

Through the Bible Course

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I Kings

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Key Word: Division

Name of 1 and 2 Kings taken from kings whose deeds it narrates. First Kings opens with Israel in her glory as most powerful kingdom in the world and closes with her divided and her glory gone.

Note: From time of division, Israel never returns to worship of Jehovah. Judah never completely turns away from the worship of Jehovah, but never completely rids herself of idolatry, although at times we witness great periods of revival, namely under Asa (1 Kings 15), Joash (2 Kings 11), Josiah (2 Kings 22).

I. Reign of Solomon – chapters 1-11

1. Decline of David – 1:1-4
2. Adonijah's plot defeated and Solomon made king – 1:5-53
3. Solomon becomes king – 2:1-46
 - a. David's charge to Solomon and his death – 1-12
 - b. Solomon clears his kingdom of unfaithful followers – 13-46
 - i. Adonijah; Abiathar; Joab; Shemei
4. Solomon chooses wisdom (note vs. 9) and demonstration of it in judging between two mothers – chapter 3
5. Solomon organizes his kingdom – chapter 4
 - a. Notice what Samuel said in 1 Samuel 8:7-18
6. Solomon builds the temple – chapters 5-8 (note magnificence of it all)
7. Solomon's greatness and wealth – chapters 9-10
 - a. Queen of Sheba visits him – chapter 10
8. Solomon's sin and death – chapter 11
 - a. Brought horses from Egypt (10:28-29) and multiplied wives to himself (11:1) in violation of God's command in Deuteronomy 17:14-20
 - b. But God did not take Solomon away from being king because of promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:15

II. Divisions of Kingdom into Judah and Israel – chapters 12-16

1. Accession of Rehoboam and his folly – 12:1-15
2. Jeroboam's revolt – kingdom divided – 12:16-24
3. Worship of Jehovah permanently put away in Israel and idolatry established – 12:25-33

Note: From now through remainder of 1 Kings and to 2 Kings 17, when Israel carried captive, we have parallel account of two kingdoms.

4. Various kings and beginning of apostasy in Judah under Rehoboam – chapters 13-16

- a. Much of Solomon's wealth carried to Egypt – 14:25

III. Career of Elijah – chapters 17-19

- 1. Miraculously cared for – chapter 17
- 2. Meets Ahab – challenges priests of Baal at Mt. Carmel – chapter 18
 - a. Jezebel had introduced worship of Baal into Israel – 16:31-33
- 3. God's care of His servant – chapter 19

IV. Wickedness and death of Ahab – chapters 20-22

- 1. Ahab's victory over Syria – chapter 20
- 2. Ahab takes Naboth's vineyard – chapter 21
 - a. Career of Jezebel
- 3. Final defeat of Ahab and his death – chapter 22