

me, and he shall sit on my throne.’¹⁸So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about *it*.¹⁹He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.²⁰And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel *are* on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.²¹Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders.”

²²And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.²³So they told the king, saying, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.²⁴And Nathan said, “My lord, O king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne?’²⁵For 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!*’²⁶But he has not invited me—me your servant—nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.²⁷Has 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 Proclaims Solomon King

²⁸Then King David answered and said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king.²⁹And the king took an oath and said, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress,³⁰just 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.”

³¹Then Bathsheba bowed with *her* face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, “Let my lord King David live forever!”

³²And King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king.³³The king also said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon.³⁴There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, ‘*Long live King Solomon!*’³⁵Then 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.”

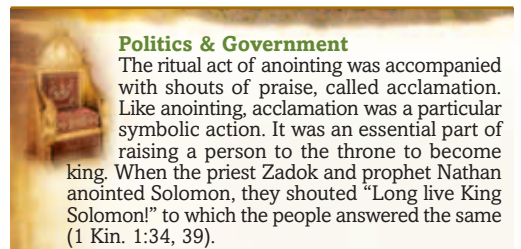
³⁶Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, “Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so *too*.³⁷As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.”

³⁸So 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 took him to Gihon.³⁹Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, “*Long live King Solomon!*”⁴⁰And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth *seemed* to split with their sound.

⁴¹Now Adonijah and all the guests who *were* with him heard *it* as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, “Why *is* the city in such a noisy uproar?”⁴²While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, “Come in, for you *are* a prominent man, and bring good news.”

⁴³Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, “No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.⁴⁴The king has 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.⁴⁵So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This *is* the noise that you have heard.⁴⁶Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.⁴⁷And moreover the king’s servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, ‘May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.’ Then the king bowed himself on the bed.⁴⁸Also the king said thus, ‘Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, who has given *one* to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see *it!*’”

⁴⁹So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.



Politics & Government

The ritual act of anointing was accompanied with shouts of praise, called acclamation. Like anointing, acclamation was a particular symbolic action. It was an essential part of raising a person to the throne to become king. When the priest Zadok and prophet Nathan anointed Solomon, they shouted “Long live King Solomon!” to which the people answered the same (1 Kin. 1:34, 39).