

Book of 1Kings

Synopsis



Introduction

Book No	11
Name	1Kings
Written By	Jeremiah
Testament	Old
Category	History
Date Written	Approx. 560 - 538 BC
Place Written	Israel
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To contrast the lives of those who live for God and those who refuse to do so through the history of the kings of Israel and Judah
History Covered	971 - 851 BC
Chapters	22
Verses	816
Key Verse	<p>And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments</p> <p>Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. (9:4, 5)</p>
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ David ❖ Solomon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rehoboam ❖ Jeroboam ❖ Elijah ❖ Ahab ❖ Jezebel
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shechem ❖ Israel ❖ Judah ❖ Jerusalem ❖ Dan ❖ Bethel ❖ Tirzah ❖ Samaria ❖ Mount carmel ❖ Jezreel ❖ Ramoth gilead

Purpose of the Book

This was a difficult period in the history of God's people, a time of great change and upheaval. There was struggle from within and pressure from without. The result was a dark moment in which the stable kingdom under a strong leader split in two. writes with a prophetic message, showing that this punishment by captivity to foreign pagan nations was the inevitable consequence of the persistent violation of God's covenant with them. Kings was written to move the exiles to reflect on their history and return to the Lord.

The books of 1 and 2 Kings take up recording the historical events of God's people where the books of 1 and 2 Samuel leave off. However, Kings is more than just a compilation of the politically important or socially significant happenings in Israel and Judah. 1 and 2 Kings is a selective history, one with a theological purpose. Therefore, the author selects and emphasizes the people and events that are morally and religiously significant. First and 2 Kings present God as the Lord of history. From history, these books establish God's providential working in and through the lives of

His people for His redemptive purpose. They demonstrate the necessity of obedience to God's covenant and the painful consequence of disobedience.

The first half of 1 Kings records the glory of Solomon's reign, his wealth, wisdom, and the monumental accomplishment of the building of the temple. However, his disobedience in marrying foreign wives led him into idolatry; and the stage was set for the division of the kingdom. The king with a divided heart would leave behind a divided kingdom. On his death, those in the northern part of the empire rebelled and established their own nation, known as Israel. In the south, those who remained faithful to the house of David and Solomon formed the nation known as Judah.

In the second half of 1 Kings, which describes the divided kingdom, the narrative is difficult to follow. The author switches back and forth between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, tracing their histories simultaneously. There were nineteen regents in Israel, all of them bad. In Judah, there were twenty rulers, only eight of them good.

First Kings records the first nine rulers in Israel and the first four kings in Judah. Some of these thirteen regents are only mentioned in a few verses, while whole chapters are devoted to others. Major attention is directed to those who either serve as a model of uprightness, or to those who illustrate why these nations eventually collapsed. When 1 Kings closes, Jehoshaphat is the king in Judah, and Ahaziah is on the throne in Israel. The nation, leader, or person who responds to and obeys the Lord will enjoy the benefits of a relationship with Him. Those who refuse and rebel will experience God's discipline. Though people are sinful, God is the author of redemption, and He graciously forgives those who will repent and return to Him.

The main events of 1 Kings are David's death, Solomon's reign, the division of the kingdom, and Elijah's ministry. As Solomon ascended the throne, David charged him to obey God's laws and to "follow all his ways" (2:3). This Solomon did; and when given the choice of gifts from God, he humbly asked for wisdom (3:9). As a result, Solomon's reign began with great success, including the construction of the Temple, his greatest achievement. Unfortunately, Solomon took many pagan wives and concubines who eventually turned his heart away from the Lord to their false gods (11:1-4).

Rehoboam succeeded Solomon and had the opportunity to be a wise, compassionate, and just king. Instead, he accepted the poor advice of his young friends and attempted

to rule with an iron hand. But the people rebelled, and the kingdom split with 10 tribes in the north (Israel) ruled by Jeroboam, and only Judah and Benjamin remaining with Rehoboam. Both kingdoms wove a path through the reigns of corrupt and idolatrous kings with only the clear voice of the prophets continuing to warn and call the nation back to God.

Elijah is surely one of the greatest prophets, and chapters 17 through 22 feature his conflict with wicked Ahab and Jezebel in Israel. In one of the most dramatic confrontations in history, Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel. In spite of incredible opposition, Elijah stood for God and proves that one, plus God, is a majority. If God is on our side, no one can stand against us (Romans 8:31).

Overview

- ❖ 11th book of the BIBLE, Old Testament and 6th among the 12 historical books
- ❖ 1 Kings covers the 120 year period
- ❖ The united Kingdom was divided to become the Divided Kingdom.
 - Northern Kingdom of Israel - 10 tribes.
 - Southern Kingdom of Judah - 2 tribes.
- ❖ Four major events in 1 Kings:
 - David's death
 - Solomon's reign
 - The division of the Kingdom
 - Elijah's ministry.
- ❖ 1 Kings is a record of disobedience, idolatry, and ungodliness which serve as an explanation for the Assyrian Captivity of Israel in 721 B.C. and the Babylonian Captivity of Judah some 135 years later in 586 B.C.
 - The divided kingdom brought:
 - Two nations
 - Two sets of kings
 - Continual strife and conflict, sometimes resulting in war.
- ❖ The northern kingdom is plagued by apostasy.
- ❖ Of all the northern and southern kings listed in 1 Kings, only Asa (15:9-24) and Jehoshaphat (22:41-50) do what is right in God's eyes
- ❖ Solomon's great request: 1 Kings 3:9

Hebrew Names of GOD used in 1Kings

❖ ELOHIM

❖ JEHOVAH-SHALOM

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

The failure of the prophets, priests, and kings of God's people points to the necessity of the advent of Christ. Christ Himself would be the ideal combination of these three offices. As a Prophet, Christ's word far surpasses that of the great prophet Elijah (Matt. 17:1–5). Many of the miracles of Jesus were reminiscent of the wonders God did through Elijah and Elisha in Kings. In addition, Christ is a Priest superior to any of those recorded in Kings (Heb. 7:22–27).

First Kings vividly illustrates the need for Christ as our reigning King. When asked if He was King of the Jews, Jesus affirmed that He was (Matt. 27:11). However, Christ is a King "greater than Solomon" (Matt. 12:42). The name "Solomon" means "Peace"; Christ is the "Prince of Peace," and there will be no end to His peace (Is. 9:6). Solomon was noted for his wisdom, but Christ is the "wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:25, 29). Solomon's reign was temporary, but Christ will reign on the throne of David forever (1 Chr. 17:14; Is. 9:6), for He is "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:16).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

1Kings 18:12 is the only direct reference to the Holy Spirit in 1 Kings, where He is called the "Spirit of the LORD." The words of Obadiah there indicate that the Holy Spirit sometimes transported Elijah from one location to another (see also 2 Kin. 2:16). This is not unlike Acts 8:39, 40, where Philip is described as having a similar experience.

There is an allusion in 18:46 ("the hand of the LORD") to the Holy Spirit's work of enabling Elijah to do the miraculous. The formula "hand of the LORD" referred to the inspiration of the prophets by the Spirit of God (see 2 Kin. 3:15 and Ezek. 1:3; compare with 1 Sam. 10:6, 10 and 19:20, 23). Here "the hand of the LORD" refers to the Spirit of God who endowed Elijah with supernatural strength to do an amazing feat (for similar examples, see Judg. 14:6, 19; and 15:14).

In addition to these passages, 1 Kings 22:24 (see 1 Chr. 18:23) may be another reference to the Holy Spirit. This verse refers to a "spirit from the LORD" (see note on 22:24) and may indicate that the prophets understood that their ability to prophesy

came by the Spirit of God (see 1 Sam. 10:6, 10; 19:20, 23). If this interpretation is taken, then it would correlate with 1 Corinthians 12:7–11, which confirms that the ability to prophesy is indeed a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Mega Themes of 1Kings

THE KING

Solomon's wisdom, power, and achievements brought honor to the Israelite nation and to God. All the kings of Israel and Judah were told to obey God and to govern according to his laws. But their tendency to abandon God's commands and to worship other gods led them to change the religion and government to meet their personal desires. This neglect of God's law led to their downfall.

Wisdom, power, and achievement do not ultimately come from any human source; they are from God. No matter what we lead or govern, we can't do well when we ignore God's guidelines. Whether or not we are leaders, effectiveness depends upon listening and obeying God's Word. Don't let your personal desires distort God's Word.

THE TEMPLE

Solomon's Temple was a beautiful place of worship and prayer. This sanctuary was the center of Jewish religion. It was the place of God's special presence and housed the Ark of the Covenant containing the Ten Commandments.

A beautiful house of worship doesn't always guarantee heartfelt worship of God. Providing opportunities for true worship doesn't ensure that it will happen. God wants to live in our hearts, not just meet us in a sanctuary.

OTHER GODS

Although the Israelites had God's law and experienced his presence among them, they became attracted to other gods. When this happened, their hearts became cold to God's law, resulting in the ruin of families and government, and eventually leading to the destruction of the nation.

Through the years, the people took on the false qualities of the false gods they worshiped. They became cruel, power-hungry, and sexually perverse. We tend to become what we worship. Unless we serve the true God, we will become slaves to whatever takes his place.

ELIJAH'S MESSAGE

The prophet's responsibility was to confront and correct any deviation from God's law.

Elijah was a bolt of judgment against Israel. His messages and miracles were a warning to the evil and rebellious kings and people.

The Bible, the truth in sermons, and the wise counsel of believers are warnings to us. Anyone who points out how we deviate from obeying God's Word is a blessing to us. Changing our lives in order to obey God and get back on track often takes painful discipline and hard work.

SIN AND REPENTANCE

Each king had God's commands, a priest or prophet, and the lessons of the past to draw him back to God. All the people had the same resources. Whenever they repented and returned to God, God heard their prayers and forgave him.

God hears and forgives us when we pray if we are willing to trust him and turn from sin. Our desire to forsake our sin must be heartfelt and sincere. Then he will give us a fresh start and a desire to live for him.

Life Lessons in 1Kings

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Godliness is reflected in our character. It can be seen in our faithfulness and integrity. We can be confident that God blesses those who walk uprightly before Him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Remember and follow through on vows you have made to others. The Lord takes them seriously (compare Josh. 9:3–15; 2Sam 21:1). He will enable you to fulfill your word. ❖ Remember that the Lord prospers and grants success to those who walk in His ways. ❖ Recognize your limitations; rely on the Lord, and ask Him for wisdom (James 1:5).
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>God desires that our hearts be wholly His. The lives of Solomon and the kings reveal how a divided heart</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Earnestly seek the Lord. Ask Him to continually turn your heart toward Him that you might walk in His ways.

<p>produces weakness that leads away from the Lord. Dynamic devotion flows from the totality of our heart and strength belonging entirely to the Lord.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Be careful to whom you give your heart. With those people, it is important to be like-minded and for all to be intent on loving the Lord (2 Cor. 6:14). ❖ Courageously turn from ungodly patterns of past generations. Pursue the Lord. Do your part to establish godliness in your generation!
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>Solomon amassed wealth, power, and women in direct disobedience to the Lord's direction to the Kings of Israel (Deut. 17:16, 17). The lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life continue to tempt us today. God calls us apart from these things that we might walk ever closer to Him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Admit that you do things you know you should not do. Ask God to search your heart daily. Be quick to ask God's forgiveness, turn from your sin, and be confident that He will forgive you and restore you. ❖ Be ever watchful over those things for which your heart longs. God calls us to purity of heart so that we will not stumble and stray from Him. ❖ Avoid even small compromises in holiness, purity and worship ❖ Understand that even the slightest deviations from what you know to be right may eventually become major transgressions
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>The prophet Elijah illustrates the life of faith for all those desiring to step out in trust, inspite of their circumstances. God never failed to provide all that was needed in each situation, sometimes in unusual and miraculous ways!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Expect that when God guides, He will also provide. Be flexible; His provision may come in unconventional ways from unexpected sources. ❖ Step out with faith and obedience to the Lord.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Know that the times when things look impossible are the times to praise, pray, and look expectantly to the Lord.
<p>Steps in developing humility</p> <p>Humility refuses to promote or exalt itself trusting the LORD to bring advancement. It quickly acknowledges the LORD when anything it does is recognized knowing that all accomplishments are realized through GOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Avoid self promotion. Rely upon the LORD to bring promotion to you ❖ Remember who exalts himself will be humbled ❖ Be aware that your life is only a conduit for a reflection of GOD's life. ❖ Know that even the greatest thing you build will manifest only a small facet of GOD's glory
<p>Keys to wise living</p> <p>GOD is the only source of true wisdom and HE promises to give it to anyone who asks for it. Wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD and finds its fulfilment in love for others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do not presume to know how to do what the LORD has called you to do. Cleave to the LORD and depend upon HIS wisdom ❖ Choose to believe that GOD will give wisdom to all who ask for it (james 1:5) ❖ Be assured that only GOD knows the hearts of men. We can not. Allow this to cause you to reverence GOD
<p>Lessons for leaders</p> <p>GOD's leaders serve HIM on the people's behalf not vice versa. Confusion on this point has caused many a tragedy among GOD's people. The kings who sought to please the people rather than GOD opened the way for great sin and received a bad report. What an important lesson in a day when popularity has become such an idol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Leaders be wise and seek counsel from other seasoned and fruitful leaders. Avoid the exclusive counsel of untried leaders who have borne little fruit ❖ Leaders be faithful to GOD's WORD. What you say may not always be popular but it must measure upto the standards of scripture. Otherwise your ministry may promote idolatry ❖ Leaders pattern your lives and ministries after leaders who have GOD's approval and follow HIS WORD closely. Avoid

to many. GOD's leaders are encouraged to follow HIS WORD closely and to be careful regarding other sources of advice	patterns that although successfully by worldly standards contradict GOD's WORD
<p>Steps to dealing with sin</p> <p>Deception begins when we forget that all of us are inclined to sin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Be assured that there is no one who does not sin. ❖ Let GOD search your heart daily to guard you against sin which you might not notice
<p>Key lessons in faith</p> <p>Believe that where the LORD leads HE feeds. Where HE guides HE provides. Faith does not let a threat of privation alter the course the LORD has set</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do not allow the threat of reduced income to cause you to disobey the LORD's direction for your life ❖ Choose to believe that the LORD knows how to care for HIS servants

Praise Points in 1Kings

- ❖ Wisdom and discernment (3:9)
- ❖ Capable leaders and helpers (4:1-6)
- ❖ Times of peace and prosperity (4:20-21)
- ❖ Purpose and vision for our life (5:5)
- ❖ His faithful love (8:23-24)
- ❖ His attentiveness to repentant hearts and his willingness to forgive (8:28-53)
- ❖ His faithfulness to his promises (8:56)
- ❖ The abilities and accomplishments he grants us (10:23-24)
- ❖ His provision (17:14)
- ❖ Help and strength when we are weak and discouraged (19:4-5).

Worship Insights in 1Kings

How could a people turn from worshipping the true God to worshipping idols in a little over one person's lifetime? How could their leaders become so corrupt that they built a temple for Baal and began killing off God's prophets? This is exactly what happened

in 1 Kings, which recounts Israel's history from the appointment of Solomon as king to the reigns of Ahaziah (son of Ahab) and Jehoshaphat.

We come away from 1Kings with a harsh lesson: Idolatry and wickedness gently lure us with promises of pleasure and excitement, but they are deadly to the spirit. True worship is far more costly to practice and uphold, but ultimately it gives life.

The leaders in Israel had become so wicked under Ahab's reign that they were willing to falsely accuse a prominent citizen, whom they probably knew very well, and stone him to death. Corrupt leaders have always been a part of society—from the days of Sodom and Gomorrah to the present day. How should we respond to this problem? First, we must be certain of our own motives and loyalties.

Do we seek after God's desires in all we do? Worshiping God can help us readjust our focus when we begin to lose sight of his will for us. As we draw closer to God, we will begin to desire justice and be filled with compassion for the victims of corruption. We will be less inclined to bow to public pressure when we honor God more than powerful leaders. Finally, we will be compelled to speak out against the evil practices of corrupt leaders, and we will work to install leaders with integrity and a desire for justice.

- ❖ Our respect for God can be expressed through creative and beautiful works in our places of worship (6:14-38).
- ❖ Worship recalls God's great deeds for us (8:56).
- ❖ As we worship, we participate together with the larger family of God (8:62).
- ❖ God jealously demands our singular devotion to him (9:6-9).
- ❖ If we allow our affections for other people to rival our love for God, we are headed for disaster (11:14).
- ❖ God hates idolatry (12:28-31; 14:22-24).
- ❖ True worship demands that we follow God with all our heart (18:21).

An Outline of 1Kings

I. From the Last Days of David to the Divided Kingdom 970-932 B.C.: 1Ki. 1:1-11:43

A. The Death of David and the Accession of Solomon: 1Ki. 1:1-2:12

1. David's Old Age: [1Ki 1:1-4](#)
2. Adonijah's Quest for Power: [1Ki 1:5-10](#)
3. Nathan's and Bathsheba's Counterplot: [1Ki 1:11-27](#)

4. Solomon's Selection as King: [1Ki 1:28-37](#)

5. Solomon's Anointing by Zadok: [1Ki 1:38-53](#)

6. David's Last Words and Death: [1Ki 2:1-12](#)

B. The Wisdom and Wealth of Solomon: 1Ki. 2:13-4:34

1. Solomon's Position Secured: [1Ki 2:13-46](#)

2. Solomon's Marriage and God's Gift of Wisdom: [1Ki 3:1-15](#)

3. Solomon's Wise Judgment: [1Ki 3:16-28](#)

4. Solomon's Rich Resources: [1Ki 4:1-34](#)

C. The Building and Dedication of the Temple: 1Ki. 5:1-8:66

1. Solomon Recruits Hiram and Plans the Temple: [1Ki 5:1-18](#)

2. Solomon Builds the Temple: [1Ki 6:1-38](#)

3. Solomon Furnishes the Temple and Completes Other Buildings: [1Ki 7:1-51](#)

4. Solomon Dedicates the Temple: [1Ki 8:1-66](#)

D. The Golden Age of Solomon: 1Ki. 9:1-10:29

1. God Appears to Solomon a Second Time: [1Ki 9:1-9](#)

2. Solomon Establishes Financial, Labor, and Trade Policies: [1Ki 9:10-28](#)

3. The Queen of Sheba Visits King Solomon: [1Ki 10:1-13](#)

4. The Great Wealth and Power of King Solomon: [1Ki 10:14-29](#)

E. The Decline and Death of Solomon: [1Ki 11:1-43](#)

1. Solomon's Foreign Wives Lead Him Astray: [1Ki 11:1-13](#)

2. God Raises Up Enemies Against Solomon: [1Ki 11:14-25](#)

3. Jeroboam Rebels and Solomon Dies: [1Ki 11:26-43](#)

II. From the Divided Kingdom to the Fall of Israel 932-722 B.C.: [1Ki 12:1-2Ki 17:41](#)

A. The Reigns of Jeroboam of Israel and Rehoboam of Judah: 1Ki. 12:1-14:31

1. The Division of the Kingdom: [1Ki 12:1-16](#)

2. The Reign of Jeroboam in Israel: [1Ki 12:17-33](#)

3. The Message of the Man of God: [1Ki 13:1-34](#)

4. The Conclusion of Jeroboam's Reign: [1Ki 14:1-20](#)

5. The Reign of Rehoboam in Judah: [1Ki 14:21-31](#)

B. The Reigns of Two Kings in Judah and Five Kings in Israel: 1Ki. 15:1-16:28

1. Abijam Reigns in Judah: [1Ki 15:1-8](#)
2. Asa Reigns in Judah: [1Ki 15:9-24](#)
3. Nadab Reigns in Israel: [1Ki 15:25-32](#)
4. Baasha Reigns in Israel: [1Ki. 15:33-16:7](#)
5. Elah Reigns in Israel: [1Ki 16:8-14](#)
6. Zimri Reigns in Israel: [1Ki 16:15-20](#)
7. Omri (and Tibni) Reigns in Israel: [1Ki 16:21-28](#)

C. The Early Reign of Ahab of Israel and the Early Ministry of Elijah: 1Ki. 16:29-18:46

1. Ahab and His Evil Reign in Israel: [1Ki 16:29-34](#)
2. Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath: [1Ki 17:1-24](#)
3. Elijah and Obadiah: [1Ki 18:1-16](#)
4. Elijah and the Prophets of Baal: [1Ki 18:17-46](#)

D. The Account of Elijah's Confrontation with Ahab: 1Ki. 19:1-22:40

1. Elijah Escapes from Jezebel: [1Ki 19:1-14](#)
2. Elijah Receives a New Task: [1Ki 19:15-21](#)
3. Ahab Defeats the Syrians: [1Ki 20:1-43](#)
4. Ahab Takes Naboth's Vineyard: [1Ki 21:1-16](#)
5. Elijah Condemns Ahab: [1Ki 21:17-29](#)
6. Ahab is Warned by Micaiah: [1Ki 22:1-28](#)
7. Ahab is Slain in Battle: [1Ki 22:29-40](#)

E. The Reigns of Jehoshaphat of Judah and Ahaziah of Israel and the Conclusion of Elijah's Ministry: [1Ki 22:41](#)–[2Ki 2:14](#)

1. Jehoshaphat's Reign Summarized: [1Ki 22:41-50](#)
2. Ahaziah's Reign Summarized: [1Ki 22:51-53](#)