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Solomon’s Rise to Power
First Kings 1: 1-53



The narrative that begins **First Kings** is really not a beginning at all, but the last chapter of the larger story of **David** found in the books of **Samuel**. **First Kings 1:1** begins with the Hebrew word **and**, indicating that the verse is not the beginning of a new historical work, but a continuation of the narrative of **the Second Samuel**. It is there that **Bathsheba**, who plays such a prominent role in the beginning of **Kings** first appears, possessed by **David** at the cost of **her** husband’s life (see **the Life of David, to see link click Dc – David and Bathsheba**). Later, the lives of **David’s** various sons are recounted **(Second Samuel 12-18)**. The end of **Second Samuel** is a sorry tale of wickedness and weakness, which raises an important question in the reader’s mind. The prophet **Nathan**, **himself** a major player in the beginning of **First Kings** (see **Al – A Royal Conspiracy**), had promised **David** that **his** dynasty would last forever. **David’s** kingship would not be like **Sha’ul’s**, which all but died with **him**. Instead, **ADONAI** would raise up one of **David’s sons** and establish an eternal kingdom (see the commentary on **the Life of David Ct – The LORD’s Covenant with David**). How was this promise to be fulfilled? Where is a surviving **son** to be found to sit on **David’s** throne? This is the question that the first chapter of the book of **Kings** will resolve.[25]