

**Theme:** The leadership of God’s people will not be left to the whims and desires of men. God has chosen who will lead his people, and the plans of ambitious men will not thwart his choice. God’s true king will bring peace through the exercise of wisdom, faithfulness, and justice.

Preliminary Matters –  
Why Kings?

- Written to a people like us – living away from our home; under human authority
- It is not “just” a history of Israel, it is *theology* of God’s authority and rule
- It’s a reminder of who we are – and who God is

Major themes:

- Where the kings and the people stand in relation to God’s law
- The effects and consequences of the intrusion of pagan worship in Israel
- God’s rule over all kings and kingdoms
- The inadequacy of human rulers
- God’s control of nature and history

Three important questions:

- 1) What does this tell us about God: his character, purposes, power?
- 2) What does this about us, about the human heart and condition?
- 3) How does this point us to Christ, the promised King and Lord? (John 5:39)

**Introduction:** Coming up on my 13<sup>th</sup> Presidential election

## **I. The End of David’s Reign**

### A. The aging king (1 Kings 1:1)

- Old and weak
- Detached from the daily intrigue of government

### B. The attempted coup (1:5)

#### 1. Adonijah – eldest son

- Claiming the throne
- With an attitude of entitlement
- Never disciplined (1:6)

#### 2. Gathering support (1:7-10)

- A “royal” procession
- With David’s inner circle
  - Joab – David’s commander
  - Abiathar – priest (last of Eli’s line) (1 Samuel 2:29-35)
- Royal invitations – all his brothers? (1:19)
- With appropriate sacrifices
- *Excluding* a few key people
  - Zadok (priest), Nathan (prophet), Benaiah, and *Solomon*

## **II. The Lord’s Anointed**

### A. A faithful prophet

#### 1. Engaging the king (1:11-14)

- Didn’t you promise? (1:17)
- Israel is watching (1:20)

#### 2. Confirming the news (1:22-24)

- Is this your idea? And you haven’t told us?

## B. A decisive ruler

1. Not the *eldest* but the one *promised* (1:17,30)
2. Swift action (1:28-40)
  - Solomon's "royal entourage"
  - With Nathan, Zadok, and Beniah
  - Solomon is anointed
  - The king bow's down to him

## C. The rightful king

1. By promise, not succession
  - Solomon (from *Shalom*) (2 Samuel 12:24,25)
  - Jedidiah "Loved of the Lord"
2. Through whom the Messiah would come (Matthew 1:6,7)

## D. Of God's own choosing

- Kingship is rooted in the plan and promise of God
- Deuteronomy 17:14-15

### III. The Path To Peace

#### A. Faithfulness to the Lord! (2:1-4)

##### 1. The charge

- a. "Prove yourself a man" (1 Kings 2:2; Deuteronomy 31:7,23)
- b. "Walk in His ways, to keep His commandments" (1 Kings 2:3; Deuteronomy 4:40; 6:2; 8:6; 10:12ff)
- c. Promise made to David through *Nathan* (1 Kings 2:4; 2 Samuel 7:12,13)

NOTE: Who could keep that? Not even the best of the kings of Judah or Israel would ever stand fast.

2. The One who could be that king!
  - Jeremiah 23:5; Micah 5:2

#### B. Pursuing justice?

##### 1. David's last request

- a. Joab (for treason and the murders of Abner and Amasa)
- b. Shimei – who cursed David during Absalom's rebellion

2. Honor those who blessed me with their service (2 Samuel 19)

#### C. Solomon's "wisdom" at work

- Eliminating threats to the kingdom

**Conclusion:** God was at work in the midst of the turmoil, intrigue – theirs and *ours*. God is fulfilling his plans In the mess of human relationships and events. We must grasp this, lest we live in this world as a people without hope.