

# Apply The Word

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## KINGS & KINGDOMS

### Message Info

**Title:**

Long Live the King

**Speaker:**

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**Date:**

May 15, 2022

**Scriptures:**

1 Kings 1-2

**Theme:** Follow the true king and you will see his kingdom come.

**Introduction:** 1 Kings continues the history of Israel from 1-2 Samuel and records the transition of Israel from the end of David's reign, through Solomon and the divided kingdom, until the time of the Babylonian Captivity. Through it all, we are meant to ask: who is Israel's true king? And what should life be like in his kingdom? These books are meant to teach us of God's sovereign rule over all things and of his right to our full worship and obedience.

These chapters are focused on 2 main concerns in Israel:

#### 1. Kingdom succession

- a. *A dying king* (1-4): David is old and feeble. He is unable to keep warm and so a beautiful young woman is secured to warm him, though he is not intimate with her. He seems disengaged and weak.
- b. *A dynamic candidate* (5-10): David's son, Adonijah, is strong and virile. He is handsome and shrewd, and secures strong support for his quest for the crown. He also uses religion in his rebellion against David. David had failed to discipline him as his father, which is part of what led to his rebellion (6).
- c. *A decisive intervention* (11-27): Though David failed, Nathan did not. He rightly assessed the situation and took action to remedy it. He sent Bathsheba to David and to awaken him to the nature of the threat.
- d. *A definitive successor* (28-40): David finally takes up his responsibilities and deploys three faithful men to have Solomon crowned king. The people rejoice so greatly that the earth is split by their noise (40).
- e. *A defeated usurper* (41-53): Adonijah finds out that Solomon has been crowned. His supporters all slink away, and he goes to the temple to beg for mercy. Solomon treats him justly.

#### 2. Kingdom security

- a. *Kingly charge* (1-4): On his deathbed, David calls Solomon to fear the Lord, to study his word, and to walk humbly before him.
- b. *Kingly judgment* (5-9): David also commissions Solomon to handle several cases of justice. He is to punish the kingdom's enemies and to reward her friends.
- c. *Kingdom consolidation* (10-42): Solomon puts Adonijah, Joab, and Shimei to death, and banishes Abiathar. He fulfills the punishments David requested and the kingdom is established under him (vv. 10, 24, 42).

#### Questions:

1. How are you tempted to look at external circumstances instead of trusting the Lord?
2. Are there any areas of responsibility that the Lord has given you in which you need to step into hardship and to risk displeasing others? How do you need to grow in this area?