

Play based on the rebellion of Adonijah

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| Narrator 1 | | |
| Adonijah | | Fancy tunic and jacket |
| Joab | | Sword, armor |
| Abiathar | | Priest hat and white tunic with blue sash |
| David | | White tunic. |
| Bathsheba | | Dress, head covering. |
| Zadok | | Priest hat, horn of oil, crown. |
| Benaiah | | Sword, armor. |
| Nathan | | Plain tunic, sash, scroll. |
| Solomon | | Fancy tunic. |
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| Stagehands | | |
| Props | | Bench as a bed, with blankets. |

Stagehands set up stage with bed and put David in it.

NARRATOR: When David became very old and it was obvious that he didn't have long to live, his third oldest son, Adonijah, decided that it was time for him to become king. It was widely known, at least inside the palace, that David intended to pass the kingship to Solomon. Adonijah knew this. Yet instead of respecting his father's wishes, he decided to take the throne for himself. He did exactly what Absalom had done. He convinced key people to help him.

Adonijah stands in the middle of the stage, hands on hips, with a servant. David lies down behind him on a bed.

ADONIJAH: It is time for me to be king. My father is too old now. I must prepare chariots and horses for me. And get 50 men to run ahead of them!

NARRATOR: Two of Adonijah's co-conspirators were Joab and Abiathar the priest.

As Narrator says their names, Joab and Abiathar come on stage. They all go stand on the stairs, whispering to each other and pretending to crown Adonijah.

Stagehands bring out food on fancy platters.

NARRATOR: Both men should have known better. Adonijah found other men, also, who would support him and invited them all to a special gathering. He also invited the rest of the royal princes (all of David's sons), EXCEPT Solomon. When Nathan the prophet heard about Adonijah's gathering down at En Rogel, he was alarmed. Nathan went to talk to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother.

Nathan and Bathsheba enter from side door.

NATHAN: Bathsheba, have you heard what Adonijah is doing? If he becomes king, he will kill Solomon!

BATHSHEBA: I will go to the king right away!

NARRATOR: So Bathsheba went to talk to David.

Zadok the Priest song starts playing.

BATHSHEBA: My lord, the king, did you not promise me that our son, Solomon, would sit on your throne after you? Yet your son Adonijah seems to have declared himself as king.

NATHAN: My lord, the king. Adonijah has gone down to the Rock of the Serpent to hold a huge gathering. They are eating and drinking and everyone is yelling, "Long live king Adonijah!"

DAVID: Nathan, get Zadok the young priest and Benaiah, my faithful general, and have them gather everyone at Gihon. Instead of Abiathar, young Zadok must anoint Solomon and declare him king.

BENAIAH: As the Lord was with you, so may he be with your son, Solomon. May Solomon's reign be even greater than David's!

Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah bring out Solomon and anoint him.

NARRATOR: So Zadok and Nathan and Benaiah did as David commanded, and had a coronation ceremony for Solomon. People came from all over to join in the celebration. They made a great noise as they celebrated. The noise could be heard far and wide. Even Adonijah and his friends heard it.

JOAB: What is the meaning of all the noise coming from the city?

NARRATOR: Just then, Jonathan, son of Abiathar the priest, came in. He had been in Jerusalem and knew what was going on. He told them that SOLOMON had been anointed!

NARRATOR: This ended the party. Adonijah's guest got up and ran away.

Adonijah and his friends run off stage.

NARRATOR: Adonijah realized he was in big trouble. Solomon could order his execution as a traitor. His only chance of survival was to beg for mercy. He ran to the altar and clung to its horns. He said he would not leave the altar until Solomon swore to him that he would have mercy and not kill him.

SOLOMON: Go and tell Adonijah that if he proves himself to be a worthy man, not a hair on his head will perish. But if he proves to be a trouble-maker, he will be put to death.

NARRATOR: So Adonijah left the altar and came and bowed down before Solomon.

Adonijah comes and bows before Solomon.

SOLOMON: Go to your house!

NARRATOR: Then David called Solomon to come to him. He wanted to give Solomon some important advice. He said, "Solomon, my son, I know I will die soon. Before I do, I want to give you these last instructions. Be strong and manly, but most of all, be sure to walk in the ways of the Lord. Keep His commands and be careful to do everything written in His law." David wrote a wonderful Psalm about this time in his life, about the God who was his strong refuge.

All gather on stage for song.

I will sing of your salvation.
In you O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me,
Pay heed to me and save me!

I will sing of your salvation
My lips shall tell of your justice
And day by day of your help
O God you have taught me from my youth
I proclaim your wonder still.
I will sing of your salvation!

I will sing of your salvation.
Be a rock where I can take refuge,
A mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked.
I will sing of your salvation!
It is you, oh Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, oh Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned since my birth.
From my mother's womb, you have been my help.