

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 8
December 4

Saul, David & Solomon

The End of
David's Reign &
the Beginning
of Solomon's
1 Kings 1-3

Now King David was old and advanced in years.
(1 Kings 1:1)

We'll hear much more about the son of David named Solomon over the next few weeks, but he wasn't the only or the oldest son of King David at this point. David had another son named Adonijah who very much wanted to be the next king over Israel.

Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him. (1:5-7)

But when Nathan the prophet heard what was happening, he encouraged Bathsheba the mother of Solomon to talk to David about who the next king in Israel would be (1:11-14).

And the king swore, saying, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day." (1:29-30)

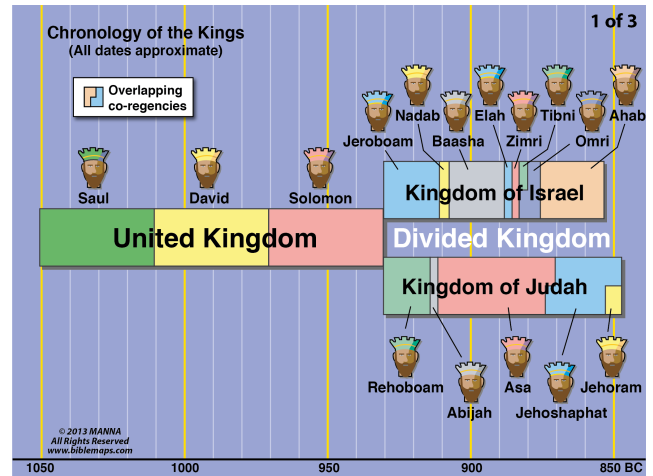
When David was about to die, he commanded Solomon his son:

"I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

(2:1-4)

David, the second king of Israel, died at the age of 70 (2 Sam 5:4-5; 1 Kings 2:10-11). "So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established" (2:12).

In 1 Kings 3, we read that the LORD invited Solomon, "Ask what I shall give you" (3:5) and Solomon very humbly asked for wisdom (3:9). It was a great request, but already we've heard some concerning things about Solomon (3:1-3). Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Our study over the last few weeks of David as a parent has uncovered some concerning things. In your own words, what is **1 Kings 1:6** saying about David as a father to Adonijah? Is that a good thing? If not, why not?

- Let's go back to **1 Kings 2:1-4** and reread what David told Solomon just before he died.
 - In what ways would Solomon need to “be strong”?

 - How would you summarize **2:3**?

 - What had the LORD promised David in **2:4**? But what would David's sons and grandsons and great-grandsons need to do in order to enjoy that promise? Looking ahead to their future, how did they do?

- Solomon “loved the LORD,” but in **1 Kings 3** we begin to see signs of what looks like a divided heart in Solomon.
 - Solomon made a choice in **3:1**. Was it a good choice or bad choice? All the way back in **Deuteronomy 7:3-4**, what had the LORD warned Israel about? Why?

 - When the Old Testament talks about people sacrificing on “the high places,” what is it talking about? All the way back in **Deuteronomy 12:1-7**, what had the LORD warned Israel about?

 - Putting these two concerning things together, notice what we're eventually told about Solomon in **1 Kings 11:7-8**. Solomon “loved the LORD,” so how does he end up in such a dangerous place?

- In **1 Kings 3:5-14**, what *could* Solomon have asked for? Instead, he asked for...

- We live a very long time after Solomon, but notice how we are encouraged in **James 1:5-8**. What is this “wisdom” and why do we need it?