

1 KINGS

EXPLAINED: Episode Summary



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1. ESSENTIALS

What Do You Need to Know First to Study 1 Kings Well?

DATE: 970-853 BC: David's Death to Kings

GENRE: Historical: History of the Kings (Pt 1)

AUTHOR: Unknown: Possible Multiple Authors

SETTING: Israel: Solomon's Reign & Nation's Split

PURPOSE: Record: Each King's Moral Analysis

AUDIENCE: National Israel: Generations of Faith

2. STORYLINE

What Do You Need to Know First to Study 1 Kings Well?

Transition of Power From David to Solomon

- David's reign is ending
- Recent pestilence on Israel
- David's offering averts plague
- Temple project now in motion
- Solomon set to be next king

KEY VERSES

And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, ... then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, ... But if you turn aside from following me, ... but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them ...

- 1 Kings 9:4-7

3. THEMES & IDEAS

What Major Biblical Concepts Do We Find in 1 Kings?

- David's Righteous Standards Given
- Solomon's Wisdom & Glory as King
- Israel's Temple Built & Dedicated
- Idolatrous Heart Fractures Nation
- Kingdom Divides & Evil Amplifies
- Opposing Ways: David & Jeroboam
- Prophets Arise as God's Authority
- Judah & Israel's Kings Evaluated

4. STRUCTURE

What are the major sections of 1 Kings?

CH 1-10: 1. Solomon's Rise and Israel's Glory

Solomon succeeds David, builds the temple, and leads Israel into national wealth, power & peace

CH 11: 2. Solomon's Idolatry & God's Judgment

Solomon's idolatry angers the Lord; God tears the nation from him (except Judah)

CH 12-16: 3. The Kingdom Divides & Sin Multiplies

Rehoboam's foolishness (& God's providence) forces a civil war

CH 17-22: 4. Israel's Prophets Arise: Elijah & Elisha

God raises up Elijah and Elisha to oppose Ahab with signs



4. STRUCTURE - EXPANDED

4. What are the major sections of 1 Kings?

5. What do we learn about God from each of these sections?

6. What do these sections offer our Christian life?

CH 1-10: 1. SOLOMON'S RISE AND ISRAEL'S GLORY

Solomon fears the Lord and Israel flourishes, until foreign wealth and gods draw his attention

CH 1-2: Solomon Becomes King

Solomon succeeds David, confirming his rule by overthrowing Adonijah's attempt to take the throne

CH 5-9: The Temple & the Covenant

The temple (+ palace) is built and dedicated; God warns Solomon about covenant loyalty

CH 3-4: Israel's Glory Under Solomon

Israel flourishes in wealth, military strength, godly wisdom and covenant loyalty under Solomon

CH 10: Solomon's Disloyalty Grows

Solomon's attention drawn to foreign relations (and gods) & massive personal wealth

CH 11: 2. SOLOMON'S IDOLATRY & GOD'S JUDGMENT

Foreign wives turn his heart, adversaries rise, and Rehoboam inherits a restless kingdom

CH 11:1-13: Idolatry & God's Judgment

Foreign women turn Solomon's heart to false gods; God will tear away all but Judah

CH 11:14-43: Enemies Rise & Solomon Dies

God raises up Hadad, Rezon, and Jeroboam; Solomon dies, Rehoboam now king

CH 12-16: 3. THE KINGDOM DIVIDES & SIN MULTIPLIES

Each kingdom now has its own kings, and Jeroboam's idolatry sets the North's course

CH 12: Kingdom Splits & Jeroboam's Sin

The northern tribes defect over forced labor; Jeroboam sets up golden idols in the North

CH 13-16: Jeroboam's Demise & Early Kings

Jeroboam dies unrepentant; then Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa (Judah) and Nadab through Ahab (Israel)

CH 17-22: 4. ISRAEL'S PROPHETS ARISE: ELIJAH & ELISHA

Through drought, fire, and prophetic word, the Lord shows he alone is God

CH 17-18: Drought & Mt Carmel

God provides through a widow; Elijah defeats Baal's prophets with fire, and rain returns

CH 19-22: Elijah Encouraged, Ahab Judged

Jezebel drives Elijah into hiding; God encourages him and commissions Elisha. Ahab seizes Naboth's vineyard and dies in battle

5. HOW 1 KINGS POINTS TO CHRIST

- In Solomon's reigning peace and prosperity, foreshadowing Christ's millennial reign
- In the divine wisdom given to Solomon
- In the building of the temple
- In the prophetic display of God's glory

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