

SOLOMON BECOMES KING

A play based on 1 Kings 1

Characters: Narrator
Nathan the Prophet
David the King
Bathsheba the Queen
Zadok the Priest (non-speaking)
Benaiah the Son of Jehoiada

Optional: use large T-shirts as costumes, and a crown for king David.

Scene: King David's bedroom. David is old and ill, lying on a bed. The narrator stands off to one side.

The Beginning

Narrator: King David was old and advanced in years. He had many sons, but he had promised his wife, Bathsheba, that her son Solomon would be the next king. However, when he became ill, another one of his sons, Adonijah decided that he should be the new king. He gathered people around him, and sacrificed sheep and oxen and cattle, and had a great feast. He acted as if he was already the king. Nathan, the prophet of the Lord, went to speak to King David about this situation.

Nathan enters and bows down before the king, putting his face to the ground. Then he stands and speaks.

Nathan: My lord, O king, have you said, "Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest; and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, "Long live King Adonijah!" But he has not invited me—me your servant—nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon. 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?

David: Call Bathsheba to me.

Nathan exits and a few seconds later, Queen Bathsheba enters and stands before David. David raises his arm to make an oath.

David: As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress, just as I swore to you by the Lord God of Israel, saying, “Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,” so I certainly will do this day.

Bathsheba bows with her face to the ground before David.

Bathsheba: Let my lord King David live forever!

David: Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.

Bathsheba exits and a few seconds later Nathan enters with Zadok and Benaiah. They bow before the king.

David: Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, “Long live King Solomon!” Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.

Benaiah: Amen! May the Lord God of my lord the king say so too. As the Lord has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.

Nathan, Zadok and Benaiah exit.

Narrator: So Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah did as David had said and anointed Solomon. The people played flutes and rejoiced, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound. And they all cried “Long live King Solomon!”

The End