

# I KINGS

## BASIC INFO

-  **Author:** Jeremiah
-  **Date written:** 560–540 BC
-  **Settings :** Israel & Judah

## MAIN CHARACTERS



SOLOMON



REHOBAM



ELIJAH



AHAB



JEZEBEL

## KEY THEMES

**Communion & Consequences** – God’s presence brings peace, but sin separates and brings spiritual corruption.

**The Danger of Idolatry** – Israel’s kings repeatedly turn to false gods, leading to moral decay.

**Prophetic Warnings** – Prophets like Elijah call Israel back to God, showing His mercy despite their sin.






**Leadership & Its Consequences** – Righteous kings bring peace, while wicked rulers bring disaster.

**God’s Sovereignty Over Nations** – Despite human rebellion, God’s plan moves forward through His chosen people

## SUMMARY

First Kings opens with David’s last days and shows how faithfulness or failure shapes a nation. Solomon is crowned, asks for wisdom, decides the baby dispute, welcomes the queen of Sheba, and builds the Jerusalem temple; at its dedication the glory-cloud fills the sanctuary and God warns that only covenant obedience will keep His name there. Peace and trade bring huge wealth, yet Solomon’s foreign wives turn his heart to idols, so the Lord decrees the kingdom will be torn, leaving one tribe for David’s sake. When Rehoboam’s harsh taxes ignite revolt, ten tribes follow Jeroboam while Judah remains with the Davidic house. Jeroboam installs golden calves at Bethel and Dan despite prophetic warnings; Omri later founds Samaria, and Ahab intensifies Baal worship. Most northern kings repeat Jeroboam’s sin, Judah fares only slightly better, yet for David’s sake the Lord preserves a “lamp” in Jerusalem and prophets foretell exile for unrepentant idolatry. Elijah confronts Ahab and Jezebel with drought, widow-raising, and fire on Carmel, then hears the gentle whisper at Horeb, anoints new kings, and appoints Elisha. Micaiah alone predicts Ahab’s death at Ramoth-Gilead. Wars, coups, and foreign treaties swirl, but the lesson stays clear: true strength arises from wholehearted worship, and judgment looms for those who refuse to return.

## KEY VERSES

-  **1 Kings 3:9** – “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?” – Solomon’s request for wisdom.
-  **1 Kings 8:27** – “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?” – Solomon acknowledges God’s greatness at the temple dedication.
-  **1 Kings 11:4** – “when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father” – A warning about drifting from God.
-  **1 Kings 12:16** – “What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents!” – The northern tribes rebel, splitting the kingdom.
-  **1 Kings 18:21** – “How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.” – Elijah challenges Israel’s idolatry

## JESUS IN THIS BOOK

Solomon’s God-given wisdom foreshadows Christ, the eternal “Wisdom of God,” who reigns with perfect justice and mercy. The Temple foreshadows God’s dwelling and is ultimately fulfilled in the Incarnate Son. Elijah’s prophetic ministry prefigures John the Baptist—the Forerunner who prepares the way for the Lord’s redemptive coming in Christ (cf. Matt 11:14). Overall, 1 Kings exposes the failure of earthly monarchs and points toward Jesus, the divine and everlasting King who rules in righteousness for ever

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1 Kings teaches that prosperity unaccompanied by sincere dedication to God’s gracious guidance ends in ruin. Solomon’s life warns that even the wise can stumble when they cease to guard their hearts diligently, clearly showing the dire outcome of spiritual neglect. The book also reminds us that true authority belongs to God, who governs all things with wisdom and directs history through His providence. Elijah’s courage inspires us to stand firm in truth even when society turns away from God. Above all, 1 Kings urges us to seek God first, trusting His sovereign guidance in every season

## HISTORY

## OLD TESTAMENT



**1** | **SOLOMON BECOMES KING** | 1 KINGS 1-2



**2** | **TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION** | 1 KINGS 3-10



**3** | **RISE OF IDOLATRY** | 1 KINGS 11-14



**4** | **ELIJAH'S MINISTRY** | 1 KINGS 15-18



**5** | **ELIJAH'S FLIGHT** | 1 KINGS 19-21



**6** | **AHAB'S DEATH** | 1 KINGS 22

### 1 | Solomon Becomes King (1 Kings 1 – 2)

David appoints Solomon as his successor, despite Adonijah's (David's son) attempt to seize the throne. Solomon secures his kingdom by removing threats, including Adonijah and Joab, ensuring stability for his reign.

### 2 | Temple Construction (1 Kings 3 – 10)

Solomon asks God for wisdom and becomes renowned for his judgments. He builds the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, dedicating it with a powerful prayer. God then appears to Solomon again, promising blessing for obedience but exile if Israel turns away (1 Kgs 9 : 1-9). Israel prospers under his leadership, attracting rulers like the Queen of Sheba.

### 3 | Rise of Idolatry (1 Kings 11 – 14)

Solomon's many wives lead him into idol worship, angering God. Rehoboam's harsh rule fulfills God's judgment on Solomon's idolatry, causing the kingdom to split—Judah remains under David's line, while Jeroboam leads Israel into deeper idolatry. Jeroboam installs golden calves at Bethel and Dan, creating rival shrines and priests. Prophet Ahijah warns Jeroboam's wife that the dynasty will end in judgment.

### 4 | Elijah's Ministry (1 Kings 15 – 18)

A series of evil kings lead Israel further into sin. Asa in Judah removes idols, while Omri in Israel builds Samaria, shaping future events. Elijah emerges as a bold prophet, confronting King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. During a three-year drought, God feeds Elijah by ravens and multiplies oil and flour for a Sidonian widow, whose son he later raises. On Mount Carmel, he calls down fire from heaven, proving God's power over Baal.

### 5 | Elijah's Flight (1 Kings 19 – 21)

Elijah flees into the wilderness, weary and discouraged, but God strengthens him and speaks in a gentle whisper. Meanwhile, Ahab and Jezebel steal Naboth's vineyard, bringing divine judgment. Elijah prophesies the downfall of Ahab's dynasty and Jezebel's fate. Elijah throws his cloak over Elisha, calling him to succeed him.

### 6 | Ahab's Death (1 Kings 22)

Despite two earlier victories over Ben-Hadad given by God, Ahab still ignores prophecy. Ahab rejects Micaiah's vision of the heavenly court and a lying spirit and is killed in battle. His son Ahaziah takes the throne, continuing in wickedness. Meanwhile, Elisha is introduced, setting the stage for God's ongoing prophetic work in 2 Kings.