

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 1:28-52

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 1:28-52, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on the events surrounding the transition of power from King David to Solomon. He explores the historical and geographical context of Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne, contrasting it with David's divinely ordained promise to Bathsheba that Solomon would be king. **The lecture emphasizes the significance of oaths and vows in ancient Israel, highlighting God's covenant-keeping nature and the responsibility of His followers to be truthful.** Oswalt also discusses the symbolism of water and the Feast of Tabernacles, linking them to Jesus as the ultimate source of life. **Finally, the lecture examines the political tensions between Judah and the other tribes of Israel and David's humility in accepting God's plan for Solomon's reign.**

2. 27 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 3 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



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on03.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 1:28-52

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 1 Kings, Session 3 (1 Kings 1:28-52).

Briefing Document: Oswalt on 1 Kings 1:28-52

Main Themes:

- **The Fulfillment of God's Promises:** The central theme revolves around God's commitment to His covenants and promises, particularly the promise to David regarding Solomon's succession.
- **The Importance of Vows and Promises:** The lecture emphasizes the significance of keeping vows, reflecting God's covenant-keeping nature and the responsibility of His followers to demonstrate faithfulness.
- **God's Sovereignty and Human Agency:** Oswalt explores the interplay between God's sovereign plan and the choices of individuals like David, Adonijah, and Solomon. While God's purposes will prevail, human actions have consequences and contribute to the unfolding narrative.
- **Humility vs. Pride:** The contrast between David's humility in accepting Solomon's greater future and Saul's pride highlights the importance of recognizing God's authority and not needing to grasp for power.
- **Water as a Symbol of Life and Order:** The lecture connects water sources (Gihon Spring, Pool of Siloam) with kingship and the provision of life and order, ultimately pointing to Jesus as the true source of living water.
- **God's Ability to Use Evil for Good:** The lecture touches on the idea that even in messy situations and flawed human actions, God can work to bring about his good purposes.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Historical Context:** Oswalt provides background information on:
 - The geography of Jerusalem, including the City of David, the Kidron Valley, the Tyropean Valley, and the Hinnom Valley (hell).
 - The significance of En-Rogel and the Gihon Spring as sites for royal installations.

- The competing priestly families descended from Aaron's sons, Eleazar (Zadok) and Ithamar (Abiathar).
- The Cherethites and Pelethites as David's personal bodyguard, possibly Philistine mercenaries.
- The horns on the altar at Beersheba, possibly used to keep sacrifices from falling off and potentially offering refuge for unintentional sin.
- **David's Vow and Bathsheba's Role:** David reaffirms his vow to Bathsheba that Solomon will succeed him as king, prompted by Bathsheba and Nathan's intervention to counter Adonijah's self-proclamation as king.
- "The king then took an oath as surely as the Lord lives...I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the Lord, the king of Israel. Solomon, your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in his place."
- **The Importance of Keeping Vows:** Oswalt emphasizes the biblical imperative to keep vows, as it reflects God's faithfulness.
- "If a man vows a vow to the Lord or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word. He shall do all according to what proceeds out of his mouth."
- "As God's representatives, we are called upon to demonstrate His faithfulness, to demonstrate that there is truth in the world."
- **Symbolic Significance of the Coronation at Gihon:** Solomon's coronation at the Gihon Spring symbolizes his role as a provider of life and order, mirroring the role of a king. This connects to Jesus as the ultimate source of living water.
- "Take him down to Gihon...What's the deal with kings and water? Source of life. Source of life...Here is this person who, by his own personal force, he is keeping order, and order is the key to life."
- "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me for a drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
- **The Division Between Judah and Israel:** Oswalt points out the historical and geographical division between Judah and the rest of Israel, which David managed to unite. This division surfaces again with Absalom's rebellion and the subsequent dispute between the tribes.

- "Judah and the other tribes were never really integrated. All the way back in Joshua, you can see the phrase Judah and all Israel. Wait a minute. Judah's part of all Israel, aren't they? Or are they?"
- **David's Humility and Trust in God:** David's positive response to the declaration that Solomon's throne would be greater than his own demonstrates his humility and trust in God's plan. He doesn't feel threatened or jealous because he recognizes God's sovereignty.
- "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today. Not a scrap of jealousy. Not a scrap of damaged pride."
- **Solomon's Restraint and Wisdom:** Solomon's initial restraint in dealing with Adonijah, choosing not to immediately execute him, is presented as a sign of wisdom and a contrast to the typical power grabs of the time. He waits for God to reveal Adonijah's true character.
- "If he shows himself to be worthy, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground. But if evil is found in him, he'll die."
- **God's Ability to Redeem Evil:** Oswalt suggests that Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne, though an act of evil, ultimately serves God's purpose by exposing potential dissenters and solidifying Solomon's position.
- "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. The glorious creativity of God that he can take the worst stuff and use it for good."
- **David's Failure to Discipline His Family:** Oswalt notes that David's past sin with Bathsheba likely contributed to his inability to effectively discipline his family, leading to the conflicts surrounding the succession.
- "David, having sinned with Bathsheba and Uriah, now pretty clearly can't bring himself to discipline his own family. And yes, I think unquestionably, the Bible is saying this didn't have to happen this way."

Quotes for Emphasis:

- "God is a covenant-keeping God. The remarkable thing about Him is that, in contrast to us, He keeps His promises."
- "This is called the post-truth generation. It fascinates me a great deal that the Bible doesn't really talk about truth as objective reality. It talks about being true."

- "God is my strong fortress, and he makes my way perfect...God's way is perfect, and he makes my way perfect."
- "I don't have to make God's promises come true. I think God is big enough to make his own promises come true."

This briefing document provides a concise overview of the key themes and ideas presented in the excerpt from Dr. Oswalt's lecture. It highlights the importance of God's faithfulness, the significance of human choices, and the ultimate triumph of God's sovereign plan.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 1:28-52

Kings: Succession and Covenant - A Study Guide

I. Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What was the significance of swearing an oath in God's name in the Old Testament?
2. Describe the geographical location of En-Rogel in relation to Jerusalem and why this was a strategic place for Adonijah's actions.
3. Explain the competing priestly family lineage involving Eleazar, Phinehas, Eli, and Abiathar and its relevance to the power struggle in 1 Kings 1.
4. Who were the Cherethites and Pelethites, and why were they loyal to David?
5. What do the horns on the altar represent, and how did they provide protection?
6. Why is it so important to keep vows to God, even when circumstances change?
7. Explain the symbolic significance of crowning Solomon at the Gihon Spring.
8. Describe the Feast of Tabernacles and its significance in relation to God's care for the Israelites.
9. Explain the geographical and tribal divisions between Judah and the rest of Israel.
10. How does David's humility and knowledge of God enable him to accept Solomon as his successor?

II. Quiz Answer Key

1. Swearing an oath in God's name was a serious matter, invoking divine judgment if the oath was broken. It typically involved a statement like, "May Yahweh strike me dead if I don't do so and so," emphasizing the gravity and binding nature of the promise.
2. En-Rogel was located about half a mile southeast of Jerusalem, down the Kidron Valley. This location was strategic for Adonijah because it was outside the immediate control of the city, allowing him to gather support and make a bid for the throne without direct interference from David's loyalists.

3. There were two competing priestly families, one descended from Eleazar (Zadok) and the other from Ithamar (Abiathar). This rivalry influenced the succession, as Zadok supported Solomon and Abiathar supported Adonijah, reflecting the ongoing power dynamics within the religious leadership.
4. The Cherethites and Pelethites were David's personal bodyguard, possibly composed of Philistine mercenaries. Their loyalty to David was based on a personal connection, likely forged during his time as a mercenary, making them reliable protectors during the succession crisis.
5. The horns on the altar likely served a practical purpose of keeping sacrifices from falling off, but they also symbolized God's power and provided a place of refuge. By clinging to the horns, individuals who had committed unintentional sins could seek protection and atonement.
6. Keeping vows to God is essential because God is a covenant-keeping God, and as His representatives, believers are called to reflect His faithfulness. Breaking vows undermines God's character and misrepresents Him to the world, especially in a "post-truth" generation.
7. Crowning Solomon at the Gihon Spring, a major water source, symbolized him as a source of life and order for the kingdom. This mirrored the idea that kings were essential for maintaining order, which was vital for the survival and prosperity of the people.
8. The Feast of Tabernacles, or Feast of Shacks, reminded the Israelites of God's care during their 40 years of wandering in the desert. They lived in temporary shelters to remember God's provision and faithfulness, reinforcing their dependence on Him.
9. Judah was geographically distinct from the rest of Israel, united by a ridgeline running from Beersheba to Jerusalem. This geographical division contributed to tribal tensions, with Judah often acting independently and fostering conflicts over royal authority.
10. David's humility and deep knowledge of God allowed him to accept Solomon as his successor without jealousy or pride. He recognized God as the ultimate authority and source of strength, freeing him from the need to control or prove himself.

III. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of oaths and vows in 1 Kings 1. How do they reflect the character of God and the responsibilities of His followers?
2. Analyze the power dynamics and political maneuvering evident in the succession narrative of 1 Kings 1. What role did key figures such as Bathsheba, Nathan, Adonijah, and David play in shaping the outcome?
3. Explore the symbolic use of water and springs (Gihon and En-Rogel) in 1 Kings 1. What do these natural elements represent in the context of kingship and divine provision?
4. Examine the theme of divine sovereignty in 1 Kings 1. How does God's plan unfold amidst human ambition and flawed characters?
5. Compare and contrast the leadership styles of David and Solomon as portrayed in 1 Kings 1. What lessons can be learned from their actions and attitudes toward power and succession?

IV. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adonijah:** David's eldest surviving son who attempts to seize the throne before Solomon.
- **Abiathar:** A descendant of Ithamar and a priest who supported Adonijah's claim to the throne.
- **Bathsheba:** David's wife and Solomon's mother, who plays a crucial role in securing Solomon's succession.
- **Benaiah:** The son of Jehoiada and second in command of David's army, loyal to David and Solomon.
- **Cherethites and Pelethites:** David's personal bodyguard, possibly composed of Philistine mercenaries, known for their loyalty.
- **En-Rogel:** A spring located about half a mile southeast of Jerusalem, where Adonijah stages his coronation.
- **Gihon Spring:** A major water source near Jerusalem where Solomon is anointed king, symbolizing life and order.

- **Horns of the Altar:** Protrusions on the altar that symbolized God's power and provided refuge for those seeking atonement.
- **Judah and Israel:** The distinct geographical and tribal divisions within the kingdom, often marked by tension and conflict.
- **Nathan:** A prophet who advises David and supports Solomon's succession.
- **Oaths and Vows:** Solemn promises made in God's name, emphasizing the binding nature of commitments and the importance of faithfulness.
- **Solomon:** David's son and chosen successor to the throne, known for his wisdom and reign.
- **Zadok:** A descendant of Eleazar and a priest who supported Solomon's claim to the throne.
- **Tyropean Valley:** A central valley in ancient Jerusalem.
- **Hinnom Valley:** A valley southwest of ancient Jerusalem, later associated with hell.
- **Pool of Siloam:** A pool built by Hezekiah to secure water inside the city walls of Jerusalem.
- **Feast of Tabernacles:** Also known as the Feast of Booths or Feast of Shacks, a festival commemorating the Israelites' time in the wilderness.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 3, 1 Kings 1:28-52, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Succession, Vows, and Divine Purpose in 1 Kings 1

- **Why was it so important in ancient Israel to keep vows made in God's name?**
- Swearing an oath or making a vow in God's name was a serious matter. It invoked divine judgment, essentially stating, "May God punish me if I don't fulfill this promise." God is a covenant-keeping God, unlike the unreliable gods of other cultures. Therefore, keeping vows demonstrated faithfulness and reflected God's own character to the world. Breaking a vow was not just a personal failing; it misrepresented God and undermined His authority.
- **What was the significance of Gihon and En-Rogel in the context of the succession struggle between Solomon and Adonijah?**
- Both Gihon and En-Rogel were springs, vital sources of water, located near Jerusalem. Adonijah held his installation ceremony at En-Rogel, while Solomon was taken to Gihon to be anointed king. Water, symbolizing life and order, was associated with kingship. Crowning Solomon at Gihon, a larger spring, emphasized that he, representing God, is the true source of life and order for the kingdom.
- **Who were the key players who supported Solomon and Adonijah respectively, and what did they represent?**
- Adonijah had the support of Joab, the general, and Abiathar, a priest descended from Eli. Solomon's key supporters were Bathsheba, Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest (a descendant of Eleazar), and Benaiah, the commander of David's personal bodyguard (the Cherethites and Pelethites). This division represents a split between established power structures tied to David's past and those aligned with God's chosen future for Israel. The priest (religious authority), the prophet (God's word), and the civil power in the kingdom represent a focus of authority.

- **What does the text reveal about the relationship between Judah and the rest of Israel during David's reign?**
- The text shows that there was a historical and geographical division between Judah and the rest of Israel. Judah was geographically united by a ridgeline running from Beersheba to Jerusalem, while the rest of the tribes were more fragmented. Even during David's reign, there were instances of tension and division between Judah and the other tribes, suggesting that unifying the kingdom was a challenge. After Saul's death David was first anointed King of Judah, and there were conflicts between the men of Judah and Israel over David.
- **What does David's reaction to the news of Solomon's coronation reveal about his character?**
- David's response to the news of Solomon's coronation is marked by humility and a lack of jealousy. Instead of feeling threatened or diminished by his son's success, David praises God for allowing him to witness the succession and acknowledges that God's purposes are being fulfilled. This contrasts sharply with Saul's insecurity and possessiveness regarding his own throne. David knows who God is and doesn't have to prove anything.
- **What is the significance of Adonijah clinging to the horns of the altar, and how does Solomon respond to this?**
- Clinging to the horns of the altar was likely an appeal for sanctuary, seeking protection from retribution for his attempted coup. The horns of the altar, having been sprinkled with sacrificial blood, were thought to offer deliverance from unintentional sins. Solomon's response is measured: he doesn't immediately execute Adonijah, but sets conditions. He states that if Adonijah proves himself worthy, he will be spared, but if evil is found in him, he will die. This demonstrates both Solomon's mercy and his commitment to justice.

- **How does the story of Solomon's succession illustrate the idea that God can use even evil actions to accomplish his purposes?**
- Although Adonijah's attempt to seize the throne was a rebellious act, God used it to solidify Solomon's position and expose potential threats to his reign. By jumping the gun, Adonijah revealed his intentions and identified those who opposed Solomon. This allowed Solomon to address these issues early on, preventing a "fifth column" from festering within his court later. Though not explicitly stated that God engineered the situation, God's creativity can use even bad situations for good.
- **What does the story of Solomon's ascension to the throne teach about waiting on God?**
- The text suggests that Solomon's path to the throne exemplifies the importance of waiting on God to fulfill His promises. Instead of actively scheming or manipulating events to secure his kingship, Solomon remained patient and allowed God to orchestrate the circumstances. This reflects the Old Testament concept of "waiting" being synonymous with "trusting" in the Lord. Solomon had been promised the kingdom by his father but waited for God to make his move.