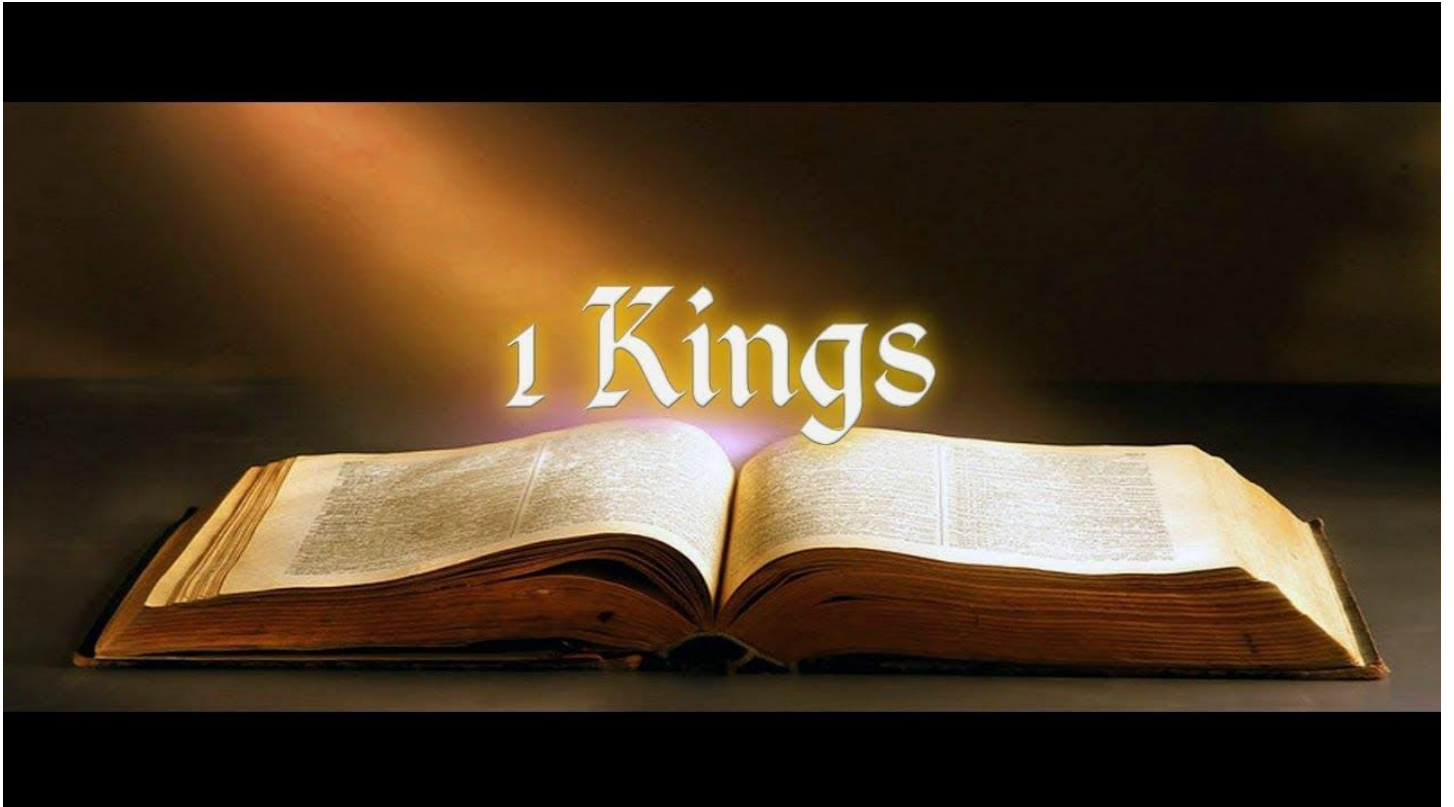


The Book of 1 Kings



Part 5 3 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

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|--|------------------------------|
| 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

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 – Solomon forgets his first love

1 Kings 11:1-13
(Sermon on 3-July-22)

Before we begin, have a look at the sub-headings in your Bible for chapters 1 to 10 of 1 Kings and summarize what we learnt during our look at 1 Kings last year.

What's your overall impression of chapters 1 to 10?

Read Genesis 2:23-24

1. How is marriage described here?

Read Matthew 19:1-6

2. How is marriage described here?

Read Deuteronomy 7:1-4

3. What instructions does God give the Israelites as they enter the Promised Land?

Read Exodus 34:11-16

4. What instructions does God give the Israelites as they enter the Promised Land?

Read 1 Kings 11:1-3

5. Based on the Old Testament passages you have just read; what problems does Solomon have in marrying many foreign women (wives)?

6. How many wives and concubines does Solomon have? What's the difference between a wife and a concubine?

7. What do these wives and concubines do in verse 3?

8. **Ponder:** What reasons could Solomon have for so many wives/concubines?

Read 1 Kings 11:4-8

9. In what ways is Solomon led astray in verses 4 to 8? Why is this wrong? (Exodus 20:3-4; Deuteronomy 6:14-16; 17:17; 1 Kings 9:6)

Read 1 Kings 11:9-13

10. Why was God angry with Solomon?

11. What judgements does God make over Solomon and his Kingdom?

12. In what way is Solomon personally spared and why?

13. What hope is there in verse 13?

14. **Ponder:** What word is used 4 times in verses 2 to 4? Why is that significant? (cf. Mark 7:21-23)


15. Compare 1 Kings 3:3 with 1 Kings 11:1, what do you notice?

16. **Ponder:** Why is God angry with someone (like Solomon) who wants to spread his devotion around, and expose himself to other religious traditions and spiritual experiences?

Read Revelation 2:1-7

17. How might this passage relate to 1 Kings 11:1-13?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 11:1-13?

 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: Father God, help us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Father God, help us to not forget that you are our first love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Study 2 – All History is in God’s Sovereign Control**1 Kings 11:14-43**
(Sermon on 10-July-22)

Remind yourself from the last study, what Solomon did wrong and what God said He would do about it?

Read 1 Kings 11:14-22

1. Who is the adversary that God raised up against Solomon?
2. What’s his background?
3. Find **Edom** on the map in Appendix 1.

Read 1 Kings 11:23-25

4. Who is the adversary that God raised up against Solomon?
5. What’s his background?
6. Find **Zobah and Aram** on the map in Appendix 1.

Read 1 Kings 11:26-40

7. Who is the adversary in verse 26?

8. How is Jeroboam described in verse 28?

9. Who does Jeroboam meet as he was going out of Jerusalem?

10. What prophecy about a cloak is revealed in verses 30 to 32?

11. **Ponder:** What do the 12 pieces of the cloak represent in verse 30? And is there a mathematical problem in that Jeroboam is given 10 pieces (v31) and Solomon will have one piece (v32)? What's the solution?

12. What's the reason given for God's intended action in v33?

13. What 'mercy' is Solomon given according to verse 32?

14. What 'mercy' is Solomon afforded in verses 34 to 36?

15. What is Jeroboam promised in verses 37 to 38? Are there any conditions?

16. Why do you think Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam? (cf. 1 Kings 11:11-13). Why does Solomon's attempt to kill Jeroboam fail? (cf. 1 Kings 11:31-39)

17. **Ponder:** Can God preserve what He is destroying? Does God's promise to Jeroboam through Ahijah negate the sure and certain promise He made to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16?

18. What hope is there in verses 34, 36 and 39?

Read 1 Kings 11:41-43

19. How is Solomon's reign summarized?

20. Who takes over from Solomon as king when he dies?


Read Matthew 1:1-7

21. How might this passage relate to 1 Kings 11:14-43?

Read John 5:16-30

22. How might this passage relate to 1 Kings 11:14-43?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 11:14-43?

 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: Father God thank you that you are in sovereign control of all history and thank you that in your own perfect way you are able to administer justice and mercy. Thank you for your grace and mercy in sending Jesus.

Study 3 – Good things going bad and bad things coming good**1 Kings 12:1-24*****(Sermon on 17-July-22 – Rev. Jason Forbes)***

Remind yourself from the last study, what prophecy was made about Jeroboam in 1 Kings 11:26-40.

Remind yourself from last study, who became king after Solomon's death.

Read 1 Kings 12:1-5

1. What are the tribes of Israel about to do at Shechem in verse 1?
2. Who do they also send for in verse 2? Why do you think they would do that?
3. What do they ask Rehoboam for in exchange for their allegiance in verse 4?
4. Is it a surprise that Solomon had treated the people this way? (cf. 1 Samuel 8:10-19).
5. What is Rehoboam's response in verse 5? Why?

Read 1 Kings 12:7-11

6. What do the elders who had served Solomon advise Rehoboam? Is this good advice?
7. What does Rehoboam do with the advice from the elders of Solomon? Who does he consult instead?

8. What do to the young men that Rehoboam grew up with, advise Rehoboam? Is this good advice?

9. What does the phrase “**how should we answer**” in verse 9 tell you about Rehoboam’s thought process?

10. Can you guess which advise Rehoboam will take and what the outcome will be?

Read 1 Kings 12:12-19

11. What does Rehoboam tell the people after 3 days in verses 12 to 15?

12. **Ponder:** We could instinctively moralize the passage and launch into the folly of refusing to listen to wiser, more experienced people. We could gather proof texts from Proverbs on wisdom. But the writer tells us exactly what’s really going on in verse 15, what is it?

13. What is the outcome of Rehoboam revealing his decision in verses 16 and 17?

14. How does Rehoboam react in verse 18? Was this wise?

15. What are the consequences of this action in verses 19 and 20?

Read 1 Kings 12:21-24

16. What plan does Rehoboam come up with in verse 21?

17. How would you summarize Rehoboam's actions thus far?

18. How does God through Shemaiah put a stop to Rehoboam's words and plans in verses 22 to 24?

19. Is verse 24b surprising? Yes/No/Maybe?


Read Matthew 11:28-30

20. How might this New Testament passage relate to 1 Kings 12:1-24?

Read John 14:15-21

21. How might this New Testament passage relate to 1 Kings 12:1-24?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 12:1-24?

 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: Father God help us to bring our burdens to Jesus and take His yoke upon us and learn from Him. Help us to trust and obey Him (because there's no other way!).

Appendix 1 – Map of Solomon’s Kingdom



Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
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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