

# **STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON**

## **STUDY NUMBER TWO –1 KINGS 1:1-53**

**As the scene of our study opens today in 1 Kings, chapter 1,**

**David has finally reached that place, where he can no longer deny the fact, that he is old.**

**He has now reached the age, of dependence.**

**It's the time of being in the bed.**

**And it is difficult. It happens to everyone.**

**We like to deny it and put it off as long as we can,**

**But the time finally comes when time is on the side of death.**

**And David is very, very close there.**

**Are you excited? You better be. Man, I'm ready!**

**v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him.**

David is old. He has circulatory problems.

He can't even keep himself warm.

Now when I read this, immediately my mind went to the movie "City Slickers."

Do you remember in the movie "City Slickers" when Billy Crystal is supposed to go before the kindergarten class.

Where his son is going to school.

And he is supposed to explain to them what he does?

And then he gives this dissertation on aging.

Remember it?

*(The Body* by Charles Colson with Ellen Santilli Vaughn)

### City Slickers

Value this time in your life, kids, because this is the time in your life when you still have your choices. It goes by so fast.

When you're a teenager, you think you can do anything and you do. Your twenties are a blur.

**Thirties you raise your family, you make a little money, and you think to yourself, “What happened to my twenties?”**

**Forties, you grow a little pot belly, you grow another chin. The music starts to get too loud, one of your old girlfriends from high school becomes a grandmother.**

**Fifties, you have a minor surgery--you’ll call it a procedure, but it’s a surgery.**

**Sixties, you’ll have a major surgery, the music is still loud, but it doesn’t matter because you can’t hear it anyway.**

**Seventies, you and the wife retire to Fort Lauderdale. You start eating dinner at 2:00 in the afternoon, you have lunch around 10:00, breakfast the night before, spend most of your time wandering around malls looking for the ultimate soft yogurt and muttering, “How come the kids don’t call? How come the kids don’t call?”**

**The eighties, you’ll have a major stroke, and you end up babbling with some Jamaican nurse who your wife can’t stand, but who you call mama.**

**Any questions?**

**pp. 168-69**

**For Billy Crystal, that’s the way he was going to describe, getting out of here.**

**King David is 70 and now is in the final stages.**

His servants wanted to do something nice for him because he shivered so notice what they say in verse 2.

By the way this is the culture, during this period of time.

**v. 2** So his servants said to him, “Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm.”

Remember this passage is before heating pads and electric blankets.

David doesn't resist this proposal, he doesn't ask for a second opinion, nor does he suggest an alternate plan.

These servants are going to do this for their king, whom they have loved,

And who has led the nation for 40 years.

**v. 3** Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl [*they had a regular beauty pageant*] and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

Shunem is about seven miles northwest of Nazareth.

Now there are those who believe, that Abishag is Shulammit, in the Song of Solomon.

I'm not sure about that.

So Abishag is a very beautiful girl, and they brought her, to this aged king.

**v. 4 The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.**

She was kind of like, a female nurse or a valet.

She was there to minister to the king's needs in this time of transition from here to there.

We're about to see some of the bitter fruit of David's sin?

While David is on his deathbed, his fourth born son is going to try, for a power play for the throne.

**v. 5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.**

David's domestic problems have followed him even to his deathbed. *"Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward."*

**Let's get the sequence of the sons, so you understand why Adonijah, did this.**

**Amnon was the oldest boy, he is gone.**

**We don't know what happened to Chileab.**

**Abigail was the mother and they had a little boy named Chileab.**

**But he drops out of all of the genealogical tables so he must have died young.**

**Then the third born son was Absalom, he died on the field of battle.**

**So that really puts Adonijah, fourth born son, in the position of inheritance.**

**God however has His own program, and His own plan.**

**We know what that is because during our last study,**

**We watched David prepare everything for the building of the temple.**

**And Solomon is the heir-apparent to all of this.**

**Now Adonijah is throwing a wrench in the works. He puts himself forth.**

**Luke 14:11 says,**

**For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled,  
and he who humbles himself shall be exalted.”**

**Adonijah is arrogant, he is selfish, he is totally  
distorted in his thinking, about his talents and his gifts  
and abilities.**

**Listen to this statement by John Piper *Future Grace*.**

**(*Future Grace* by John Piper)**

**The condition of the heart is appraised by the kinds of  
desires that hold sway. Or, to put it another way, the  
state of the heart is shown by the things that satisfy its  
desires. If it is satisfied with mean and ugly things, it is  
a mean and ugly heart. If it is satisfied with God, it is a  
godly heart. As Henry Skougal put it, “The worth and  
excellence of a soul is to be measured by the object of  
its desire.”<sup>3</sup>**

**3. Henry Skougal, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*  
(Harrisonburg, Va.: Sprinkle Publications, 1986, orig.  
1677), p. 62.  
p. 278**

**Adonijah is not one happy camper.**

**Remember Proverbs 6 when Solomon wrote those  
words,**

*(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)*

## Proverb 6

Here are six things God hates,  
and one more that he loathes with a passion:

eyes that are arrogant,  
a tongue that lies,  
hands that murder the innocent,  
a heart that hatches evil plots,  
feet that race down a wicked track,  
a mouth that lies under oath,  
a troublemaker in the family.

*“Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith,  
put himself forward and said, ‘I will be king.’*

So he has the chariots and horses ready, with fifty men  
to run ahead of him.”

**v. 6 (His father had never interfered with him by asking, “Why do you behave as you do?” He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)**

One of the issues in the life of David is the fact, that he was a very poor parent.

**You don't see him functioning as a man in the lives of his children in any credible way whatsoever.**

**Children were a burden.**

**Children were an interruption.**

**Children were children,**

**And David didn't have any time for them so he reaps what he sows.**

**Eugene Peterson in Proverbs 22 says,**

***(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)***

**Listen to Proverb 22 from the Message.**

**Young people are prone to foolishness and fads; the cure comes through tough-minded discipline.**

**This is great!**

**Sin can shipwreck your life.**

- **sin will take you farther than you want to go;**
- **sin will keep you longer than you wanted to stay;**
- **sin will cost you more than you wanted to pay.**

**v. 7 Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support.**

**One thing that you'll find when you're close**

to death, is that your true friends are going to be around you.

Now Joab knows better.  
He shouldn't have gone.

He has been David's military man most of his career with one little exception.

Abiathar shouldn't have done that either.

Abiathar was the only survivor of the 85 priests that were killed by Saul's madness at Nob.

He fled to David at the cave of Adullam and David said "You can stay with me."

And through all these years of David's career, Abiathar has been one of the priests.

But Abiathar has his nose out of joint because Zadok evidently is the senior priest.

And David looks more to Zadok than he does to Abiathar.  
So he's thinking, "I'm going to get one of the royal chairs if I go with Adonijah."

So they both make a decision, very selfishly, at this point. But look at verse 8,

**v. 8** But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

The loyalty of these guys, even while David is near his deathbed is tremendous.

Now look at what Adonijah does.

**v. 9** Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zoheleth near En Rogel.

*[There were two springs in Jerusalem and here Adonijah goes to one and pretty soon, David's forces are going to go to the other one but it is like the two party system; you have one group meeting in this part of town and the other group meeting in the other part of town. He sacrificed the sheep and the cattle, notice what he did though. He sacrificed all these things and]* He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah who were royal officials,

**v. 10** but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

Notice that there are guys who have been left off this guest list.

And if this was from God and this was for real, then they should have been invited and been a part of it because these are people of real integrity.

**v. 11 Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king without our lord David's knowing it?"**

Do you realize that David is on his deathbed but Adonijah is pulling this power play, do you see what's happening?

**v. 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.**

This is what I want you to do, Bathsheba.

**v. 13 Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'**

There are two questions. All you have to do is just go in and ask these two questions:

1. Didn't you say this? and
2. Secondly, why has Adonijah become king?

Just ask those two questions.

**v. 14** While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and confirm what you have said.”

I’m going to come right in, and back up what you said, so don’t get nervous.

**v. 15** So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.

She’s just fine with Abishag the Shunammite being with David, since that’s the culture.

**v. 16** Bathsheba bowed low and knelt before the king. “What is it you want?” the king asked.

Here is a lady whose life is in jeopardy. She is going to die if Adonijah becomes king.

Solomon and she both, are going to die because they’re a threat, to the throne.

And so this is a life and death situation.

Bathsheba knows David.

The question is, “David, are you a man of integrity? Are you going to keep your promises?”

Look how she handles it in Verse 17.

**v. 17** She said to him, “My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the Lord your God: ‘Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.’”

That is what you said.

**v. 18** But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.

**v. 19** He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king’s sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.

There’s one guy who has been left off the guest list.

Nathan is going to have a different list in just a minute.

**v. 20** My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

All “*the eyes of all Israel are on you.*”

The Kingdom is waiting for your decision.

**v. 21** Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals.”

And they will be executed as a result of it.

What a speech.

Bathsheba has three points:

1. She speaks of the promise.
2. She spells out the problem.
3. And she has a plea.

This is what I need for you to do.

Right on schedule, look at verse 22, they have it timed perfectly!

**v. 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived.**

**v. 23 And they told the king, “Nathan the prophet is here.” So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.**

Bathsheba has now excused herself.

**v. 24 Nathan said, “Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne?”**

Now you have a diplomatic relationship.

You have two men talking to each other.

Nathan is God’s man in David’s life.

And instead of accusing him of anything, he just asks him for a clarification.

And then he gives a surveillance report.

**v. 25** Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

But there are some names left off the guest list, sir.

**v. 26** But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite.

Then the next thing is a question, for definition.

**v. 27** Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

Is this something you did in a moment of weakness?  
And you did privately?  
And you didn't tell anybody about it?

Which is your own right to do that, I just need to know.

He starts with a question and he ends with a final question “Is this something....”

Now God is never late and when God is ready to move, God is going to move and we can't stop Him.

God is ready to move.  
Just look at verse 28.

**v. 28** Then King David said, “Call in Bathsheba.” So she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

She enters & stands to hear from the king, his decision.

**v. 29** The king then took an oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble,

**v. 30** I will surely carry out today what I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place.”

A promise made is a promise kept and it's time for me to do, what needs to be done.

**v. 31** Then Bathsheba bowed low with her face to the ground [*I mean she just fell out*] and, kneeling

before the king, said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

What a relief!

When God’s will is made known there is celebration, and there is joy.

**v. 32** King David said, “Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” When they came before the king,

David knew what to do.

**v. 33** he said to them [that is: Nathan, Zadok and Benaiah] “Take your lord’s servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.

That’s the other spring.

**v. 34** There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, [*not long live King Adonijah but*] ‘Long live King Solomon!’

God’s sovereign purpose is being fulfilled.

We are living in a world where there are kingdoms in conflict.

**This is a picture of our world.**

**There are a lot of people living in the camp of King Adonijah, and that's Satan's kingdom.**

**He has blinded the minds of those who don't believe.**

**Their devotion and their dedication are to material things, not spiritual things.**

**Everything they live for is the here and the now.**

**But those who are born again by the Spirit into God's kingdom,**

**Become a part of that kingdom, and they know one day, those forces are going to triumph.**

**Caution don't get caught up like Joab and Abiathar and the rest of them, in the wrong kingdom.**

**v. 35 Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."**

**v. 36 Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! [*Boy, he is excited.*] May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.**

**v. 37** As the Lord was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!”

**v. 38** So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David’s mule and escorted him to Gihon.

**v. 39** Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, [*What?*] “Long live King Solomon!”

**v. 40** And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

This is the time for Solomon to take the throne and there is great celebration.

The ground literally shook as they went up.

Now all the television networks, of course, have all been pro-Adonijah from the very beginning and so they are going to switch the cameras down to Adonijah’s camp to get a reaction report on what has just happened.

**How would you like to be sitting at Adonijah's table celebrating his political aspirations, and find all this out?**

**You know there are going to be an awful lot of people, when Jesus returns, that are going to discover, that they have been in the wrong camp.**

**v. 41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, "What's the meaning of all the noise in the city?"**

**v. 42 Even as he was speaking, Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest arrived. Adonijah said, "Come in. A worthy man like you must be bringing good news."**

**v. 43 "Not at all!" Jonathan answered. "Our lord King David has made Solomon king."**

**How does he refer to David? "Our lord King David."**

**He might be on his deathbed but he is still king and he is still our lord, and he has made a decision. Solomon is king.**

**What a shock, here they are, the election is over, they're sitting in the wrong camp.**

What are they going to do?

Now notice what happens, he gives a further report.

**v. 44** The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites, and they have put him on the king's mule,

**v. 45** and Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon. From there they have gone up cheering, and the city resounds with it. That's the noise you hear.

**v. 46** Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.

**v. 47** Also, the royal officials have come to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make Solomon's name more famous than yours and his throne greater than yours!' And the king bowed in worship on his bed

David finished his final acts.

**v. 48** and said, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.'"

**v. 49** At this, all Adonijah's guests rose in alarm and dispersed.

I mean they just disappear!

**v. 50 But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.**

That was the only safe place to go.

**v. 51 Then Solomon was told, “Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and is clinging to the horns of the altar. He says, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’”**

This is what Adonijah would have done to Solomon and also to Bathsheba.

But now he is pleading that it won't happen to him.

**v. 52 Solomon replied, “If he shows himself to be a worthy man, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground; but if evil is found in him, he will die.”**

What would be the evil?

That there is still that unbroken spirit and he is still unwilling to surrender to the leadership of King Solomon.

The ball is really in Adonijah's court.

We pull the curtain on this final verse,

**v. 53 Then King Solomon sent men, and they brought him down from the altar. And Adonijah came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon said, "Go to your home."**

# STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

## STUDY NUMBER TWO — 1 KINGS 1:1-53 Notes

### 1 Kings 1:1-53:

v. 1 When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him.

v. 2 So his servants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to attend the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."

v. 3 Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful girl and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

v. 4 The girl was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no intimate relations with her.

v. 5 Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him.

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v. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

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v. 10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

v. 11 Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king without our lord David's knowing it?"

v. 12 Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

v. 13 Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'

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v. 18 But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it.

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**v. 33** he said to them: "Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon.

**v. 34** There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!'

**v. 35** Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah."

**v. 36** Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the Lord, the God of my lord the king, so declare it.

**v. 37** As the Lord was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!"

**v. 38** So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon.

**v. 39** Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!"

**v. 40** And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

**v. 41** Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, "What's the meaning of all the noise in the city?"

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**v. 46** Moreover, Solomon has taken his seat on the royal throne.

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**v. 48** and said, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.'

**v. 49** At this, all Adonijah's guests rose in alarm and dispersed.

**v. 50** But Adonijah, in fear of Solomon, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

**v. 51** Then Solomon was told, "Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon and is clinging to the horns of the altar. He says, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

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**v. 53** Then King Solomon sent men, and they brought him down from the altar. And Adonijah came and bowed down to King Solomon, and Solomon said, "Go to your home."

## LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

**LESSON #1: None of us are exempt from going through the process of aging.**

**LESSON #2: There must be parental discipline, or there are going to be problems with the children.**

**LESSON #3: Failure to be involved in the lives of our children will bear the bitter fruit of rebellion.**

**LESSON #4: God's sovereign purposes will never be thwarted by the decisions of men.**

**LESSON #5: The Lord's purpose prevails when Solomon becomes king.**

**LESSON #6: David is a man of his word. A promise made is a promise kept.**

**LESSON #7: When things are not right, selective choices and subversive actions are involved.**

**LESSON #8: When God's will is acted upon, there will be great celebration.**

**LESSON #9: King David is bowing in worship on his bed, saying "Praise be to the Lord of Israel who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today."**

**LESSON #10: Think of all of those who are going to be shocked when Jesus Christ assumes the reigns of His eternal Kingdom, and Satan and his forces are thoroughly destroyed.**

**QUESTIONS:**

**1. Read 1 Kings 1:1-53 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.**

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**2. Who is it that tries to get the kingdom from David in the early verses of this chapter and how does he go about it?**

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**3. Outline the drama that takes place in protecting Solomon's future kingship.**

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**4. How does David respond to this uprising according to verses 28-30?**

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**5. What is Benaiah's response to David's decision about the kingship of Solomon, according to verses 36-37?**

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**6. Describe in your own words the anointing of King Solomon in verses 39-40.**

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**7. Describe the response of Adonijah and his guests upon receiving the news about Solomon in verses 41-49.**

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**8. How did Adonijah respond to the news that Solomon was king, according to verses 50-53?**

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**9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

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**10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

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