

The Book of 1 Kings



Part 3 5 studies in 1 Kings

Introduction

The two books, 1 & 2 Kings, in the Hebrew Old Testament were one book. It was divided by the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translators. They summarized these books as follows: I The Reign of Solomon; II Division of the Kingdom, and Parallel History of the Two Kingdoms; III Subsequent History of Judah to the Captivity.

1 Kings opens with the Hebrew nation in its glory. 2 Kings closes with the nation in ruin. Together they cover a period of about 400 years, from 1000-600 BC.

Author

The author is not known. A Jewish tradition says it was Jeremiah. Whoever the author is, he makes frequent reference to state annals and other historical records existent in his day, such as: "The book of the acts of Solomon"; "The book of chronicles of the Kings of Judah"; and "The book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel" (1 Kings 11:41; 14:19, 29; 15:7, 23, 31; 16:5, 14, 27 etc.).

Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The last days of David and Solomon's Accession | 1 Kings 1:1 - 1 Kings 2:46 |
| 2. The reign of Solomon | 1 Kings 3:1 - 1 Kings 11:43 |
| 3. History of the Divided Kingdom | 1 Kings 12:1 - 2 Kings 10:36 |
| 4. History of Judah and Israel to the fall of Northern Kingdom | 2 Kings 11:1 - 2 Kings 17:41 |
| 5. History of Judah to the fall of Jerusalem | 2 Kings 18:1 - 2 Kings 25:30 |

Alternative Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Golden Age | 1 Kings 1-11 |
| 2. The Torn Kingdom | 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 |
| 3. The Last Days | 2 Kings 18-25 |

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
2. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.**

Study 1 - Construction Report**1 Kings 6:1-38**
(Sermon on 03-Oct-21)**Read 1 Kings 6:1-6**

1. What does verse 1 tell us about the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt? Why is this a new era for the people of Israel? (cf. 2 Samuel 7:10-11)
2. What does the timeframe in verse 1 tell us about God's timing and God's promises?
3. What does verse 1 tell us about the preparation work done in 1 Kings 5?
4. What were the dimensions of the temple in verses 2 to 6? Does the size surprise you?

Read 1 Kings 6:7-10

5. What do we learn from verse 7? What does this say about God?
6. What other details are added to the building in verses 8 to 10?

Read 1 Kings 6:11-13

7. What promise does God give Solomon? What conditions are there?
8. What responsibility does Solomon have here?

9. Does verse 13 give us the purpose of the temple?

Read 1 Kings 6:14-18

10. What dimensions were the inner sanctuary (the Most Holy Place in v16)?

11. What dimensions were the hall in front of the Most Holy Place in v17?

12. What did the inside of temple look like in verse 18?

Read 1 Kings 6:19-28

13. What was to be kept in the inner sanctuary (the Most Holy Place)?

14. What was the interior overlaid with?

15. What were the dimensions of the cherubim?

16. What are cherubim anyway? What's their purpose?

Read 1 Kings 6:29-38

17. What were the walls and floors of the temple (inner and outer rooms) like?

18. What were the doors like?

19. How was the inner courtyard constructed?

20. How long did it take to build the temple?

21. **Ponder:** Is all this gold and extravagant décor over the top?

Read John 2:13-22

22. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

Read Hebrews 8:1-6

23. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?


Read Hebrews 9:23-28

24. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

Read Revelation 21:15-27

25. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 6:1-38?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thanking God for Jesus (the true temple) that was raised after 3 days so that we can have eternal life.

Study 2 - Interior Decorating

1 Kings 7:1-51

(Sermon on 10-October-21)

Last study we saw Solomon begin construction of the temple.

In this study Solomon builds his palace and then focuses on the interior of the temple.

Read 1 Kings 7:1-12

1. How long did Solomon take to build his palace? How does that compare to the time to build God's house? (cf. 1 Kings 6:38). What does that suggest?

2. What do we notice about the dimensions of the "house" of Solomon compared to the "house" of the Lord?

3. What was Solomon's palace made from?

4. Read Haggai 1:3-10. How would the warning there relate to Solomon?

Read 1 Kings 7:13-22

5. Who does Solomon hire in verses 13&14? Why?

6. What is made in verses 15 to 22? And what is significant about their names?

Read 1 Kings 7:23-26

7. What is the Sea that is referred to here? What are its dimensions and capacity? What is it used for? (cf. 2 Chronicles 4:1-6)

Read 1 Kings 7:27-37

8. What were the 10 movable stands made of? What was their purpose?

Read 1 Kings 7:38-40a

9. What else is made here? Why?

Read 1 Kings 7:40b-45

10. What summary is given of Hiram's work?

Read 1 Kings 7:46-47

11. What detail do we find out in verses 46 & 47?


Read 1 Kings 7:48-51

12. List the furnishings that were in the temple.

13. What else was brought into the temple in verse 51? Why?

14. **Ponder:** The whole of chapter 6 & 7 apart from verses 1 to 12 of chapter 7 focus on the temple. What is the writer of 1 Kings trying to tell us about God's priority?
15. **Ponder:** Why does God give us so much detail about the Temple in His Word?
16. **Ponder:** What was the sole purpose of building the Temple in the first place?
17. **Acts 2:42-47, Read Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 5:19-20**
What does worship look like in the early church and what can we learn from that?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 7:1-51?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Pray that, in view of God's mercy, in Jesus, we would offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1)

Study 3 - The "Glory of the Lord" enters the Temple 1 Kings 8:1-21
(Sermon on 17-Oct-21)

Finally, the House of the Lord (The Temple) is completed.
Remind yourself what the purpose of The Temple is?

Remind yourself what the Ark of the Lord's Covenant is; what it represents; what it contains and where it was in the time of King David.

Read 1 Kings 8:1-2

1. Who is involved in verse 1 & 2? Why is that significant?
2. Why do they bring the Ark of the Lord's Covenant to the temple?
3. What is the date and the festival in verse 2? (cf. Leviticus 23:33-43)
4. What's the significance of bringing the Ark of the Lord's Covenant at the time of this festival?


Read 1 Kings 8:3-13

5. Who carries the Ark in verse 3&4 and why? (cf. 2 Samuel 6:1-8)

Read Acts 2:1-4

20. How is the event in Acts 2:1-4 a parallel event to 1 Kings 8:1-11?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 8:1-21?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thanking Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, so that we may receive the promised eternal inheritance where we can experience the *Glory* of God forever.

Study 4 - Solomon's Prayer for the Temple**1 Kings 8:22-53****(Sermon on 24-October-21)**

Having brought the Ark of the Lord's Covenant to the temple in 1 Kings 8:1-11 and experienced the glory of the Lord and having acknowledged that God kept His promise to David that a House for God's name would be built (1 Kings 8:12-21); Solomon now offers a prayer for the Temple in 1 Kings 8:22-53.

Read 1 Kings 8:22-26

1. What does Solomon acknowledge about God in these verses?

Read 1 Kings 8:27-30

2. What does Solomon recognize about God's dwelling place in verse 27?

3. Nevertheless, what does Solomon ask of God in relation to the temple in verses 28 to 30?

Solomon's prayer then has 7 petitions from verses 31 to 51.

4. **Read 1 Kings 8:31-32.** What is the petition?

5. **Read 1 Kings 8:33-34.** What is the petition?

6. **Read 1 Kings 8:35-36.** What is the petition?

7. **Read 1 Kings 8:37-40.** What is the petition?

8. **Read 1 Kings 8:41-43.** What is the petition?

9. **Read 1 Kings 8:44-45.** What is the petition?

10. **Read 1 Kings 8:46-51.** What is the petition?

11. **Ponder:** What's the significance of giving seven examples of circumstances in which the people might pray towards the temple?

13. What telling admission is there in verse 46?

12. What is significant about the last petition in verses 46-51 for those who might read this passage in exile? Is there a hint of a return from exile in these verses?

Read 1 Kings 8:52-53


13. As Solomon closes his prayer in verses 52 to 53, what plea does he issue and what confidence does he have?

14. **Ponder:** What do we learn from prayer from Solomon here?

Read Luke 19:45-48 (cf. Isaiah 56:7)

15. How does this passage relate to 1 Kings 8:22-53?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 8:22-53?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thanking God for the gift of prayer and that He is a listening God and He cares about every detail of our lives.

Study 5 - The Dedication of the Temple

1 Kings 8:54-66

(Sermon on 31-October-21)

Having brought the Ark of the Lord's Covenant to the temple in 1 Kings 8:1-11 and experienced the glory of the Lord and having acknowledged that God kept His promise to David that a House for God's name would be built (1 Kings 8:12-21); and having offered a prayer for the Temple (1 Kings 8:22-53); Solomon now dedicates the temple.

What does it mean to dedicate something?

Read 1 Kings 8:54-61

1. Who is Solomon now talking to in verses 54-55?

2. What has the Lord done that He promised in verse 56? (cf. Exodus 33:14; Deuteronomy 12:10 and Hebrews 4:8).

3. What does Solomon expect in verse 57 and on what basis? (cf. Deuteronomy 4:31; 31:6; Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5)

4. Where should the people's hearts be and what's expected in verse 58?

5. What does Solomon want to happen with the prayers he has offered in verse 59?

6. What's Solomon's desire for all people of the Earth in verse 60?

7. What's Solomon's desire for the people of Israel in verse 61?

8. **Ponder:** How should our desire for people on this Earth match up with verse 60?

9. **Ponder:** In what way should our hearts be like the people of Israel in verse 61?

Read 1 Kings 8:62-66

10. Why do Solomon and the people of Israel offer a sacrifice in verse 62&63?

11. What does it mean in verse 63 that all the Israelites dedicated the temple of the Lord?

12. What do Solomon do in verse 64 and what does consecrate mean?

13. What's the festival in verse 65? What's significant in the length of the celebration?

14. What's the reaction of the people in verse 66 and why?

15: **Ponder:** Does the dedication of the Temple teach us that the God cares both about what will happen when Jesus returns and consummates His Kingdom and what happens to us in September/October of 2021 in COVID times? What do you think?

Read Hebrews 4:1-13

15. How does this passage relate to 1 Kings 8:54-66?

16. What's the promise we have?

17. How are we to respond in verse 11?

18. What powerful weapon do we have in verse 12?

19. What reassurance do we have in verse 13?


Read 2 Peter 3:4-10

20. How does this passage relate to 1 Kings 8:54-66?

Read Matthew 19:1-6 (especially verse 6)

20. One final thought: What does Matthew 19:6 mean in the context of 1 Kings 8:54-66?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 8:54-66?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thanking God that in Jesus we have a true sabbath rest and asking God to help us to dedicate our lives serve the Temple of our Lord Jesus as living stones.

Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
September 2021

Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

1 and 2 Kings (Donald J. Wiseman - Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)

1 Kings - The Wisdom and the Folly (Dale Ralph Davis)

Halley's Bible Handbook - New Revised Edition (Henry H. Halley)

Notes/Prayer Points