

1 Kings Chapter 1 Commentary

1Ki 1:1 ¶ "Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. 2 Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat. 3 So they sought for a fair damsel throughout all the coasts of Israel, and found Abishag a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. 4 And the damsel was very fair, and cherished the king, and ministered to him: but the king knew her not."

We continue with the life of King David and his last days in this chapter. The next few chapters will be the establishment of King Solomon and the building of the temple of the Lord.

We are told that King David is old, and he is losing his body temperature as he nears his end of life. His servants suggest finding a fair damsel to lay in the king's bosom and give him warmth, to which King David consents. They brought to the king the fairest virgin they could find in Israel, Abishag a Shunammite. She does all the wifely things to the king, but King David is not revived, and he does not know her, wherefore she retains her virginity.

This may seem strange to us today: as we live in different times than are in effect here. It was believed by the medical people of this time, we are told by history, and it still survives in parts of the world today: when a young body and an old body are brought together, the old body absorbs some of the young body's properties, and the old body is revived, and brought back to a temporary state of youngness better than their present situation. However, the adverse was also true: the younger body absorbs the old body's properties and begins to age faster than normal. This was a pagan medical practice, not the word of God. It is not something to be practiced today, and it should not have been practiced by Israel. Why? Because as Jesus told us in the New Testament, God's rule has always been for one man to be married to one woman, at the same time. Never did God authorize for a man to have multiple wives at the same time. That was given by Moses, according to Jesus, seen in *Mt 19:7-8; 7 "They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."* God did suffer it to be in Israel, but it was never by his design to be that way.

We point out that this fairest virgin became a wife of King David, even though he knew her not. How do we know this? Do you think that King David would lie with any woman that was not a wife or concubine, after his lesson of committing adultery with Bathsheba? Absolutely not. Also, why would Adonijah later ask for her to be given to him to wife? Because she was David's wife, this would give him the right to the kingship, enabling him as an older brother to Solomon to usurp the kingdom, as we shall see later.

5 ¶ "Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom. 7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped him."

Adonijah, seeing his father is near death, decides that he should be the next king and begins his insurrection. He prepares chariots and horsemen and fifty men to run before him to set his insurrection in motion, just like his older brother Absalom did. We do not know how long this went on. We are sure it went on long enough that King David knew about it, because the scripture says King David does not admonish him for his actions. Adonijah confers with Joab, the captain of the host of Israel, and Abiathar, the priest, in making his insurrection come to fruition. They agree to help him. Notice, there is no mention of seeking God and God's favor in these actions.

8 "But Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and Nathan the prophet, and Shimei, and Rei, and the mighty men which belonged to David, were not with Adonijah. 9 And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zohaleth, which is by Enrogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants: 10 But Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, and the mighty men, and Solomon his brother, he called not."

Adonijah very subtly does not invite anyone he knows to be totally loyal to King David. Adonijah also knows that Solomon is God's choice for the next king, because we find him saying it in **1Ki 2:15** *"And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD."* Adonijah knew that God had chosen Solomon to be king in his father's stead, therefore, he did not invite Solomon. It is interesting to note: the place he chose to proclaim his kingship is by the stone Zohaleth, which means **a crawling serpent**. The definition of this place demonstrates Adonijah's true nature. This simply demonstrates this all the actions of men without the guidance of God in their lives.

We were given a hint of Solomon being the Lord's choice from **2Sa 12:24** *"And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him."* God did not say that about any of the other children of King David.

11 ¶ "Wherefore Nathan spake unto Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, Hast thou not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith doth reign, and David our lord knoweth it not? **12** Now therefore come, let me, I pray thee, give thee counsel, that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon. **13** Go and get thee in unto king David, and say unto him, Didst not thou, my lord, O king, swear unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? why then doth Adonijah reign? **14** Behold, while thou yet talkest there with the king, I also will come in after thee, and confirm thy words. **15** And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king. **16** And Bathsheba bowed, and did obeisance unto the king. And the king said, What wouldest thou? **17** And she said unto him, My lord, thou swarest by the LORD thy God unto thine handmaid, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne. **18** And now, behold, Adonijah reigneth; and now, my lord the king, thou knowest it not: **19** And he hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the sons of the king, and Abiathar the priest, and Joab the captain of the host: but Solomon thy servant hath he not called. **20** And thou, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are upon thee, that thou shouldest tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. **21** Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders."

"that thou mayest save thine own life, and the life of thy son Solomon." Nathan the prophet heard what had happened and went to Bathsheba. He explains the situation to her and tells her what must happen to save her life, and the life of Solomon. How do we know they will be killed if Solomon is not anointed king? Because of verse 21 *"Otherwise it shall come to pass, when my lord the king shall sleep with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon shall be counted offenders."* If Adonijah is established as king, all he must do is falsely accuse them of treason and kill them.

This would be a good time to point out that Israel has turned from God and against King David. How do we know this? They have already followed Absalom in insurrection, and now they follow Adonijah in insurrection. They have forgotten that King David is their God given king. Just remember the anger of God against Israel in the previous chapter.

This scene gives us a prophetic picture of the insurrection of the antichrist when Jesus came to earth as King over God's people. But you say: Jesus was never anointed king over Israel. It is true that he never wore a natural crown, nor sat upon a natural throne, but he came to earth as a king, seen in **Mt 2:2** *Saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."* Israel knew that Jesus was to be their king, but they did not understand that his first coming was to save the chosen children of God from their sins, not to set up a natural kingdom. Well, what about insurrection against Jesus? As Solomon's family, and his people Israel, have risen in insurrection against their God given king, and the one they know is to be the next king: So, the leadership of Israel and Jesus's people Israel, rose in insurrection against Jesus and sought to put him to death. They refused to recognize that Jesus was their God given king. These same insurrectionists refused to recognize that Jesus was The Son of God?

Dear God in heaven, we pray that you may keep our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies, focused upon our King Jesus. Grant that we never desire to usurp his position. May we always recognize that we are servants to our King. We ask these blessings in the name above all names, that of Jesus the Christ, Amen!

22 "And, lo, while she yet talked with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. 23 And they told the king, saying, Behold Nathan the prophet. And when he was come in before the king, he bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. 24 And Nathan said, My lord, O king, hast thou said, Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne? 25 For he is gone down this day, and hath slain oxen and fat cattle and sheep in abundance, and hath called all the king's sons, and the captains of the host, and Abiathar the priest; and behold, they eat and drink before him, and say, God save king Adonijah. 26 But me, even me thy servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and thy servant Solomon, hath he not called. 27 Is this thing done by my lord the king, and thou hast not shewed it unto thy servant, who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him? 28 Then king David answered and said, Call me Bathsheba. And she came into the king's presence, and stood before the king. 29 And the king sware, and said, As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress, 30 Even as I sware unto thee by the LORD God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day. 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live forever."

We have not previously seen this vow of King David to Bathsheba in scripture. However, we are given a hint that this is God's will for we are told that God loved Solomon in **2Sa 12:24** *"And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him."* We are not told in scripture that God loved any of the other children of King David.

King David, hearing these reports, has them call Bathsheba back. He tells her that he shall fulfill his oath this very day. Thus, we know that David had made this vow to her.

32 ¶ "And king David said, Call me Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada. And they came before the king. 33 The king also said unto them, Take with you the servants of your lord, and cause Solomon my son to ride upon mine own mule, and bring him down to Gihon: 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon. 35 Then ye shall come up after him, that he may come and sit upon my throne; for he shall be king in my stead: and I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah."

King David, hearing of the insurrection of Adonijah, calls Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah, who will be the captain of the host of Israel after this is over. He is already captain of the Cherethites and the Pelethites, who are King David's personal bodyguards. King David gives them the specific instructions on how to anoint Solomon king in his stead. This will fulfill David's vow to Bathsheba and the Lord's will.

36 "And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, and said, Amen: the LORD God of my lord the king say so too. 37 As the LORD hath been with my lord the king, even so be he with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord king David. 38 So Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, went down, and caused Solomon to ride upon king David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. 39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon. 40 And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them."

Benaiah affirms King David's decree with an Amen! He adds that it is his prayer that this is also God's will. He further prays that God bless Solomon even more than he has King David. Benaiah understands that God's blessings are more important than David's blessings.

We are told they brought Solomon to Gihon and anointed him king. Gihon is the name of the one true spring within the city, Jerusalem. Gihon has the definition of *to burst or gush forth*, and it fed a stream that ran through Jerusalem. It is considered, according to history, by many to be a sacred spring with healing powers. This is believed to be the reason for choosing this spot to anoint King Solomon. We know it was within the walls of Jerusalem because we are told in: **2Ch 33:14** *"Now after this he built a wall without the city of David, on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, even to the entering in at the fish gate, and compassed about Ophel, and*

raised it up a very great height, and put captains of war in all the fenced cities of Judah." Manasseh built this wall on the west side of the spring to the south to the hill Ophel. The city of David is Jerusalem.

We are told that Zadok the priest takes a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anoints Solomon king over all Israel. We remember that David was also anointed with oil to be king over all Israel by Samuel the prophet. We point out that none of the three insurrectionists have any mention of being anointed with oil in their crownings. Theirs was simply a proclamation that I am king. That is the same song that Satan sings.

This thought gives us a prophetic picture of the children of God today. How? Scripture teaches that God's children are made kings and priest to him. As God tells us that He loved Solomon: so, we too are loved by God, inasmuch that God gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the eternal remission of our sins, and has made us accepted in the Beloved. We are given new life in Christ by God's choice and not our own. We cannot just say we are a child of God without the new birth. If we do: we are antichrist in insurrection against God, just as the previous insurrectionists we have studied about.

Those appointed carry out the instructions of King David, and Solomon is anointed king to reign over all Israel in the stead of his father, King David. When the anointing ceremony is completed, the people rejoice with so much joy that the earth is shaken with the sound of their rejoicing.

41 ¶ "And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar? 42 And while he yet spake, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came: and Adonijah said unto him, Come in; for thou art a valiant man, and bringest good tidings. 43 And Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, Verily our lord king David hath made Solomon king. 44 And the king hath sent with him Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have caused him to ride upon the king's mule: 45 And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon: and they are come up from thence rejoicing, so that the city rang again. This is the noise that ye have heard. 46 And also Solomon sitteth on the throne of the kingdom. 47 And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed. 48 And also thus said the king, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which hath given one to sit on my throne this day, mine eyes even seeing it."

Adonijah and his guest hear this sound of rejoicing, and the blowing of the trumpet, and inquire what is the meaning thereof. Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, who is confederate with Adonijah, brings the full story to them. He also tells them of the people's words of blessing, and prayers, for King Solomon, and King David's words of rejoicing in seeing his son filling his God appointed office, which we spoke of earlier.

49 "And all the guests that were with Adonijah were afraid, and rose up, and went every man his way. 50 And Adonijah feared because of Solomon, and arose, and went, and caught hold on the horns of the altar. 51 And it was told Solomon, saying, Behold, Adonijah feareth king Solomon: for, lo, he hath caught hold on the horns of the altar, saying, Let king Solomon swear unto me today that he will not slay his servant with the sword. 52 And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die. 53 So king Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and bowed himself to king Solomon: and Solomon said unto him, Go to thine house."

Adonijah's conspiratory insurrectionists all left him. Adonijah, fearing that he shall be put to death for his insurrection, goes to the altar and holds onto the horns thereof. He sends a message to Solomon to swear that he will not kill him. Solomon sends him a message back saying if he is found faithful, he will live, but if there is evil in him, he will die. Adonijah then comes at Solomon's command, and bows to the new king. Solomon tells him to go to his own house, which banishes him from the king's palace. Solomon's order confines Adonijah to his own house, as punishment for his sin of insurrection.

In this chapter, we see again; the self-appointed insurrectionist, who desire to be king in the stead of their God appointed king. Therefrom, we draw the prophetic picture of Satan, who is continually seeking his self-appointed position to be king over all people, in the stead of God's appointed King, Jesus, the Christ. All my life I have been told; when people want a position in the church and seek to gain that position by their own will, they

are the people you do not want to have that position. We certainly see this to be true in these insurrectionists in King David's time.

Satan is always the leader in insurrection against the rightful King. He began this in the Garden of Eden, and he has not quit tempting people to revolt against God and his commandments. May God continue to give all his people humble hearts, which are always seeking to serve their God given King, the KING of kings, and the LORD of lords, our Saviour and Lord, King Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen!