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# 1Kings

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The book of **1Kings** records the 40-year reign of Solomon when Israel was united. It then records the first 80 years when Israel was divided and how the division into southern (Judah) and northern (Israel) kingdoms occurred.

In the years of the divided kingdoms, Judah had 20 kings and Israel had 19 kings. Most kings were evil. Sometimes a good king arose in Judah and led people to God for a season. God raised up prophets, like Elijah and Elisha, to turn His people back from their wickedness.

## Key Verses

**1Kings 9:4-9**

## King Solomon

King Solomon (who foreshadowed Christ as a wise king ruling in peace) built the first Jewish Temple in Jerusalem (10th century

BC) but was drawn away from God by his wives and their false gods. Solomon's son, King Rehoboam, saw Jereboam split away with the ten northern tribes of Israel.

## Outline

Kingdom Protected <b>1Kings 1-2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• last days of David</li><li>• first acts of Solomon</li></ul>
Kingdom Enriched <b>1Kings 3-10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God's gift of wisdom</li><li>• organizing</li><li>• building the temple</li><li>• dedicating the temple</li><li>• Solomon's glory</li></ul>
Kingdom Divided <b>1Kings 11-14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solomon's folly</li><li>• Rehoboam's folly</li><li>• Jeroboam's folly</li></ul>
Kingdoms Destroyed <b>1Kings 15-22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judah</li><li>• Israel</li></ul>

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## Personal Reflection and Application

Notice Solomon's prayer in **1Kings 8** and consider how it illustrates some tips that you may be able to use in your own prayers.

verse 23	Approach God with the respect that He deserves and that you feel from your heart.
verse 24	Tell God about the things you have already seen Him do. This lets Him know you appreciate Him and it builds your faith.
verse 25	Request from God the things He has promised in His Word. You'll always know that you are being true to His will if you ask for things He has promised.

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

In **1Kings 17-18** when Elijah did as God asked, the LORD provided for his needs during time of famine. God directed the ravens to bring food to Elijah twice a day. Sometimes, God provides for us in ways we don't expect.

- Discuss ways God has provided for you or those you know in unexpected ways.
- Why do you think God does that?

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## Leadership Principles from 1Kings

### Looking for Leadership Traits

Adonijah, David's second son, proclaimed himself king; however, he was not David's choice or God's choice (**1Kgs 1-2**). We need to let God pick the leader(s) even if they aren't the most obvious choices to us.

- Considering what you see in God's Word, what leadership traits do you think David and God saw in Solomon?
- What leadership traits do you see in the people around you?
- What leadership traits do you see in yourself?

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## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.  
Try these:

01. Who told David that Adonijah declared himself king	02. Why Shimei was executed
03. What Solomon asked for when he could ask anything	04. How many proverbs and songs Solomon spoke
05. How Solomon got the wood from Lebanon to build	06. How much noise was at the temple construction site
07. What Solomon named the two pillars of the temple	08. How Solomon's body position changed while praying
09. What Solomon needed to do to establish his throne	10. What the queen of Sheba said after seeing Solomon
11. What turned Solomon's heart away from God	12. Whose counsel King Rehoboam heeded
13. Why the man of God (prophet) was killed by a lion	14. Why Jeroboam's son Abijah was buried in a grave
15. What King Asa did to clean up Israel spiritually	16. How King Ahab's reign compared to prior kings
17. What two miracles Elijah performed for the widow	18. How Elijah proved which god was the true God
19. How God spoke after the loud wind, quake, and fire	20. Why God allowed King Ahab to defeat the Syrians
21. How Queen Jezebel influenced King Ahab's reign	22. What the false prophet Zedekiah used as a visual aid