

Lesson 5: 1 Kings 1 – 2:11 Solomon is Crowned King of Israel

The two books of Kings span a period of approximately 400 years. These books are a part of what is referred to as the *Deuteronomistic History*. The Deuteronomistic History includes Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and 1 and 2 Samuel, in addition to First and Second Kings. Deuteronomy presents the LAW; Joshua tells of the conquest of Canaan. Judges continues with accounts of conquest and settlement in Canaan. In The Books of Samuel, the first king, Saul, is anointed, falls from grace and is replaced by King David. First Kings begins with the death of King David and the succession of Solomon as King. In the Hebrew Bible, First and Second Kings are a single text that is a part of the group of books called the *Former Prophets*. **For this lesson**, it is helpful to know that David was married to Ahinoam, Abigail, Maacha, Haggith, Abital, and Eglah during the 7-1/2 years he reigned in Hebron as king of Judah. After David moved his capital to Jerusalem, he married Bathsheba. Each of his first six wives bore David a son, while Bathsheba bore him four sons.

1. **Read the introduction to 1 Kings in your bible. Share any helpful or interesting information you find there with your group.**

2. **Read 1 Kings 1: 1-4 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.**
 - a. **Who is Abishag the Shunamite?**
 - b. **What do we know about her?**
 - c. **What do we know about the health of King David at this point?**

3. **Read 1 Kings 1: 5-10 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.**
 - a. **Who is Adonijah?**
 - b. **What do we know about him?**
 - c. **Why would he amass an army at this point in time?**
 - d. **What do verses 8 and 10 tell you about Adonijah?**
 - e. **Why would Adonijah slaughter sheep, oxen, and fatlings at the stone Zoheleth?**

4. **Read 1 Kings 1:11-14 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.**
 - a. **Who is Nathan? See also 2 Samuel 7: 1-2, here:** “After the king had taken up residence in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from his enemies on every side, ²the king said to **Nathan the prophet**, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent!” .. ⁴**But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan..”**
 - b. **Why do you think Nathan was concerned about Adonijah’s activities?**
 - c. **What does Nathan suggest to Bathsheba?**

5. Read 1 Kings 1:15-21 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. How did Adonijah become king?**
- b. Why is it significant that Adonijah did not invite David's son Solomon, Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest or David's might warrior Benaiah to his feast?**
- c. What does Bathsheba believe will happen to her and Solomon if Solomon does not become King?**

6. Read 1 Kings 1:22-31 and footnotes.

- a. What question does Nathan ask of King David?**
- b. What information does Nathan bring that might inspire David to act? (See 1 Kings 1:25)**
- c. What oath does King David make? (1 Kings 1:30)**
- d. Who are the two witnesses who are present when the oath is made?**

7. Read 1 Kings 1:32-40 and footnotes.

- a. In a lucid moment, King David puts together a plan to instill his son, Solomon on the throne of Israel. List the what is it that he does?**
- b. How do the people react?**

8. Read 1 Kings 1:41-50 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. How did Adonijah and his followers respond to the news of Solomon's coronation?**
- b. Why does Adonijah cling to the horns of the altar?**
- c. What is probably the first act of Solomon's kingship? (1 Kings 1:52-53)**

9. Read Kings 2:1-11 and footnotes.

- a. What advice does King David give Solomon in verses 1-4?**
- b. What does King David instruct Solomon to do in verses 5-6?**
- c. How is Solomon instructed to treat the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite?**
- d. How does King David instruct Solomon to treat Shimei, son of Gera, the Benjaminite of Bahurim?**
- e. How long did King David reign as king?**