

General Church Education



# Solomon Is Made King

1 Kings 1:5-34, 50-53; 2:1-4

## Lesson 32

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is King of Kings

For ages 10-11

## Solomon Is Made King

1 Kings 1:5-34, 50-53; 2:1-4

### Teacher Background

David was old and frail when his handsome son Adonijah tried to make himself king like his brother Absalom. He invited his brothers to a feast. But Nathan the prophet told David's wife Bathsheba what was happening. Bathsheba told David, and Nathan gently asked David about Adonijah, alerting him to his treacherous plan. David issued orders to anoint Solomon king and directed how it was to be done. During the celebration that followed Adonijah and his co-conspirators heard the noise, realized what had happened and fled. The punishment for treason was death. Adonijah ran to the horns of the altar for protection and Solomon pardoned him. David died and was buried in Jerusalem. His descendants ruled for 500 years.

This story marks the transition from David's rule to the rule of Solomon. It also shows the difficulties of transitions. Representatively, David represented the Lord before He came into the world, while Solomon represented the Lord after He came into the world and established His church. David's warning to remove enemies and hope for Israel's future are important.

### Focus Point

- As an old and feeble king David's son Adonijah tried to seize the throne of Israel.
- David responded by making Solomon king over Israel, which frightened Adonijah.
- David instructed Solomon to follow the Lord, which securely established his kingdom.

### Readings from the Writings

To ride on a she-mule, the is badge of a king because a she-mule represents the affection of rational truth. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2781.6,7

The new will, which is received from the Lord, is called 'the heart', while the new understanding is called 'the soul'. And when the expression 'with all the heart and with all the soul' is used, with all the will and with all the understanding is meant. David said to Solomon, Jehovah will establish His Word which He spoke concerning me, saying, If your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there will not fail you a man on the throne of Israel. See *Arcana Coelestia* 2930.2

"The horns of the altar" represented truths proceeding from the good of love. Altars had horns because they represented the worship of the Lord from the good of love, and as all Divine protection is by truths from good, those who committed evils and were in fear of death caught hold of the horns of the altar and were protected. See *Apocalypse Explained* 316.27, 28

## Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

### Recitation

Learn the Lord’s Word by heart.

“And keep the charge of the Lord your God:  
to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes,  
His commandments, His judgments,  
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.” (1 Kings 2:3)

### Projects and Activities (see back for answers)

Choose one or two.

#### Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

#### King David’s Last Advice

David was king of Israel and Judah for a long time. He had a lot of experience he wanted to give his son Solomon to help him be a good ruler. Think of something challenging you have done . Describe what you have learned by doing it What advice would you give to someone trying to do what you did. Think of something you would like to try, and imagine who you could ask for help.

### Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

#### Discussion: Tactfulness

What ‘tact’ mean? It means being sensitive in how you speak to others, especially if you are saying something difficult to hear. Nathan tactfully told David what Adonijah was doing. This made it easier for David to do something without feeling he was not paying attention to important events. Imagine if someone yelled at you to clean your room when a friend was visiting. How might you feel? How would you prefer to have been told? Think of tactful ways speak to others that respect their feelings.

#### Calligraphy Quote to Color

Color a calligraphy quote of 1 Kings 2:3, and decorate the border. Available at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/davids-instructions-to-solomon-1-kings-2.pdf>

# Solomon Is Made King

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## Vocabulary

**roused**—to wake someone up or make them feel excited

**tumult**—loud confusing noise, often from a large group of people

**decisive**—to make a quick effective decision

When David was old his son Adonijah tried to take the throne from him. He must have been certain that his father was too weak to stop him. He declared, “I will be king.” In many ways Adonijah was like his brother Absalom who had done the same thing. He was very handsome. And just like Absalom, he gained chariots and horses, and found fifty men to run before him.

Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle. He invited all but one of his brothers and almost all the men of Judah to the feast. But there were some people that he did not ask. He did not invite Nathan the prophet, his brother Solomon, Benaiah, or David’s mighty men.

Nathan knew that David’s wife Bathsheba was in danger, and so was her son Solomon. After David and Bathsheba’s first son died they had another son, Solomon. David had promised that Solomon would be king after him. Something had to be done to stop Adonijah’s schemes. Adonijah had declared himself king and David did not know that anything was happening!

Nathan turned to Bathsheba and said,

“Go immediately to King David and say to him, Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, ‘Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?’” (1 Kings 1:13)



Bathsheba went to her husband David and told him what Adonijah was doing. She urged David to declare that Solomon would be king after he died. Then Nathan the prophet came into the room to confirm Bathsheba’s report. He did not tell the

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king what was happening in his kingdom directly, but asked if David had given orders that Adonijah would be the next king.

“My lord, O king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?’” (1 Kings 1:24)

He seemed to be saying, “Do you have any idea what Adonijah is doing?” He is making all kinds of sacrifices, and inviting everyone to celebrate him as the new king! And look at who was not invited, me, your faithful servant, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah. He did not even invite Solomon he invited the rest of the king’s sons.

“Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?” (1 Kings 1:27)

Of course Nathan knew that David had not given an such order. It was his way of letting David know what Adonijah was doing! Through Nathan, the Lord showed David that Adonijah was seizing the throne.

### David Proclaims Solomon King

Even though David was old and weak, Nathan’s words roused him to action. He called Bathsheba to him and promised,

“Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place.” (1 Kings 1:30)

Zadok the priest, Nathan and Benaiah were brought to David. He told them exactly how Solomon was to be made king. Solomon rode to Gihon on David’s mule with David’s servants.

Zadok took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon king over Israel. They blew the horn, and the people said, “Long live King Solomon.” Then Solomon returned to sit on David’s throne. There was great celebration in Jerusalem. People played flutes and rejoiced so much, “that the earth seemed to split with their sound.”

### Adonijah Hears the Tumult

Adonijah and his followers were just finishing their feast celebrating Adonijah as their new king as they heard the sound of music



and shouting. Then Jonathan, the son of a priest, arrived with the news that David had made Solomon king! Imagine their surprise.

He had not expected this. Adonijah thought David was too weak to know what his son was doing. But, not only did David know, he had acted decisively to stop his plans. He had made Solomon king of Israel!

### Celebrations Turn to Fear

Adonijah’s guests were terrified. They had turned against David and supported Adonijah’s treasonous attempt to make himself king but the scheme had failed. They all scattered. It must have been rather like a group of friends saying, “We better get out of here!”

Adonijah was probably the most afraid of all. He knew that the punishment for treason was death. He ran to the tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar of burnt offering.

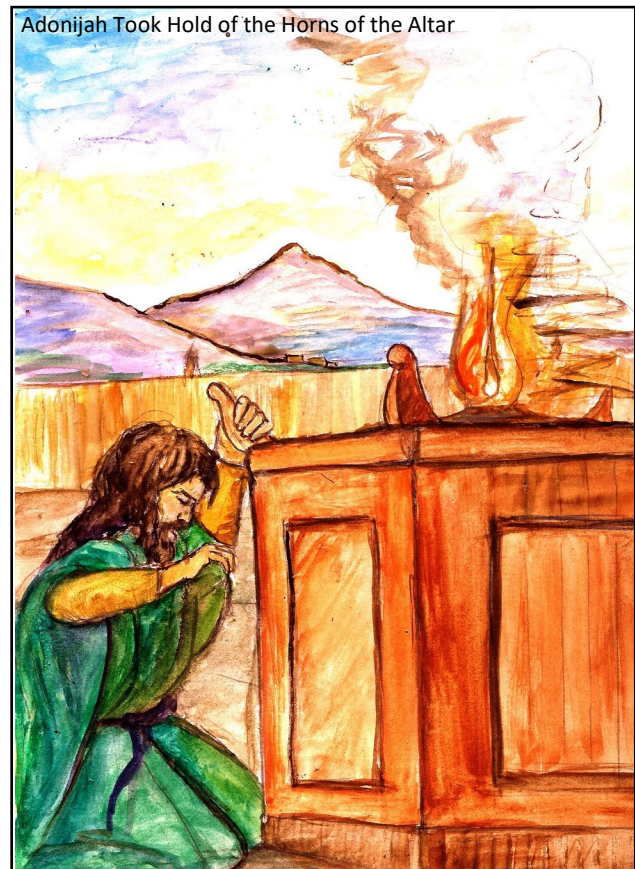
Hundreds of years earlier the Lord had given the Israelites a law that said when someone accidentally killed another he could take refuge in the tabernacle by holding onto the horns of the altar of burnt offering. He could only be removed if it could be shown that he had killed the person on purpose (Exodus 21:13,14). King Solomon respected the Lord’s laws. He had Adonijah taken from the altar and brought to him. He allowed Adonijah to return to his home.

### David’s Instructions to Solomon

David knew that it was almost time for him to die. He wished to leave Solomon with words of wisdom. He reminded Solomon to be strong, and keep the Lord’s commandments so he would prosper.

### The Death of David

David died and was buried in Jerusalem, the City of David. He had been the Lord’s anointed king for forty years. The Lord had promised David that if his descendants followed him with all their heart and with all their soul, they would rule over Israel for a long time. The house of David ruled for almost 500 years. Many prophesies told people that the Savior of Israel would be from the house of David, and the Christmas story tells us that Joseph was of the house and lineage of David (Luke 2:4). In Matthew chapter 1 you can follow the generations all the way to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.



## Activity Overview

### Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

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to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes,  
His commandments, His judgments,  
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.” (1 Kings 2:3)

### Projects and Activities (answers at back)

Choose one or two.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

King David’s Last Advice

David was king of Israel and Judah for a long time. He had a lot of experience he wanted to give his son Solomon to help him be a good ruler. Think of something challenging you have done . Describe what you have learned by doing it What advice would you give to someone trying to do what you did. Think of something new you would like to try, and imagine who you could ask for help.

## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. Who was invited to Adonijah's feast?
  - a. Nathan the prophet
  - b. Benaiah
  - c. his brothers, except for Solomon
  
2. What was Adonijah planning to do?
  - a. become king
  - b. impress his father with his sacrifices and feasts
  - c. murder Solomon
  
3. What was Nathan's plan for telling David about Adonijah?
  - a. have Bathsheba break the news, then he would confirm it
  - b. arrange for David to arrive at the feast and see for himself
  - c. write him a letter and have Solomon deliver it
  
4. How did David react when he learned what Adonijah had done?
  - a. he became angry and sought to kill Adonijah
  - b. he wept and offered sacrifices
  - c. he made a plan for Solomon to become king
  
5. Which of the following was not one of David's orders?
  - a. anoint Solomon
  - b. dress Solomon in a purple robe
  - c. blow the horn
  
6. How did Adonijah feel when David made Solomon king?
  - a. angry
  - b. afraid
  - c. indifferent
  
7. Why did Adonijah go to the altar?
  - a. to seek protection from revenge
  - b. to ask the Lord for help
  - c. to hide from Solomon
  
8. What was the heart of David's advice to Solomon?
  - a. be strong and mighty in battle
  - b. be wary of your enemies
  - c. obey the Lord



## King David's Last Advice

For many years David was king of Israel and Judah. He was an experienced leader and wanted to help his son Solomon become a good leader too. It was a kind thing for him to do.

Think of a challenging thing you have done. Imagine that you have almost finished a school year and are ready to move on to the next year. Perhaps you have played a sport, or learned a new skill such as cooking, skateboarding, or how to speak a foreign language. Describe what the challenging thing you did:

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What advice you would give to someone just starting out to do what you have already done? Write things that could help them.

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Think of something you would like to try in the future. It could be a new sport, or what kind of career you would like to have when you are older. Write your ambition below . Try to think of a person you could ask for advice about the challenge you have chosen.

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# Answers

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### Multiple Choice

1. , 2. a, 3. a, 4. c, 5. a, 6. b, 7. a 8. c.