### 1 Kings

## Chapter 1

1King David had grown very old, and even when they wrapped him in [heavy] clothes he couldn’t get warm.  
  
2So his servants said:  
  
 ‘Have them search for a young virgin girl who’ll wait on the king, treat him well, and lie with him… Who’ll keep him warm.’  
  
3So they searched for a pretty young woman throughout the borders of IsraEl, and they found AbiSag the Somanite and brought her to the king.  
  
4The young woman was extremely beautiful, and she treated the king very well and served him; but, he never [had sex] with her.  
  
  
5Meanwhile, AdoniJah (son of [David’s woman] AgGith) tried to elevate himself, saying:  
  
 ‘I will be the king!’  
  
So he prepared himself [by collecting] chariots and horses, and having 50 men run ahead of him. 6Yet [David] never discouraged him or asked him why he was doing this.  
  
AdoniJah was a very handsome man, to whom his mother had given birth after AbSalom. 7And he went to meet with JoAb son of ZeruJah and AbiAthar the Priest, who then they became his supporters.  
  
8However, neither the Priest ZaDok, nor BenaiJah son of JehoiAda, nor the prophet Nathan, nor Semei, nor Resi, nor any of David’s mighty men supported AdoniJah.  
  
  
9Then AdoniJah went to the Rock of ZoeLethi (near RogEl) to sacrifice sheep, calves, and lambs, and he called for [most of] his brothers, the king’s servants, and all the adult men of Judah…  
  
10But he didn’t invite the prophet Nathan, BenaiJah, any of the mighty men, or his brother Solomon.  
  
11So, Nathan went to BathSheba (Solomon’s mother) and asked:  
  
 ‘Have you heard?  
  
 ‘AgGith’s son AdoniJah has started ruling. However, our lord David doesn’t know about it yet.  
  
 12‘So, please allow me to offer you some council that will save your life and the life of your son Solomon.  
  
 13‘Hurry and go to King David, then say to him:  
  
 ‘O my lord the king,  
  
 ‘Didn’t you swear to me (your handmaid) that my son Solomon would reign after you and sit on your throne? And if so, why is AdoniJah reigning?’  
  
 14‘Then, while you’re still there speaking to the king, I’ll come in after you and confirm what you’re saying.’  
  
15As a result, BathSheba went to see the king in his bedroom.  
  
Well, the king was very old, and AbiSag (the Somanite) was there serving him... 16Then BathSheba bowed low before the king and he asked her:  
  
 ‘What do you want?’  
  
17And she replied:  
  
 ‘My lord,  
  
 ‘Didn’t you swear to your handmaid by Jehovah your God, saying:  
  
 ‘Your son Solomon will reign after me and sit on my throne?’  
  
 18‘But look! AdoniJah has now started to rule, although you, my lord the king, don’t know anything about this!  
  
 19‘He’s already sacrificed many calves, lambs, and sheep, and he’s invited all of the king’s sons, as well as AbiAthar the Priest and JoAb, the commander-in-chief of your army, to come with him.  
  
 ‘Of course, he didn’t invite your servant Solomon.  
  
 20‘So now, O my lord the king,  
  
 ‘All IsraEl is watching and waiting for you to tell them who’ll sit on your throne after you. 21And as it presently stands; after my lord the king goes to sleep with his fathers, my son Solomon and I shall be [in great jeopardy].’  
  
22Then, {Look!} while she was still speaking to the king, the prophet Nathan arrived, which was reported to the king with the words:  
  
 23‘Look, the prophet Nathan has arrived.’  
  
So, Nathan went into the king’s presence and bowed to him with his face to the ground, 24then he said:  
  
 ‘My lord, O king,  
  
 ‘Did you say that AdoniJah will reign after you and sit on your throne?  
  
 25‘For today he’s gone to sacrifice many calves, lambs, and sheep, and he’s invited all your sons, the chiefs of the army, and AbiAthar the Priest.  
  
 ‘Look! They’re eating and drinking before him now, saying:  
  
 ‘Long live King AdoniJah!’  
  
 26‘But he didn’t invite me, your servant, or the Priest ZaDok, or BenaiJah son of JehoiAda, or your servant Solomon.  
  
 27‘Has this matter been authorized by my lord the king, and have you failed to tell your servant who’ll succeed you on the throne?’  
  
28Then King David said:  
  
 ‘Call BathSheba back in.’  
  
So she came in and stood before the king.  
  
29Then the king swore [an oath to her], saying:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah, who saved my life from all danger, lives, 30and as I swore to you by Jehovah the God of IsraEl, saying:  
  
 ‘Your son Solomon will reign after me and sit on my throne after me’...  
  
 ‘I’m saying the same thing today.’  
  
31And at that, BathSheba bowed low with her face to the ground, and said:  
  
 ‘May my lord King David live throughout the ages.’  
  
32Then King David said:  
  
 ‘Call ZaDok the Priest, the prophet Nathan, and BenaiJah son of JehoiAda to me.’  
  
So they came in and stood before the king, 33and the king said to them:  
  
 ‘Take my servants with you and mount my son Solomon on my personal mule, then take him to GiOn.  
  
 34‘There, ZaDok the Priest and the prophet Nathan should anoint him to be the king over IsraEl.  
  
 ‘Then you must blow the trumpets and shout:  
  
 ‘Long live King Solomon!’  
  
 35‘For he will sit on my throne and be the ruler in place of me… I’m giving the order that he will now be the leader over IsraEl and Judah!’  
  
36Then BenaiJah son of JehoiAda said to the king:  
  
 ‘May it be so! May Jehovah, the God of my lord the king, make it so!  
  
 37‘And as Jehovah was with my lord the king, may He be with Solomon… May He raise his throne even higher than the throne of my lord King David.’  
  
38So ZaDok the Priest, Nathan the prophet, BenaiJah son of JehoiAda, and the Cherethites and Phelethites went and mounted Solomon on King David’s mule, and led him away to GiOn.  
  
39Then ZaDok took the horn of oil from the Sacred Tent, anointed Solomon with it, and blew the trumpets, as all the people started shouting:  
  
 ‘[Long] live King Solomon!’  
  
40And thereafter, so many people came to him dancing and singing in joy that the ground literally shook with the sounds of their voices.  
  
41Well, when AdoniJah and his guests heard all the commotion, they stopped eating.  
  
And when JoAb heard the trumpets being blown, he asked:  
  
 ‘Why is the whole city in such an uproar?’  
  
42Then, while he was still speaking, {Look!} JoNathan (AbiAthar the Priest’s son) came in. And AdoniJah said:  
  
 ‘Welcome!  
  
 ‘Since you’re such a powerful man, you must be bringing good news!’  
  
43And JoNathan replied:  
  
 ‘It’s true! For our lord King David has made Solomon the king!  
  
 44‘He sent ZaDok the Priest, Nathan the prophet, BenaiJah son of JehoiAda, and the Cherethites and Phelethites, and they mounted him on the king’s mule; 45then they anointed him in GiOn.  
  
 ‘So, the sounds that you’re hearing from the city are the sounds of rejoicing!  
  
 46‘For Solomon is now seated on the throne of the kingdom, 47and the king’s servants are going in to praise our lord King David, saying:  
  
 ‘May God make the name of Solomon even better than your name and his throne greater than your throne!’  
  
 ‘Right now, the king is bowing before [God] from his bed and 48saying:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah the God of IsraEl be praised, because today He’s appointed one of my offspring to sit on my throne while my eyes can still see it!’  
  
49Well at that, all the guests of AdoniJah were shocked… And then they just left. 50And because AdoniJah was afraid of Solomon, he got up and walked out, then he went and grabbed hold of the horns on the Altar.  
  
  
51Thereafter, when it was reported to Solomon that AdoniJah was afraid of him and that he was holding onto the horns of the Altar and saying:  
  
 ‘Let Solomon swear to me today that he won’t kill his servant with his sword,’  
  
52Solomon said:  
  
 ‘If he’s an honorable man, not a single hair will fall to the ground; but if he’s evil, he will die.’  
  
53So King Solomon sent and had him brought back from the Altar.  
  
Then [AdoniJah] bowed low before King Solomon, and Solomon said to him:  
  
 ‘Now, just go back home!’