

Welcome to

Journey through the Bible



Book by book
Bible study

1 Kings

From
Splendor
to
Shame



**The Division, Decline
and Captivity of the
once great kingdom
of Israel**

**1 & 2 Kings
Prophet's view of the kingdom
"Willful sin brings a woeful end!"**

Message of Kings

- ☆ Covenant failure of the nation & its kings
- ☆ Introduction of idolatry & assimilation of God's covenant people with condemned culture of pagan nations around them
- ☆ Supremacy of the LORD over Baal, other Canaanite deities and their prophets.
- ☆ The LORD's rule over Israel demonstrated by His guidance of Israel's history thru His prophets when kings & priests fail, over 30% of Kings is about the prophets.

1 KINGS: A Kingdom Divided Against Itself

Key verse: 12:19, So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

SOLOMON:
Wealth

Wisdom → Apostasy

DISRUPTION

DIVISION:

Judah ← Israel

Elijah the Prophet

United = Tranquility Age of Splendor	Divided = Turmoil Age of Strife
971 B.C. 40 years 1 King < Solomon > 1 Nation	931 80 years 853 B.C. 4 in Judah < 12 Kings > 8 in Israel
Temple prominent (74x in 1 Kings vs. 6x in 2 Kings) Justice and righteousness prevail = Whole world attracted to Israel	Golden calves and Baal Did evil in the sight of the Lord Violence and corruption prevail = Nations attacking and civil strife

971- 853 B.C.

Kings	Chronicles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written at the beginning of the captivity • The prophet's viewpoint • The human standpoint • Mostly kings of Israel • Elijah & Elisha prominent • Sins of David & Solomon prominent • Man ruling • Focus on the throne 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written at the end of the captivity • The priest's viewpoint • History from the divine standpoint • The priest's viewpoint • The divine standpoint • Mostly kings of Judah • Elijah & Elisha absent • Sin of David & Solomon not so prominent • God overruling • Focus on the temple

A Sacred Trust for Solomon-

"I am about to go the way of all the earth," David said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'"

1 Kings 2:2-4

God's incredible offer to Solomon!

The LORD appeared to Solomon and said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day." (1 Kings 3:5-6)

Solomon's One Wish- Wisdom!

"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?" (3:7-9).

God's Remarkable Gift!

The LORD was pleased, God said, "I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." (3:12-14)

Solomon's Greatness!

His rule- "over all the kingdoms from the River (Euphrates) to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt"

His wisdom- "was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East and all of Egypt"

His wealth- "greater than all the other kings of the earth" (silver was of little value)

His weakness- "loved many foreign women had 700 wives from foreign countries"

The United Kingdom- Solomon's Reign, 1 Kings 1-11

Appointed to the throne (1:1-2:12)

Established on the throne (2:13-3:2)

Given wisdom & wealth by God (3-4)

Built God's temple and his palace (5-7)

Dedication of the temple (8:1-9:9)

Wealth and influence grow (9:10-10:29).

Failure & its tragic consequences (11)

The Divided Kingdoms, 1Kings 12-2 Kings 24

Division of the kingdom (1 Kings 12-16)
Ministry of Elijah the prophet (1 K. 17-2 K. 1)
Ministry of Elisha the prophet (2 Kings 2-9)
Final kings of the Northern kingdom (10-15)
Captivity of the Northern kingdom (16-17)
Surviving Kingdom of Judah (18-24)

Division of the Kingdom, 1 Kings 12-16

Rehoboam's Folly (1 Kings 12:1-15)
Israel's revolt/secession (1 Kings 12:16-20)
Came as fulfillment of the prophetic word
So the king did not listen to the people, for this turn of events was from the LORD, to fulfill the word the LORD had spoken to Jeroboam son of Nebat through Ahijah the Shilonite. When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: "What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!" So the Israelites went home.

Division of the Kingdom, 12-16 War averted thru the prophetic word

The word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, "This is what the LORD says: Do not go up to fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Go home, every one of you, for this is my doing." So they obeyed the word of the LORD and went home again, as the LORD had ordered.
(12:22-24)

Division of the Kingdom, 12-16 Jeroboam introduces idolatry and apostasy in Israel (12:25-33)

"Which he had devised in his own heart"

- New capital city at Shechem
- New worship centers on the borders
- New object of worship = the golden calves
- New priesthood & high places for worship
- New feast replacing the Passover

**A God given opportunity for good is lost
& seeds of Israel's destruction are sown!**

Seeds of Israel's destruction are sown!

"For the message he declared by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the shrines on the high places in the towns of Samaria will certainly come true." Even after this, Jeroboam did not change his evil ways, but once more appointed priests for the high places from all sorts of people. Anyone who wanted to become a priest he consecrated for the high places. This was the sin of the house of Jeroboam that led to its downfall and to its destruction from the face of the earth.(13:32-34)

Seeds of Judah's destruction also sown!

- ☆Judah's sin under Rehoboam, built high places, with male cult prostitutes, like the Canaanites before them (14:22-24)
- ☆Judgment follows when Pharaoh Shishak plunders the temple treasures (14:25-28)
- ☆Rehoboam's death follows a seventeen year war with Jeroboam (14:29-31)
(Solomon's shields of gold replaced by Rehoboam's shields of brass!!)
- ☆Abijam continues the same sins, but is not judged "for David's sake" (15:1-8).

(Note the "except" clause re David!!)

Kings of Israel and Judah (12-16)

Kings of Israel

Jeroboam
Nadab*
Baasha
Elah*
Zimri*
Omri
Ahab

Kings of Judah

1. Rehoboam
2. Abijah
3. Asa

Note the difference in the number & length of reigns!
* Kings assassinated *

Asa of Judah (15)

1. Asa: He did what was right as David did, though not fully. Asa began well but finished badly! (15:9-15; 2 Chr. 14-16)
2. But, Asa's alliance with Ben-Hadad of Damascus against Baasha of Israel sealed with the silver and gold that were left in the treasuries of the temple! (15:16-22).
3. Asa's death leaves his son Jehoshaphat on the throne (1 Kings 15:23-24).

Revivals in Judah bring some relief!

Ahab and Elijah the Prophet (17-22)

- ☆ Ahab followed Jeroboam's evil policies, married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Sidon, began to follow Baal (16:29-33a).
- ☆ Ahab provoked the LORD more than all who were before him (16:33).
- ☆ Drought comes at Elijah's word, (3 years)
- ☆ Elijah confronts Ahab and the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, prophets of Baal are defeated and destroyed demonstrating that the LORD is God (17-18)

Elijah- His Ministry and Miracles

- Called for a drought, lasted 3 years (17)
- Miraculously fed by ravens (17)
- Widow's oil maintained, son raised (17)
- Calls down fire on Mt. Carmel (18)
- Orders death of prophets of Baal (18)
- Anoints, Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha (19)
- Announces death of Ahab & Jezebel (21)
- Caught up alive to heaven (2 Kings 1-2)

Ahab's Notoriety !

- ☆ There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel. (21:25-29)

Ahab's Reprieve!

- ☆ The word of the LORD to Elijah, "because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

See you next week!

**Read 2 Kings,
The Decline and Fall
of a Great Nation**


