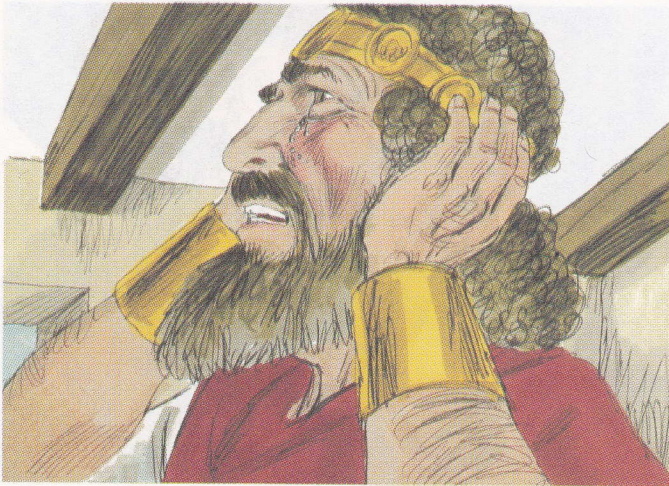
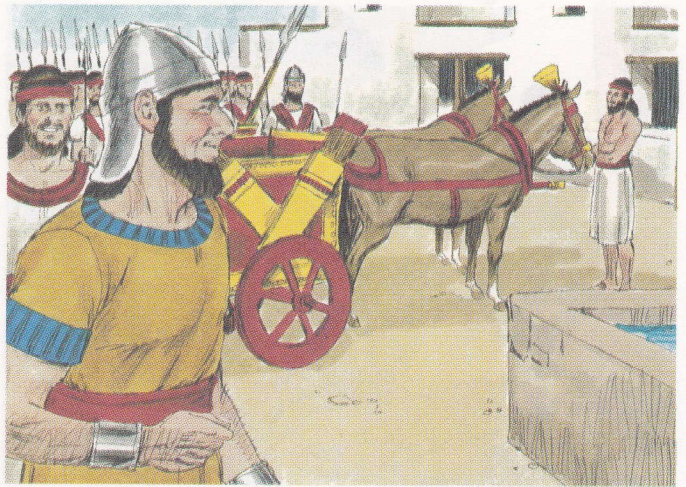


Solomon Becomes King



1 King David had many problems with his sons that caused him great sadness. Once his son Absalom tried to take over as king. David wept when Absalom was killed by the commander of David's army.



2 Now David was old and had to stay in bed. His son Adonijah wanted very much to be king. He got himself a chariot and horses and an escort of fifty men.



3 Adonijah also got the army commander Joab and the priest Abiathar to promise to help him. Then Adonijah held a feast. He invited all the sons of David except Solomon, whose mother was Bathsheba.



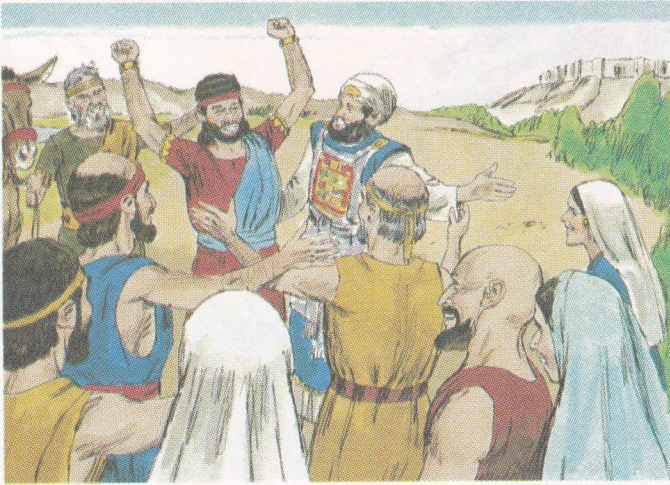
4 Hearing this, Nathan the prophet went to Bathsheba to warn her. "Adonijah has made himself king!" he said. "If you want to save yourself and Solomon, you'd better tell David at once."



5 So Bathsheba went to the king's room and told him what Adonijah had done. David said, "Today I will keep my promise to you that your son Solomon would be the next king."



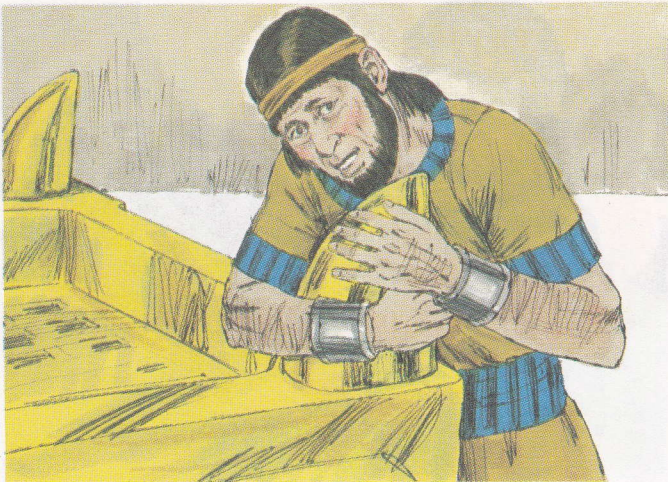
6 David gave instructions to Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet. They had Solomon ride on David's own mule to the Gihon spring. There they anointed Solomon, making him king of Israel.



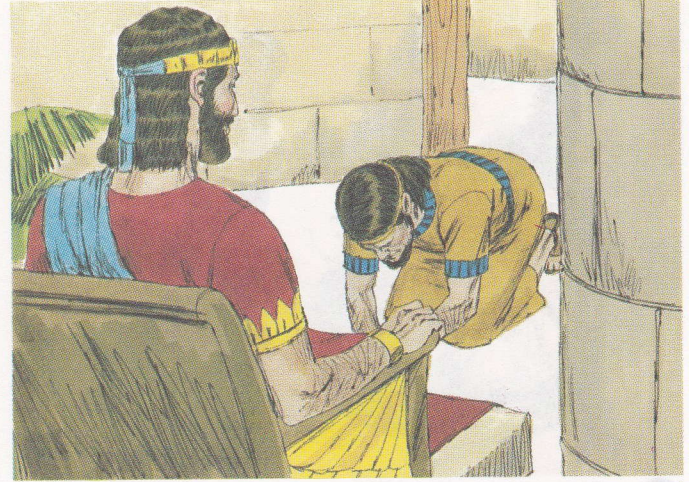
7 They blew a trumpet, and all the people shouted, "Long live King Solomon!" The people followed Solomon back to the city, shouting and playing on flutes and making a great noise.



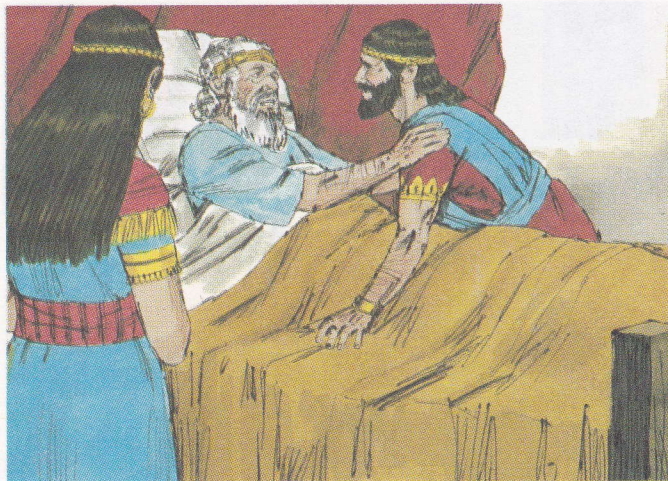
8 Adonijah and the king's sons were finishing the feast when they heard this noise. Soon a messenger arrived and said, "David has made Solomon king!" They were all afraid and left for their homes.



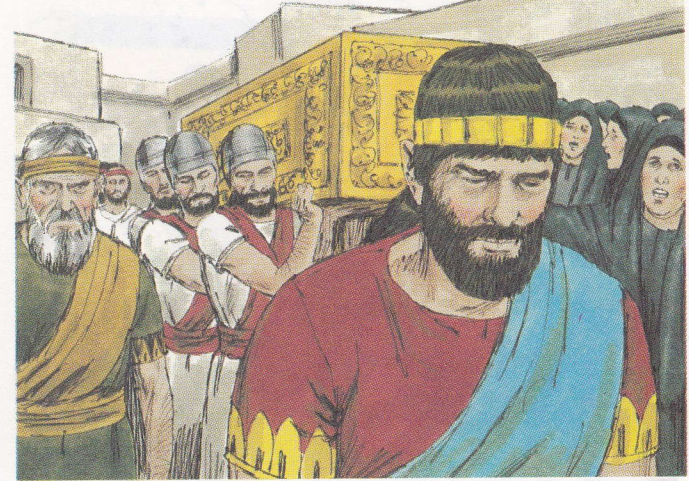
9 Adonijah was also afraid of Solomon. He fled to the altar of burnt offering and put his hands on one of its corners. He thought he would be safe there, because the Law of Moses would protect him.



10 Solomon sent for Adonijah, who came and bowed low before him. In this way Adonijah admitted that Solomon was the rightful king. Solomon then let him go home without punishing him.



11 Later, David said to Solomon, "I am about to die. Be sure to obey all the commandments of the Law of Moses. Then the Lord will keep his promise that my descendants will always rule over Israel."



12 So David died and was buried in Jerusalem. He had been king for forty years. His son Solomon, the new king, grew stronger all the time and gained complete control over the land.