



The Final Days of David

1 Kings 1-2

The Question of 2 Samuel is:

Who Will
Succeed
David?

David Has Built a Kingdom

- He has subdued Moab, Edom, Ammon, Syria, and Philistia.
- He expanded Israel's borders and fattened its treasuries.
- He captured Jerusalem and turned it into a national and religious capital.
- He received a covenant from the Lord.
- He has gathered materials for the building of the Temple.

1 Chronicles 22:1-5

1 Then David said, “This is the house of the Lord God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel.” **2** So David gave orders to gather the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of God. **3** David prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more bronze than could be weighed; **4** and timbers of cedar logs beyond number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought large quantities of cedar timber to David. **5** David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it.” So David made ample preparations before his death.



David's Kingdom

MESOPOTAMIA

ASSYRIA

CHALDEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

EGYPT

Red Sea

Arabian Desert

David's Kingdom

in the Book of 1 Kings



1 Kings 1:1-4

1 Now King David was old, advanced in age; and they covered him with clothes, but he could not keep warm. **2** So his servants said to him, “Let them seek a young virgin for my lord the king, and let her attend the king and become his nurse; and let her lie in your bosom, that my lord the king may keep warm.” **3** So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. **4** The girl was very beautiful; and she became the king’s nurse and served him, but the king did not cohabit with her.

David's Health is Failing

- A “young virgin” is brought in to “attend the king and become his nurse.”
- She does so, and the text is explicit that David does not pursue physical relations with her.
- The fact that he is unable to do so reinforces his failing health.



1 Kings 1:5-6

5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king.” So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him. **6** His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, “Why have you done so?” And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.



This is Not Entirely Unreasonable

- Adonijah is David's 4th-born son behind Amnon, Chileab, and Absalom, so he is next in the line of traditional succession.
- However, it is telling that Adonijah cannot wait for his father to die before seeking power.



Adonijah “exalted himself”

“I will be king.”

How is the king of Israel selected?

And, like Absalom, “he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him.”

He acts like a king before he is a king.



3 Reasons for Adonijah's Arrogance

1. David never contradicted Adonijah, which again speaks to David as a father.
2. Adonijah was “very handsome.”
3. Adonijah was the oldest living son.

**Parental Indulgence + Good Looks +
Favored Status = Weak Character**



1 Kings 1:7-8

7 He had conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest; and following Adonijah they helped him. 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.



Two Powerful Supporters

Joab the son of Zeruah

Abiathar the Priest

Two men who had been with David since the beginning and helped him through Absalom's rebellion.

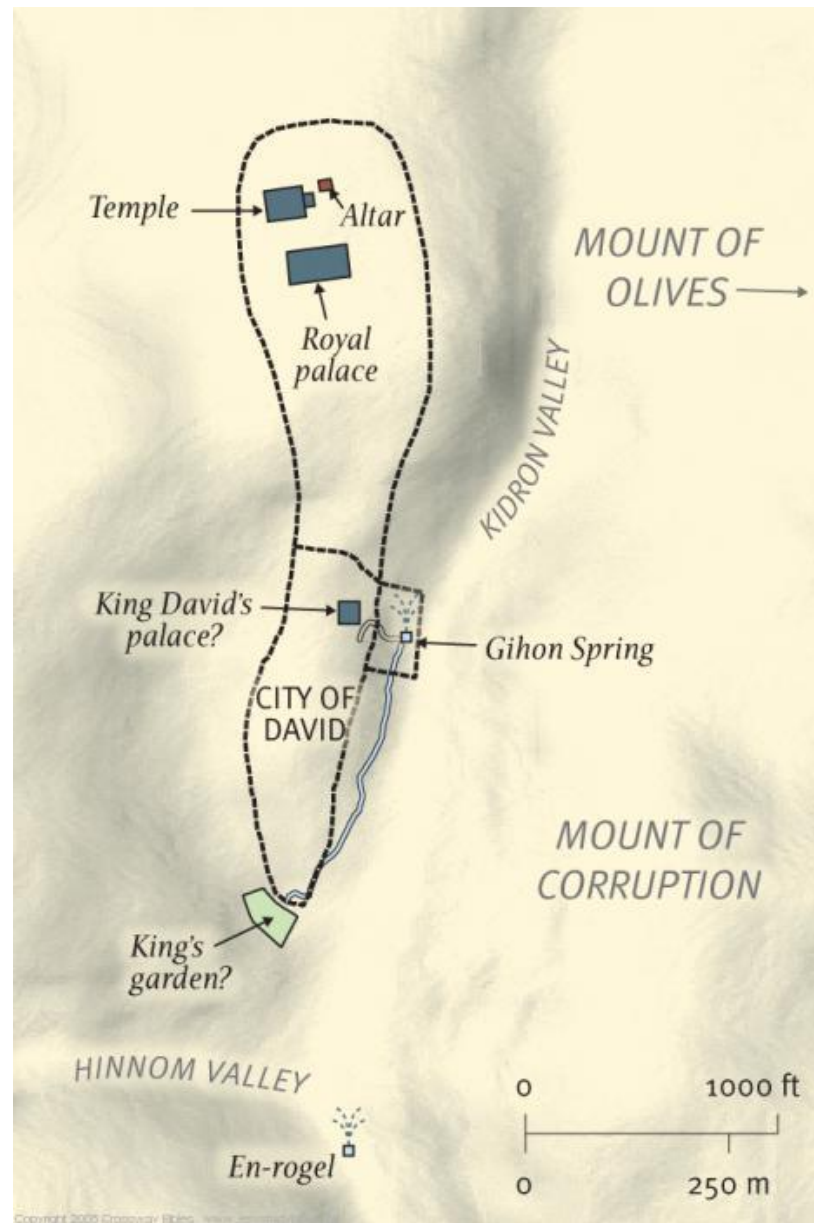
But support is not unanimous...



1 Kings 1:9-10

9 Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fatlings by the stone of Zoheleth, which is beside En-rogel; and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants. **10** But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, and Solomon his brother.





Look Who Didn't Make the List

1. Nathan the prophet
2. Benaiah
3. The mighty men
4. Solomon

Solomon is mentioned for the first time
as a threat to the throne.



When 1:10 Ends...

**Adonijah sits eating with his
supporters, seemingly in
possession of David's
kingdom.**

**But, another power play is
about to begin.**



1 Kings 1:11-14

11 Then Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it? **12** So now come, please let me give you counsel and save your life and the life of your son Solomon. **13** Go at once to King David and say to him, ‘Have you not, my lord, O king, sworn to your maidservant, saying, “Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne”? Why then has Adonijah become king?’ **14** “Behold, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words.”

Nathan Has A Plan

1. Bathsheba must remind David that he promised the throne to Solomon.
 - Before we get to #2... This pledge does not appear in Scripture.
2. Nathan will confirm what she tells David.
 - Is Nathan scheming?



Explicit in 1 Chronicles 22:6-10

6 Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel. **7** David said to Solomon, “My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the Lord my God. **8** But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. **9** Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. **10** He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.’

1 Kings 1:15-16

15 So Bathsheba went in to the king in the bedroom. Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was ministering to the king. **16** Then Bathsheba bowed and prostrated herself before the king. And the king said, “What do you wish?”



1 Kings 1:17-21

17 She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the Lord your God, saying, ‘Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.’ **18** Now, behold, Adonijah is king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know it. **19** He has sacrificed oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king and Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant. **20** As for you now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. **21** Otherwise it will come about, as soon as my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be considered offenders.”

1 Kings 1:18

“Now, behold, Adonijah is king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know it.”

The play on the idea of “knowing” in chapter 1 emphasizes the extent of David’s loss of power in his old age.



How So?

- He was not able to “know” Abishag sexually (v. 4) as he had once known Bathsheba.
- And now, he does not know about Adonijah, even though he had previously had the reputation of being “wise, like the wisdom of the angel of God, to know all that is in the earth” (2 Sam. 14:20).



Rightfully So:

Bathsheba is concerned that if David does not appoint Solomon as the next monarch prior to his death (“sleeps with his fathers”), she and her son will be treated as rivals for the throne (“considered offenders”) and their lives will be at risk.



1 Kings 1:22-27

22 Behold, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. **23** They told the king, saying, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground. **24** Then Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne’? **25** For he has gone down today and has sacrificed oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king’s sons and the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest, and behold, they are eating and drinking before him; and they say, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ **26** But me, even me your servant, and Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and your servant Solomon, he has not invited. **27** Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not shown to your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

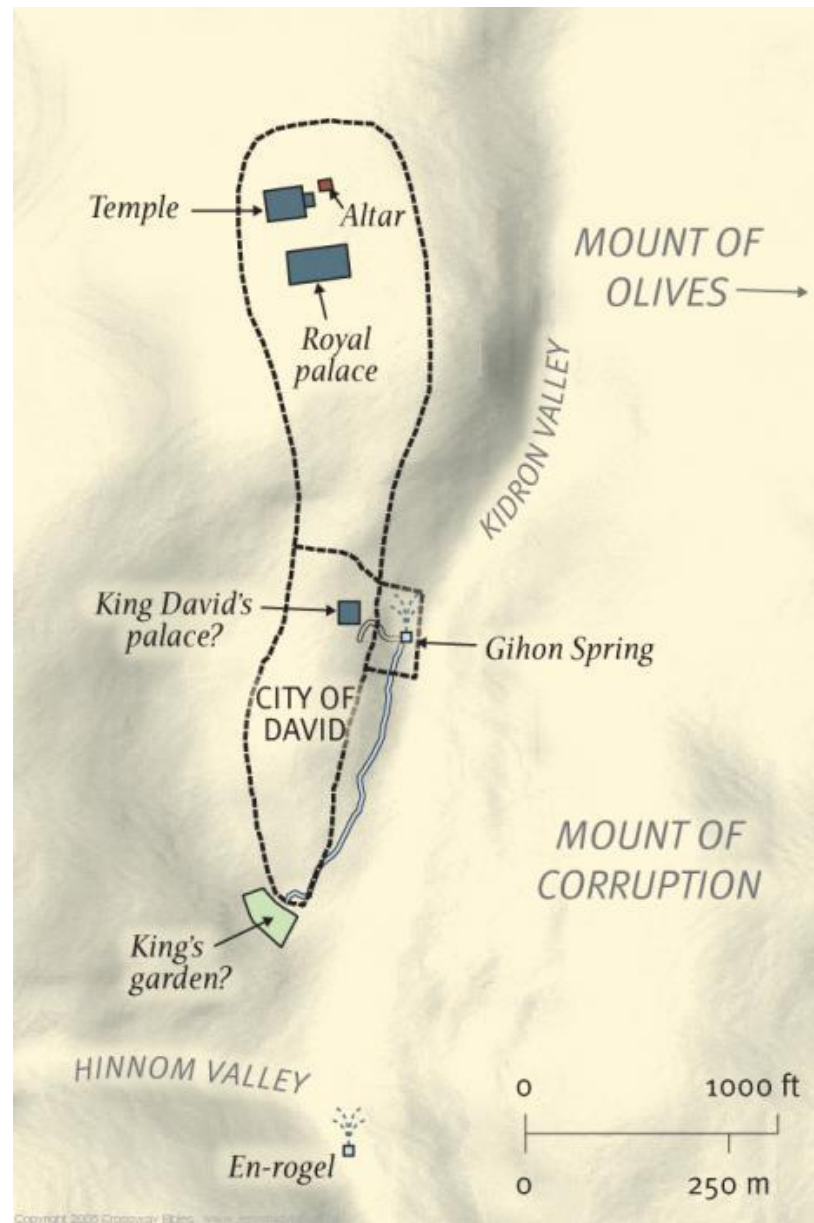
1 Kings 1:28-31

28 Then King David said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” And she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king. **29** The king vowed and said, “As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, **30** surely as I vowed to you by the Lord the God of Israel, saying, ‘Your son Solomon shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place’; I will indeed do so this day.” **31** Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and prostrated herself before the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever.”

1 Kings 1:32-37

32 Then King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” And they came into the king’s presence.

33 The king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. **34** Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ **35** Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne and be king in my place; for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.” **36** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, “Amen! Thus may the Lord, the God of my lord the king, say. **37** As the Lord has been with my lord the king, so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David!”



1 Kings 1:33

The king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.”

Solomon’s ride on David’s mule marks him as David’s favored son, and even more than this...





1 Kings 1:38-40

38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and brought him to Gihon. **39** Zadok the priest then took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" **40** All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise.

1 Kings 1:41-48

41 Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, “Why is the city making such an uproar?” **42** While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. Then Adonijah said, “Come in, for you are a valiant man and bring good news.” **43** But Jonathan replied to Adonijah, “No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king. **44** The king has also sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king’s mule. **45** Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon, and they have come up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise which you have heard. **46** Besides, Solomon has even taken his seat on the throne of the kingdom. **47** Moreover, the king’s servants came to bless our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make the name of Solomon better than your name and his throne greater than your throne!’ And the king bowed himself on the bed. **48** The king has also said thus, ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who has granted one to sit on my throne today while my own eyes see it.’”

1 Kings 1:41-48

The location of Adonijah's party at En-rogel (v. 9), just south of Jerusalem in the Kidron Valley, prevented direct observation of Solomon's anointing (vv. 38–40), but they could hear the subsequent celebration.



1 Kings 1:49-53

49 Then all the guests of Adonijah were terrified; and they arose and each went on his way. **50** And Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, and he arose, went and took hold of the horns of the altar. **51** Now it was told Solomon, saying, “Behold, Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon, for behold, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’” **52** Solomon said, “If he is a worthy man, not one of his hairs will fall to the ground; but if wickedness is found in him, he will die.” **53** So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and prostrated himself before King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”

Uh Oh!

Adonijah's guests were "terrified" and "each went on his way" (v. 49), knowing that alignment with him may not be in their best interests.



1 Kings 1:50

“And Adonijah was afraid of Solomon,
and he arose, went and took hold of the
horns of the altar.”

- **Two Questions:**

- Why is Adonijah doing this?
- What do you picture when you read this?



Answer #1

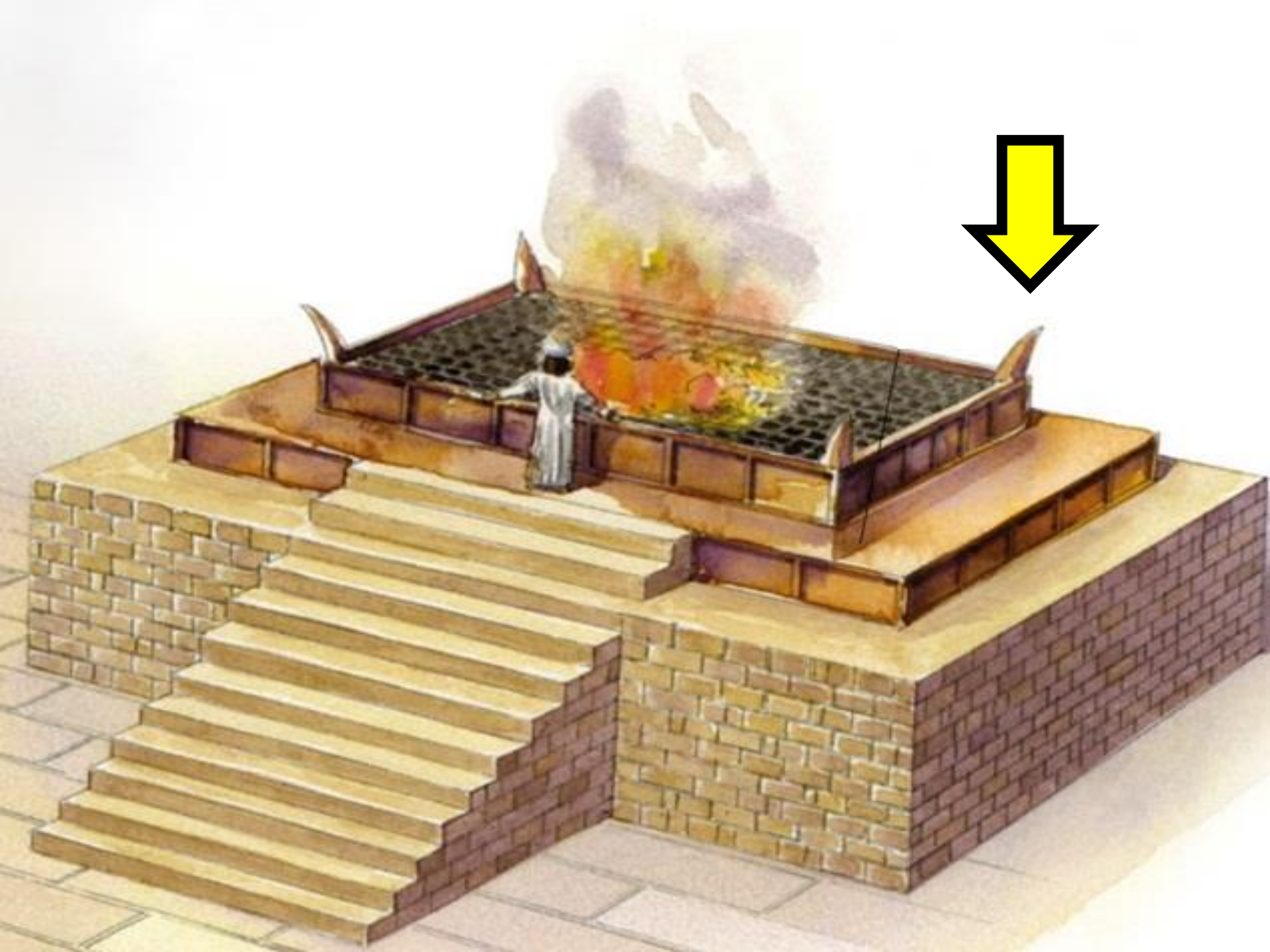
- Adonijah believes that the altar, as a holy place, protects him from Solomon's vengeance.
- This reflects a common ancient Near Eastern custom with regard to asylum at shrines.



Exodus 21:12-14

12 “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. **13** But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee. **14** If, however, a man acts presumptuously toward his neighbor, so as to kill him craftily, you are to take him even from My altar, that he may die.





Ultimately

- Adonijah is executed (1 Kings 2:25)
- Abiathar is dismissed (1 Kings 2:26-27)
 - Solomon spares his life because he “carried the ark of the Lord God before my father David, and because you were afflicted in everything with which my father was afflicted.”
- Joab is executed (1 Kings 2:34)
 - Joab also ran to the horns of the altar.
- Shimei is executed (1 Kings 2:46)



1 Chronicles 22:14-16

14 Now behold, with great pains I have prepared for the house of the Lord 100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weight, for they are in great quantity; also timber and stone I have prepared, and you may add to them. **15** Moreover, there are many workmen with you, stonecutters and masons of stone and carpenters, and all men who are skillful in every kind of work. **16** Of the gold, the silver and the bronze and the iron there is no limit. Arise and work, and may the Lord be with you.



1 Chronicles 22:11-13

11 Now, my son, the Lord be with you that you may be successful, and build the house of the Lord your God just as He has spoken concerning you. **12** Only the Lord give you discretion and understanding, and give you charge over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. **13** Then you will prosper, if you are careful to observe the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord commanded Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and courageous, do not fear nor be dismayed.

1 Kings 2:1-4

1 As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, **2** "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. **3** Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, **4** so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

**Turn to 1
Chronicles
29:10-20**

**David's Final
Prayer**



1 Chronicles 29:26-30

26 Now David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel. **27** The period which he reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned in Hebron seven years and in Jerusalem thirty-three years. **28** Then he died in a ripe old age, full of days, riches and honor; and his son Solomon reigned in his place. **29** Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet and in the chronicles of Gad the seer, **30** with all his reign, his power, and the circumstances which came on him, on Israel, and on all the kingdoms of the lands.

