

**~ABISHAG (147)**  
**(Ab'i-shag)**

- **A young virgin from the town of Shunem, North of Jezreel and Mount Gilboa, in the territory of Issachar.**
- **It was for Issachar that the fourth lot came out, for the sons of Issachar by their families. (Joshua 19:17)**
- **And their boundary came to be to Jezreel and Chesulloth and Shunem. (Joshua 19:18)**
- **And Hapharaim and Shion and Anaharath. (Joshua 19:19)**
- **And Rabbith and Kishion and Ebez. (Joshua 19:20)**
- **And Remeth and En-gannim and En-haddah and Beth-pazzez. (Joshua 19:21)**
- **And the boundary reached to Tabor and Shahazumah and Beth-shemesh, and the terminations of their border proved to be at the Jordan, sixteen cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:22)**
- **This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Issachar by their families, the cities and their settlements. (Joshua 19:23)**
- **She was beautiful in the extreme and was chosen by David's servants to become the nurse and companion of the king during his final days.**
- **Now King David was old, advanced in days, and they would cover him with garments, but he would not feel warm. (1 Kings 1:1)**
- **So his servants said to him; Let them look for a girl, a virgin, for my lord the king, and she will have to attend upon the king, that she may become his nurse, and she must lie in your bosom, and my lord the king will certainly feel warm. (1 Kings 1:2)**
- **And they went looking for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and finally found Abishag the Shunammite and then brought her in to the king. (1 Kings 1:3)**

- And the girl was beautiful in the extreme, and she came to be the king's nurse and kept waiting upon him, and the king himself had no intercourse with her. (1 Kings 1:4)
- David was now about 70 years of age.
- Thirty years old was David when he became king. For forty years he ruled as king. (2 Samuel 5:4)
- In Hebron he ruled as king over Judah for seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he ruled as king for thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. (2 Samuel 5:5)
- And as a result of debilitation he had little body heat. **Abishag** waited on him during the day, doubtless brightening the surroundings with her youthful freshness and beauty, and at night she lay in the king's bosom to give him warmth, but the king himself had no intercourse with her. Nevertheless, the attitude later manifested by Solomon regarding her indicates that **Abishag** was viewed as being in the position of wife or concubine of David. As such, by a rule in the ancient East, she would become the property of David's heir at the time of his death.
- The account concerning **Abishag** directly precedes the account of the attempt at gaining the crown by the one who was probably David's oldest surviving son, Adonijah, and would seem to be so placed to give understanding to Adonijah's subsequent action during Solomon's reign. Solomon, after ascending the throne, had placed Adonijah on conditional pardon.
- Now Adonijah persuaded Solomon's mother, Bath-sheba, to ask Solomon to give him **Abishag** as his wife. Solomon, convinced that Adonijah's request was not due alone to **Abishag's** beauty but, rather, indicated a subtle effort to strengthen Adonijah's claim to the throne, reacted angrily, revoked Adonijah's pardon, and ordered his death.
- In time Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bath-sheba, Solomon's mother. At this she said; Is your coming peaceable? to which he said; It is peaceable. (1 Kings 2:13)
- And he went on to say; There is a matter I have for you. So she said; Speak. (1 Kings 2:14)
- And he continued; You yourself well know that the kingship was

to have become mine, and it was toward me that all Israel had set their face for me to become king, but the kingship turned and came to be my brothers, for it was from Yehowah that it became his. (1 Kings 2:15)

- And now there is one request that I am making of you. Do not turn my face away. Accordingly she said to him; Speak. (1 Kings 2:16)
- And he went on to say; Please, say to Solomon the king, for he will not turn your face away, that he should give me **Abishag** the Shunammite as a wife. (1 Kings 2:17)
- To this Bath-sheba said; Good! I myself shall speak for you to the king. (1 Kings 2:18)
- So Bath-sheba came in to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah. At once the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat down upon his throne and had a throne set for the mother of the king, that she might sit at his right. (1 Kings 2:19)
- And she proceeded to say; There is one little request that I am making of you. Do not turn my face away. So the king said to her; Make it, my mother, for I shall not turn your face away. (1 Kings 2:20)
- And she went on to say; Let **Abishag** the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as a wife. (1 Kings 2:21)
- At this King Solomon answered and said to his mother; And why are you requesting **Abishag** the Shunammite for Adonijah? Request also for him the kingship, because he is my brother older than I am, even for him and for Abiathar the priest and for Joab the son of Zeruiah. (1 Kings 2:22)
- With that King Solomon swore by Yehowah, saying; So may God do to me, and so may he add to it, if it was not against his own soul that Adonijah spoke this thing. (1 Kings 2:23)
- And now, as Yehowah is living who has firmly established me and keeps me seated upon the throne of David my father and who made a house for me just as he has spoken, today Adonijah will be put to death. (1 Kings 2:24)

- Immediately King Solomon sent by means of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he proceeded to fall upon him, so that he died. (**1 Kings 2:25**)
- No further mention is made of **Abishag**, but it is probable that she continued as one of Solomon's wives or concubines.

**See Also ADONIJAH No. 1**