels Bathsheba to go and speak to the king and confirm his promise, and Nathan will join her and inform the king of what is happening.

V: 15-21 Bathsheba lays out her case to David reminding him that he swore by the Lord his God that Solomon would reign after him.

- She relates that Adonijah with the help of Abiathar and Joab is in the process of usurping the throne and that now all Israel is watching to see what is going to happen, and that her life and that of Solomon are on the line.

V: 22-27 Nathan then enters as planned and relates or confirms basically the same information

- Nathan bowed himself before the king, like Bathsheba showing deference and respect.

Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

- David now has two witnesses and begins to act upon the information.

V: 28-31 David then springs into action – his body may be failing but his mind is still sharp and he quickly counters- Adonijah's movements.

- David re-affirms his promise to Bathsheba and Solomon – giving glory to God in the process, and saying that these things will happen this day.

- God has delivered David out of some pretty tight spots in the past, and He'll deliver me now!
- Bathsheba's blessing to David; "Live forever?"

V: 32-35 David summons Zadok the priest – who will officiate over spiritual matters, Nathan the prophet, the voice and representative of God, and Benaiah the military leader and chief of David's personal guard the Cherethites and Perithites – all who are still loyal to David.

- David gives them specific instruction:
 1. Take Solomon and have him ride upon my mule – symbol of authority and peace. Horses were used in war, but a mule was not, symbolic of a peaceful reign.
 2. Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet are to anoint Solomon with the special anointing oil from the Tabernacle.
 3. They are to blow a trumpet and bringing the people's attention to what is being done.
 4. They are to say "God save king Solomon" and have him sit upon my / David's throne
 5. I David have appointed him officially to be king over Israel and Judah.

V: 36-37 Then Benaiah responds to the king "Amen!" – "May it be so!" or "So be it!"

- Then he goes on in David's presence to pronounce a blessing upon Solomon – which he could not do except in these particular circumstances – he prays that Solomon's kingdom would be even greater than David's kingdom

V: 38-40 Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah carry out David's instruction – and the people joined in, the celebration grows, rejoicing in their new king, so that the earth "rent" or quaked – resounded with the celebration.

- Gihon when Solomon was anointed to be king is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from En-Rogel where Adonijah is having his celebratory BBQ.

V: 41-49 Adonijah & Joab both here the celebration – just as Jonathan, Abiathar's son arrives who relates what is going on.

- He describes the fulfillment of David's directions; that Solomon is riding David's mule; that he's been anointed by Zadok and Nathan, that he is sitting upon David's throne with his blessing.
- All of which put the kibosh on Adonijah's dinner party, and the guests flee.

- In this scenario Solomon was exalted by David, whereas Adonijah had exalted himself.

V: 50 Adonijah flees to the Tabernacle – not unlike a 3rd grade boy running to the boy's bathroom where the girls dare not chase him.

V: 51-53 Solomon is informed about Adonijah and has him brought to the royal court.

- Solomon indicates that if Adonijah behaves himself no harm will come to him – Adonijah bows before Solomon and is placed under house arrest.
- Adonijah bowed his body before Solomon, but his heart was neither submitted to the Lord nor his brother and for that he would sacrifice his life.
 1. Solomon's reign is established and legitimized: anointed and appointed by the father.
 2. Adonijah exalted himself; illegitimately. Solomon was exalted by David, the son being exalted by the father.
 3. The usurper being self-appointed; later sent to his home, and eventually killed.