



43: From David to Solomon: The Promised King (1 Kings 1)

Today we watch the throne of Israel pass from David to Solomon and discover how God faithfully keeps His promises—even when circumstances seem uncertain. But Solomon's story points us to an even greater Promised King - Jesus, who came to take our place on the cross and has promised to come again!

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* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) and NET (New English Translation).

1 Kings 1:1-4 CSB

Now King David was old and advanced in age. Although they covered him with bedclothes, he could not get warm. So his servants said to him, "Let us search for a young virgin for my lord the king. She is to attend the king and be his caregiver. She is to lie by your side so that my lord the king will get warm." They searched for a beautiful girl throughout the territory of Israel; they found Abishag the Shunammite and brought her to the king. The girl was of unsurpassed beauty, and she became the king's caregiver. She attended to him, but he was not intimate with her.

🌟 **John Woodhouse:** "The once great king...was a shivering shadow of the mighty ruler he had been."

1 Kings 1:5-6 NET 2nd ed.

Now **Adonijah**, son of David and Haggith, was **promoting himself**, boasting, "I will be king!" He managed to acquire chariots and horsemen, as well as fifty men to serve as his royal guard. (Now his father had never corrected him by saying, "Why do you do such things?" He was also very handsome and had been born right after Absalom.)

Adonijah was the next son in line to be king. Like **Absalom**, he was **handsome** runs a campaign to take the throne of Israel. Like **Amnon**, he was not corrected by his father, although he should have been.

1 Kings 1:7-8 CSB

He conspired with **Joab** son of Zeruiah and with the priest **Abiathar**. They supported Adonijah, but the priest Zadok, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the prophet Nathan, Shimei, Rei, and David's royal guard did not side with Adonijah.

Joab had long been David's top general serving over his entire army. **Abiathar** served David as a priest and counselor throughout his life...until now.

The priest Zadok, Benaiah (the head of David's secret service), **the prophet Nathan**, Shimei, Rei, and the rest of David's secret service **men did not side with Adonijah**, but this mention strongly implies that these men *WERE* also approached about joining Adonijah, yet refused.

1 Kings 1:9-10 CSB

Adonijah sacrificed sheep, goats, cattle, and fattened cattle near the stone of Zoheleth, which is next to En-rogel. He invited all his royal brothers and all the men of Judah, the servants of the king, but he did not invite the prophet Nathan, Benaiah, the royal guard, or his brother Solomon.

This is a party intended to celebrate the swearing in of King Adonijah!

1 Kings 1:11-14 CSB

Then Nathan said to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah son of Haggith has become king and our lord David does not know it? Now please come and let me advise you. Save your life and the life of your son Solomon. Go, approach King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to your servant: **Your son Solomon is to become king after me**, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne? So why has Adonijah become king?' At that moment, while you are still there speaking with the king, I'll come in after you and confirm your words."

We have no record of this previous conversation between David & Bathsheba promising that Solomon would be the next king of Israel. We *ARE* told that Yahweh had commanded David about who would be the next king.

1 Chronicles 22:9-10 CSB But a son will be born to you; he will be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies, for **his name will be Solomon**, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel during his reign. He is the one who will build a house for My Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. **I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.**

Since Nathan, Bathsheba, and others had previously known that Solomon had been proclaimed the next king, it is certainly possible that Adonijah heard this too, and was attempting to seize a throne that **Yahweh had designated for Solomon**.

1 Kings 1:15–23 CSB

So **Bathsheba** went to the king in his bedroom. Since the king was very old, Abishag the Shunammite was attending to him. Bathsheba knelt low and paid homage to the king, and he asked, “What do you want?”

She replied, “My lord, you swore to your servant by the Lord your God, ‘Your son **Solomon is to become king after me**, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne.’ Now look, Adonijah has become king. And, my lord the king, you didn’t know it. He has lavishly sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep. He invited all the king’s sons, the priest Abiathar, and Joab the commander of the army, but he did not invite your servant Solomon. Now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you to tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. Otherwise, when my lord the king rests with his ancestors, I and my son Solomon will be regarded as criminals.”

At that moment, while she was still speaking with the king, the prophet Nathan arrived, and it was announced to the king, “The prophet Nathan is here.” He came into the king’s presence and paid homage to him with his face to the ground.

Solomon hasn’t been invited because he is likely viewed as a rival to the throne. Because of this, Bathsheba is afraid for their safety.

1 Kings 1:24–31 CSB

“My lord the king,” Nathan said, “did you say, ‘Adonijah is to become king after me, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne?’ For today he went down and lavishly sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep. He invited all the sons of the king, the commanders of the army, and the priest Abiathar. And look! They’re eating and drinking in his presence, and they’re saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ But he did not invite me—me, your servant—or the priest Zadok or Benaiah son of Jehoiada or your servant Solomon. I’m certain my lord the king would not have let this happen without letting your servant know who will sit on my lord the king’s throne after him.”

King David responded by saying, “Call in Bathsheba for me.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before him. The king swore an oath and said, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from every difficulty, just as I swore to you by the Lord God of Israel: **Your son Solomon is to become king after me**, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne in my place, that is exactly what I will do this very day.”

Bathsheba knelt low with her face to the ground, paying homage to the king, and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

Now David solidifies what he told Bathsheba at some point earlier - **Solomon** will be the next king of Israel.

1 Kings 1:32–33 CSB

King David then said, “Call in the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada for me.” So they came into the king’s presence. The king said to them, “Take my servants with you, **have my son Solomon ride on my own mule**, and take him down to Gihon.

A **mule** was a rare beast in Israel, available only for the privileged (see [2 Samuel 13:29](#); [18:9](#)), the *offspring of a male donkey and a female horse*. One commentator notes that this would have been like Solomon riding the King’s limo.

People would have also seen **Nathan**—the prophetic authority, **Zadok**—the priestly authority, and **Benaiah**—the commander of David’s personal bodyguard - the military authority - ESCORT Solomon. David’s closest leaders and Solomon on his mule communicates that David himself has authorized what is about to happen - the crowning of a New King!

1 Kings 1:34–40 CSB

There, the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan are to **anoint him as king over Israel**. You are to blow the trumpet and say, ‘**Long live King Solomon!**’ You are to come up after him, and he is to come in and sit on my throne. He is the one who is to become king in my place; he is the one I have commanded to be ruler over Israel and Judah.”

“Amen,” Benaiah son of Jehoiada replied to the king. “May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so affirm it. Just as the Lord was 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 the priest Zadok, the prophet Nathan, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down, had Solomon ride on King David’s mule, and took him to Gihon. The priest **Zadok took the horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon**. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people proclaimed, “**Long live King Solomon!**” All the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing with such a great joy that the earth split open from the sound.

That celebration is so loud that Adonijah’s and all his guests heard the noise being made from off in the distance. If you read the rest of the chapter ([1 Kings 1:41–53](#)), Adonijah’s celebration comes to an abrupt end. His supporters scatter in fear, and Adonijah himself runs to the altar for protection. Solomon allows him to live—for now.

And on that day, **King Solomon** - the one God had long ago promised - **sat on David’s throne** ([1 Kings 1:46](#)).

BIG TRUTH: God is FAITHFUL to Fulfill His Promises.

Solomon would become the wisest king on earth. Yet, he too would fall to sin and the reality of mortality. Yet, there remained **ANOTHER PROMISED KING**.

- Solomon rode into Jerusalem on the royal mule—the honor of a king. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey—**the humility of a servant-King**.
- Solomon entered Jerusalem to take his place on the throne. Jesus entered Jerusalem to take our place on the cross. Then Jesus was buried, resurrected, & ascended to heaven. And one day - just as God has promised - King Jesus will return.

BIG TRUTH: God is FAITHFUL to Fulfill His Promises.

Until that day, may we SEEK Jesus and may we SHARE Jesus with others.

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
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Discussion questions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. What does Adonijah's attempt to take the throne teach us about the danger of pursuing what we want rather than submitting to what God wants?
2. David had grown old and weak, but God's promise concerning Solomon had not grown weak. What does that teach us about trusting God's promises when circumstances seem uncertain?
3. Read 1 Kings 1:32–40. What details made it clear to the people that Solomon was David's chosen king? Why did those details matter?
4. Compare Solomon's entrance into Jerusalem with Jesus' entrance in Matthew 21:1–11 or John 12:12–16. What similarities and differences do you notice?
5. "Solomon entered Jerusalem to take his place on the throne. Jesus entered Jerusalem to take our place on the cross." What does that statement communicate about the kind of King Jesus is?
6. BIG TRUTH: "**God is faithful to fulfill His promises.**" Where have we seen God's faithfulness throughout our journey through 1–2 Samuel? Where do you need to trust His faithfulness right now?
7. Jesus has promised that He will return. If we genuinely believe that promise, how should it change the way we live, what we prioritize, and the people with whom we share Jesus this week?