

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 1

INTRODUCTION: "AS THE TITLES OF THE BOOKS INDICATE, 1—2 KINGS DESCRIBE THE PERIOD OF THE MONARCHY IN ANCIENT ISRAEL (970—586 B.C.), EXCLUDING MOST OF THE REIGNS OF KING SAUL AND KING DAVID (WHICH ARE MAINLY DESCRIBED IN 1—2 SAMUEL, WITH THE CONCLUSION TO DAVID'S REIGN APPEARING IN 1 KINGS 1:1—2:11)." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, INTRO TO 1 & 2 KINGS: AUTHOR & TITLE)

FIRST AND SECOND KINGS ARE WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF HISTORICAL NARRATIVE—SPECIFICALLY, A RECORD OF MONARCHICAL SUCCESSION. THE MAIN RHETORICAL FORMAT OF THIS COURT HISTORY IS THE SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL KINGS' CAREERS, CONSISTING OF THE NAME OF EACH KING, WHAT KINGDOM HE RULED (ISRAEL OR JUDAH), THE DATE OF HIS ACCESSION TO THE THRONE, THE LENGTH OF HIS REIGN, HIS RELIGIOUS AND OTHER POLICIES, THE DETAILS OF HIS DEATH, AND THE NAME OF HIS SUCCESSOR. YET THE AUTHORS ARE AS MUCH THEOLOGICIANS AS HISTORIANS. IT IS NOT THEIR INTENTION TO PROVIDE EVERY HISTORICAL DETAIL, AND ON OCCASION THEY DIRECT READERS WHO WANT MORE INFORMATION TO CONSULT OTHER SOURCES. THE AUTHORS' MAIN INTENTION IS TO INTERPRET THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL ALONG THEOLOGICAL LINES, SHOWING WHAT HAPPENS WHEN POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERS FOOLISHLY CHOOSE TO WORSHIP FALSE GODS INSTEAD OF WISELY CHOOSING TO WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, INTRO TO 1 & 2 KINGS: LITERARY FEATURES)

1 KINGS 1:1-4 - DAVID IS OLD, ATTENDED TO BY NURSE

1 KINGS 1:5-10 - ADONIJAH'S ATTEMPT AT TAKING THE THRONE

V. 6 - THIS VERSE GIVES SOME ALLUSION TO ABSALOM'S REBELLION. THOUGH ONLY HALF BROTHERS, ADONIJAH'S ACTIONS ARE FULLY IN LINE WITH ABSALOM'S. THE TEXT REFERENCES "CHARIOTS", "HORSEMEN" (V. 5), AND HIS "HANDSOME" APPEARANCE (V. 6). THESE WERE ALL MENTIONED IN THE RECORD OF ABSALOM'S REBELLION (CP. 2 SAM 15:1 AND 14:24-26).

THOUGH ADONIJAH HAS NOT BEEN A SIGNIFICANT CHARACTER IN OUR STORY, IT MAKES SOME SENSE THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BE DAVID'S SUCCESSOR:

"ADONIJAH WAS THE FOURTH OF DAVID'S SONS BORN IN HEBRON (2 SAM. 3:2—5), AND THE ELDEST SURVIVING. THE FIRST, AMNON, AND THIRD, ABSALOM, HAVE DIED BY THIS POINT IN THE STORY (2 SAMUEL 13—18), AND THE SECOND, CHILEAB, IS PRESUMABLY ALSO DEAD (UNMENTIONED AFTER 2 SAMUEL 3)." (ESV STUDY BIBLE ON 1 KINGS 1:5-6)

V. 7-8 - SOME OF DAVID'S ADVISORS AND OFFICIALS SIDED WITH ADONIJAH, BUT NOTABLY, NOT SOME OF THE MORE SPIRITUALLY KEEN ADVISORS.

V. 9 - ADONIJAH'S FIRST ACT WAS TO MAKE SACRIFICES.

1 KINGS 1:11-14 - NATHAN INFORMS AND INSTRUCTS BATHSHEBA

V. 11 - NATHAN INFORMS BATHSHEBA OF THESE EVENTS,

WE LEARN FOR THE FIRST TIME HERE THAT SOLOMON WAS THE DIVINE CHOICE FOR SUCCESSOR. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS WAS NOT WIDELY KNOWN IN ISRAEL, NOR IN DAVID'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY - BUT NATHAN TELLS US THAT IS WAS KNOWN BY DAVID, BATHSHEBA, AND THE LORD. WE CAN SEE THE CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM 1 CHRONICLES 22:

1 CHRONICLES 22:7-13 - DAVID SAID TO SOLOMON, "MY SON, I HAD INTENDED TO BUILD A HOUSE TO THE NAME OF THE LORD MY GOD. 8 "BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME, SAYING, 'YOU HAVE SHED MUCH BLOOD AND HAVE WAGED GREAT WARS; YOU SHALL NOT BUILD A HOUSE TO MY NAME, BECAUSE YOU HAVE SHED SO MUCH BLOOD ON THE EARTH BEFORE ME. 9 'BEHOLD, A SON WILL BE BORN TO YOU, WHO SHALL BE A MAN OF REST; AND I WILL GIVE HIM REST FROM ALL HIS ENEMIES ON EVERY SIDE; FOR HIS NAME SHALL BE SOLOMON, AND I WILL GIVE PEACE AND QUIET TO ISRAEL IN HIS DAYS. 10 'HE SHALL BUILD A 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 FOREVER.' 11 "NOW, MY SON, THE LORD BE WITH YOU THAT YOU MAY BE SUCCESSFUL, AND BUILD THE HOUSE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD JUST AS HE HAS SPOKEN CONCERNING YOU. 12 "ONLY THE LORD GIVE YOU DISCRETION AND UNDERSTANDING, AND GIVE YOU CHARGE OVER ISRAEL, SO THAT YOU MAY KEEP THE LAW OF THE LORD YOUR GOD. 13 "THEN YOU WILL PROSPER, IF YOU ARE CAREFUL TO OBSERVE THE STATUTES AND THE ORDINANCES WHICH THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES CONCERNING ISRAEL. BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, DO NOT FEAR NOR BE DISMAYED.

APPARENTLY THIS PROPHECY WAS GIVEN (PROBABLY BY NATHAN?) AROUND THE TIME DAVID FIRST INQUIRED TO BUILD A HOUSE/TEMPLE FOR THE LORD. IF WE CORRESPOND THIS TIME WITH THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL, IT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY IN 2 SAMUEL 7. THUS, ADONIJAH'S ACTIONS WERE NOT OF THE LORD, NOR WERE THEY DAVID'S OWN WISHES.

NATHAN ENCOURAGES BATHSHEBA TO GO TO DAVID WITH THE NEWS OF ADONIJAH'S ACTIONS AND PLEAD FOR SOLOMON. NATHAN, IN TURN, WILL SUPPORT HER.

1 KINGS 1:15-21 - BATHSHEBA INFORMS DAVID OF ADONIJAH'S ACTIONS

V. 17 - BATHSHEBA REMINDS DAVID OF HIS OWN PROMISE TO HER (AND TO THE LORD) CONCERNING SOLOMON.

V. 19-20 - REMEMBER, ALL OF THE OTHER CHILDREN OF DAVID WERE INVITED, BUT NOT SOLOMON. (1:9-10). THE FACT THAT EVERYONE ELSE IS THERE, SAVE BATHSHEBA AND SOLOMON WOULD HAVE LED TO REAL CONCERNS FOR THEIR SAFETY IF ADONIJAH'S ACT IS LOOKED AT AS LEGITIMATE BY THE NATION.

THE PRESENCE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, THE LEADING GENERAL, AND ABIATHAR THE PRIEST WOULD HAVE GIVEN TREMENDOUS LEGITIMACY TO ADONIJAH. WE CANNOT UNDERESTIMATE THIS. WHILE HE IS A SMALL FOOTNOTE IN THE OVERALL NARRATIVE OF DAVID AND SOLOMON, THIS MOMENT IN REAL TIME MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLE. DAVID'S SUCCESSOR, HIS OWN SON, PROCLAIMED KING, WITH ALL OF HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS, EXCEPT ONE (POLITICAL), THE LEADER OF THE ARMY OF ISRAEL (MILITARY), AND ONE OF THE LEADING PRIESTS (RELIGIOUS) ALL MAKING SACRIFICES, WITH THE LAME-DUCK KING IN HOSPICE CARE. MEANWHILE SOLOMON, THE RIGHTFUL SUCCESSOR NEEDS HIS MOM TO ADVOCATE FOR HIM. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE THE COMPELLING MOMENT FOR ADONIJAH'S CAMPAIGN TO SUCCEED DAVID.

V. 20 - "THE EYES OF ISRAEL ARE ON YOU" - DAVID MAY BE IN HIS FINAL DAYS, BUT HE IS STILL KING, AND STILL BELOVED BY THE NATION. BATHSHEBA MAKES HER APPEAL FOR SOLOMON WITH THIS IN MIND.

1 KINGS 1:22-27 - NATHAN INQUIRES OF DAVID

NATHAN IS VERY RESPECTFUL TO DAVID. HE ASKS IF PERHAPS DAVID HAD CHANGED HIS MIND AND CHOSEN ADONIJAH, BUT HAD NOT INFORMED NATHAN OF IT.

1 KINGS 1:28-35 - DAVID CONFIRMS SOLOMON AS HIS SUCCESSOR AND CALLS FOR HIS IMMEDIATE ANOINTING AND PROCLAMATION

LOOK AT HOW IMPORTANT NATHAN IS IN THIS RECORD. HE IS THE ONE WHO INFORMS AND COUNSELS BATHSHEBA. HE IS THE ONE WHO SPEAKS TO DAVID. AND NATHAN'S EFFECT ON DAVID IS REMARKABLE. DALE RALPH DAVIS OBSERVES: "WHAT A CHANGE COMES OVER DAVID...DAVID IS (NO LONGER) DODDERING BUT DECISIVE" (1 KINGS, FOCUS ON THE BIBLE, PG 20-21)

V. 34 - SOLOMON IS TO BE ANOINTED AS KING BY THE PRIESTS AND PROPHETS. THIS WAS THE WAY THE LORD WOULD HAVE HIS KING'S IDENTIFIED. IT WAS NOT BY THEM AMASSING GREAT WEALTH, MILITARY STRENGTH OR EVEN THE POPULAR FAVOR OF THE PEOPLE. BUT IT WAS BY THE DIVINELY APPOINTED ANOINTING BY THE PRIEST AND/OR PROPHET OF THE LORD.

REMEMBER, THE KING WAS THE "ANOINTED ONE" OF GOD. "TO ANOINT" COMES FROM THE HEBREW WORD MASHACH. "THE ANOINTED ONE" IN HEBREW IS HA MASHIACH, WHERE WE GET OUR ENGLISH "THE MESSIAH." THE GREEK WORD FOR MESSIAH IS CHRISTOS WHICH IS WHERE WE GET OUR WORD "CHRIST". THE KING OF ISRAEL, GOD'S NATION, WAS THE MESSIAH. THIS IS A TYPE/FORESHADOW OF THE ONE WHO WILL RULE GOD'S KINGDOM FOREVER, THE MESSIAH/CHRIST/ANOINTED KING - JESUS.

1 KINGS 1:36-40 - SOLOMON ANOINTED KING

V. 38 - LET'S NOT MISS THE IMAGERY HERE. SOLOMON, THE NEW ONE TO BE PROCLAIMED KING, THE "SON OF DAVID" IS RIDING ON A DONKEY WITH GREAT JOY AND FANFARE INTO AND THROUGH THE CITY OF JERUSALEM (GIHON SPRING WAS LOCATED IN JERUSALEM V. 33, 38, 45).

1 KINGS 1:41-49 - ADONIJAH AND HIS DINNER GUESTS HEAR OF SOLOMON'S ANOINTING

HEARING THE NEWS - 1 KINGS 1:42-43 (NLT) - AND WHILE HE WAS STILL SPEAKING, JONATHAN SON OF ABIATHAR THE PRIEST ARRIVED. "COME IN," ADONIJAH SAID TO HIM, "FOR YOU ARE A GOOD MAN. YOU MUST HAVE GOOD NEWS." 43 "NOT AT ALL!" JONATHAN REPLIED. "OUR LORD KING DAVID HAS JUST DECLARED SOLOMON KING!

1 KINGS 1:50-53 - ADONIJAH'S RESPONSE. SOLOMON SPARES ADONIJAH

V. 50 - "TOOK HOLD OF THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR" - NET BIBLE NOTES: "THE "HORNS" OF THE ALTAR WERE THE HORN-SHAPED PROJECTIONS ON THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE ALTAR (SEE EXODUS 27:2). BY GOING TO THE HOLY PLACE AND GRABBING HOLD OF THE HORNS OF THE ALTAR, ADONIJAH WAS SEEKING ASYLUM FROM SOLOMON.

V. 52-53 - SOLOMON SPARES ADONIJAH'S LIFE AFTER HIS BRAZEN ACT AGAINST DAVID AND THE KINGDOM, BUT HE ALSO PUTS HIM ON NOTICE THAT HE EXPECTS HIS ALLEGIANCE GOING FORWARD.

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

1 - THE REAL KING: YOU MIGHT APPOINT YOURSELF TO BE KING, YOU MIGHT GET OTHERS TO THINK YOU'RE KING, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT ANOINTED BY THE LORD TO BE KING, YOU'RE NOT THE KING.

2 - FINISHING WELL: THIS IS ALSO A GREAT INSTANCE THAT SPEAKS ON HOW GOD WANTS US TO FINISH WELL. AS WE APPROACH THE END OF OUR LIVES, MAY WE POUR OURSELVES OUT FOR GOD'S SERVICE. DO NOT WASTE THE FINAL YEARS OF YOUR LIFE. THERE IS A SENSE THAT BEFORE NATHAN SPEAKS WITH DAVID, HE IS LAYING AROUND, WAITING FOR HIS FINAL DAY. BUT POST CONVERSATION, HE REALIZES THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE. HE IS NEEDED, BY HIS FAMILY, HIS NATION, AND HIS GOD. SO ARE YOU.