

I Kings 1:

Succor, Betrayal, Rebellion, Hero to the Rescue, Bathsheba Wins Out

Catherine Taylor

Hello all

Welcome back to the rousing times of the kings! As you know, there will be parallel stories from Chronicles in our studies, after this chapter. As you also know, from the articles on our chat, Chronicles was written later and for a very different purpose. Since most of our Virtual Vestry group had a hard time with violence and heartbreak during the Samuel studies, you can well imagine how much Israel would have needed encouragement when Chronicles was written.

So, here are some notes:

Shunamites: This is the first mention of a woman from this village. Just wait till a few kings from now! This place nurtures interesting people.

Haggith: Her name means festive. She is a wife of David and appears earlier in 2 Samuel 3:4.

Adonijah: David's fourth son, born to Haggith in Hebron while David was fighting Saul. If he was born during that time period he is late 30s or early 40s at the time of our story. His name means "My Lord is Yahweh". I find this ironic given his work to depose a covenant-based king.

Joab – I see this as his first time in open rebellion.

Abiathar – High priest at Nob, forth in descent from Eli, and the last of Eli's house to be High Priest. He is the son of Ahimelech, the high priest who escaped Saul slaughter at Nob.

Conspiracy against David: Adonijah, Joab, Abiathar (son, military leader, High Priest)

Zadok- a descendant of Eleazar son of Aaron. (You might want to take a quick google of Eleazar and his role in early Israel to get a sense of how Zadok might view his heritage and responsibility. Remember legacy is key to this culture. He will become high priest soon.

Benaiah – was one of David’s *mighty warriors*. He’ll get a promotion.

Nathan – Yes, that one. If you don’t remember him, I recommend getting extra sleep and more vitamins.

Shimei – This is the one who pelted David and all the king’s officials with stones. This appears to be the same Shimei that was a counselor to Solomon and pressured him not to marry foreign wives. Take a look and see if you research this differently.

Rei – his name means “my shepherd, my companion, my friend.” He appears to be one of the mighty men.

Support for David – Zadok, Beniah, Nathan, Shimei, Rei (priest, prophet, mighty warriors)

Bathsheba – Finally!!

The Stone of Zoheleth -Translation from Hebrew *serpent or crawling thing*.

Questions to Consider

1. Why do you think the writer of Kings started their scroll with the story of Abishag?
2. In the face of the proverb “The definition of crazy is trying something over after it has failed and expecting different results”, why do you think Adonijah believed he could succeed.
3. I saw a triumvirate of rebellion and a triumvirate of loyalty. It seemed like a metaphor of larger Biblical lessons to me. What do you think?

4. What do you see in the histories of these players in verses 5-8 that might have affected their decisions.
5. Why do you think the author noted that David had “never corrected him”.
6. Why do you think it was noted that he was handsome?
7. In verse 9; what do you think of Adonijah’s sacrifices at the Stone of Zohemoth near En Rogel?
8. Vs. 11 What do you make of Nathan’s announcement Bathsheba?
9. What do you think of his advice to her.
10. What do you think of the way Nathan and Bathsheba addressed the issue with David?
11. What do you think this interaction was like for Bathsheba? Vs. 28
12. Vs. 36,37 – What do you think might be the significance of Benaiah using the name Yahweh in confirmation of his support for Solomon.
13. Vs. 36 to 40 – What would it have been like for you to be in this scene?
14. Vs. 41 to 48 – what do you think it would have been like for Adonijah and his followers to hear this news?
15. Vs. 49 to 53 – Why do you think Solomon pardoned Adonijah?
16. What do you think is the most important part of this story?
17. What part did you like best? Why?

As always, I wish for you gentle, unexpected blessings.

See you soon.

Catherine