

4233, Book of 1 Kings

NAME: In the Hebrew manuscripts, 1 and 2 Kings appear as one book, the division may have been made for the convenience of Greek readers.

AUTHOR: Unknown.

DATE WRITTEN: Shortly before 587 B.C.

PURPOSE: To give an account of the reigns of the kings from Solomon to Jehoshaphat (Judah) and Ahaziah (Israel), contrasting those who obeyed God and those who did not.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: The nation of Israel.

MAIN THEME: The disruption and division of the Kingdom due to the moral and spiritual decline of the Israelite community and its kings.

KEY WORDS: Divided Kingdom.

KEY VERSES: [1 Kings 9:4-5](#); [11:11](#).

SYNOPSIS: The Book may be divided into two divisions.

I. The History of the Reign of Solomon.

1. **Opening events:** The death of David and the accession of Solomon his son,—[1 Kings 1-2](#).
2. The **early years** of Solomon's reign, the golden age of Israel, made famous by
 - a. The king's wise choice,—[1 Kings 3:5-14](#).
 - b. His discriminating judgment,—[1 Kings 3:16-28](#).
 - c. His surpassing wisdom,—[1 Kings 4:29-34](#).
 - d. The growth of his dominions,—[1 Kings 4:21](#).
 - e. The splendor of his court and palaces,—[1 Kings 4:22-28](#); [7:1-12](#).
 - f. The building of the temple,—[1 Kings 5-6](#).
 - g. Other building enterprises and great wealth,—[1 Kings 9:17-23](#); [10:14-29](#).
 - h. The visit of the Queen of Sheba,—[1 Kings 10:1-13](#).
3. The **later years** of his reign
The decline of his kingdom brought about by:
 - a. His extravagant luxury,—[1 Kings 10:14-29](#).
 - b. His notorious sensuality,—[1 Kings 11:1-3](#).
 - c. His apostasy from God,—[1 Kings 11:4-8](#).
 - d. The enemies which the Lord stirred up against him,—[1 Kings 11:14-40](#).

- II. **The History of the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel.** From the death of Solomon to the accession of Jehoram in Judah; and from the accession of Jeroboam to the reign of Ahaziah in Israel.
1. The disruption of the kingdom through the folly of Solomon's son Rehoboam,—[1 Kings 11:43-12:19](#).
 2. The ten tribes revolt and enthrone Jeroboam as king of Israel,—[1 Kings 12:20](#).
 3. The comparative history of the two kingdoms.
 - a. The reigns in Judah of Rehoboam, Abijam, Asa, and Jehosphaphat,—[1 Kings 12:1-22:50](#).
 - b. The evil reigns in Israel of Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, and Ahaziah,—[1 Kings 12:20-22:53](#).

PROMINENT PEOPLE: David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jereboam, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel, Elisha, Jehoshaphat, Ahaziah.

1. **Solomon's reign.**
 - a. His wise choice,—[1 Kings 3:5-14](#).
 - b. His prayer at the dedication of the temple,—[1 Kings 8:22-53](#).
2. **The Prophet Elijah**, the HEROIC CHARACTER.
 - a. His ministry,—[1 Kings 17-19](#); [21](#).
 - b. The Call of Elisha,—[1 Kings 19:19-21](#).
 - c. For the summary of his life, *see* [1112](#), [4298](#).
 - d. Prophecies of, *see* [1113](#).
 - e. Miracles of, *see* [2366](#).

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