

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

David's Final Days

- In David's dying days he became weak and susceptible to cold [1 Kgs 1:1-4].
 - A beautiful woman, Abishag the Shunammite, was found for David's nurse and "warmer" [vv. 2-3].
 - Josephus attested to this as a common practice as well as Galen, a Greek physician and philosopher.
 - Although David had a weakness for beautiful women, no "funny business" took place [v. 4].
- Adonijah perceived David's weakness and attempted to seize the throne [1 Kgs 1:5-10].
 - Adonijah was the 4th son of David [2 Sam 3:4] and likely the oldest one living at the time.
 - The chariots and horsemen plus 50 men running before him was an attempt to establish credibility with the people [v. 5].
 - Adonijah was handsome (and likely popular) [v. 6].
 - Joab and Abiathar the priest joined Adonijah in his conspiracy [v. 7].
 - Zadok, Benaiah, Nathan and David's mighty men remained faithful to David [v. 8].
 - Adonijah tried to involve other sons of David with the notable exception of Solomon [vv. 9-10].
- Nathan responded to the conspiracy by urging Bathsheba to approach David and secure the throne for Solomon [1 Kgs 1:11-31].
 - Nathan was a prophet and was likely moved by God to take this action (as before [2 Sam 12:1]).
 - Nathan was deeply concerned about what would happen to Bathsheba and Solomon if Adonijah took over the throne [v. 12].
 - The promise made to Bathsheba [vv. 13, 17] is not recorded elsewhere in Scripture, but Solomon was the promised heir to the throne [1 Chr 22:8-10].
 - Adonijah had claimed the throne ("became king" [v. 13]), but he had not been anointed or crowned.
 - Nathan made it clear to Bathsheba that he would back up what she was saying [v. 14].
 - Though she was his wife, Bathsheba showed David the respect he deserved as the king before explaining the situation to him [vv. 16-19].
 - Bathsheba told David that Israel would abide by his choice of successor as she revealed her concern for her life and Solomon's life [vv. 20-21].
 - Nathan then entered and confirmed everything Bathsheba had said [vv. 22-27].
 - David called for Bathsheba and told her that he would honor the vow he had made to her without any delay [vv. 28-30].
 - Once again, Bathsheba showed David proper respect in expressing her gratitude [v. 31].

- David set forth his plan to have Solomon become king [1 Kgs 1:32-40].
 - David instructed Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah to carry out his plan [v. 32].
 - They were to anoint Solomon, proclaim him king and sit him on the throne [vv. 33-35].
 - Benaiah expressed the sentiment of all three men with a resounding “Amen!” [vv. 36-37].
 - Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah along with David’s personal guard carries out David’s plan just as specified [vv. 38-39].
 - The people rejoiced that Solomon had been made king as David’s clear choice [v. 40].
- The news of Solomon’s anointing came to Adonijah and company [1 Kgs 1:41-53].
 - Adonijah assumed the uproar of the people was a sign of good news [vv. 41-42].
 - Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, relayed the news of Solomon’s anointing to Adonijah [vv. 43-46].
 - He also made it clear that David was thrilled with Solomon’s anointing [vv. 47-48].
 - Adonijah and those who had followed him reacted with great fear [vv. 49-50].
 - Grasping the horns of the altar is symbolic of asking for mercy [v. 51 cf. Ex 21:13-14].
 - Solomon showed mercy toward Adonijah as he found him to be a worthy man [vv. 52-53].