

The Old Testament Survey

1 Kings 1-11

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Introduction

1. 2 Samuel ended with King David consolidating both the Northern and Southern kingdoms as his and establishing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
2. Jerusalem will now play a primary role in God’s design for Israel. Jerusalem will often be referred to as “Zion” or the “City of David.”
3. 1 Kings was originally one book and is appropriately titled since the book traces the history of the kings of Israel and Judah from Solomon to the Babylonian captivity. The author was likely one of the exiles who lived in Babylon, perhaps Ezra or Ezekiel. Some historians feel that Jeremiah could have written the Kings. However, Jeremiah could not have written the end of Kings since he died in Egypt and would not have known some of the events in Babylon.
4. “The purpose of the book was not only to record the history of these kings, but to show that the success of any king (and of the nation as a whole) depended on the measure of his allegiance to god’s law. Failure resulted in decline and captivity”

Solomon’s Establishment As King

5. David was now 70 years old and nearing death.³ Realizing this, Adoniah, David’s eldest son, tried to establish himself as king. Without David’s consent, he gathers Joab, David’s military advisor; Abiathar, the priest; and celebrates a pre-coronation ceremony establishing himself as king. Word gets out to Bathsheba of the ceremony and she approaches David with the news. It had been promised that Solomon, Bathsheba’s son would inherit the kingdom (2 Samuel 12:25).
6. King David immediately established Solomon as king before all Israel.
7. Solomon was given wisdom to cleanse Israel of all evil. He killed those who had brought disgrace upon Israel. Not until the evil was removed did Solomon’s empire become established. Solomon made it very clear to Shimei that David’s house and not Saul’s house would be established. (1 Kings 2:44-45).
8. 1 Kings 3:3 gives us an understanding of God’s blessings to Solomon. 1 Kings 3: 5-14 also gives us an insight to Solomon’s character as opposed to Adonijah’s character (1 Kings 1:5-6).

9. Solomon began his reign by disobeying God's commandment when he married Pharaoh's daughter, who was not an Israelite. In spite of this, Solomon's wisdom was known throughout the world. Scripture states that God had given Solomon more wisdom than any other person. Kings and rulers from all over came to hear his wisdom including the Queen of Sheba, ruler of the Sabaeans in the southern part of Arabia. The Queen traveled 1,200 miles on camelback to visit King Solomon. This meeting might have resulted from Solomon's presence on the Gulf of Aqaba which could have threatened the caravan routes that made southern Arabia very rich (2 Kings 10: 1-9).
10. Solomon's empire stretched from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea and then headed south to Egypt. This land was short of the entire kingdom promised Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21. The land shortage was a result of Israel not driving out all the Canaanites in the Promised Land.
11. 1 Kings 4:26 shows again how Solomon directly violated God's commandments (Deuteronomy 17:16).

Solomon's Temple

12. Hiram, the king of Tyre, sent cedars from Lebanon to Solomon. The cedars were used in building Solomon's palace as well as the Temple.
13. Solomon's forced labor in chapter 5:13-14 will give rise to a civil war in 12:4; 18.
14. Chapter 6:1 indicates that it had been 480 years since the Children of Israel left Egypt. Now it is Solomon's fourth year as king that he decides to build the temple. This temple and the temple location will have great significance in world events as Bible prophecy begins to unfold. This temple will ultimately be destroyed in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians.
15. God promises Solomon prosperity if he would follow the laws of the Lord (1 Kings 6:11-13).
16. The construction of the temple took seven years (6: 37-38).
17. 1 Kings 7:45-46 states that metals were cast into tools for temple use. Archaeology has shown that the area Succoth, which was East of the Jordan and just North of the Jabok River, was a center of metallurgy.
18. Chapter 8:1 is a major turning point in Jewish history since the Ark of the Lord is brought from the tabernacle to the new high holy place within Solomon's temple.
19. Solomon's dedicatory prayer gives a chilling and prophetic message about the future of Israel (8: 27-36; 41-50). Verse 61 gives a good remedy for obeying God's commands.
20. God appears to Solomon a second time in 9:1-9. God gives another warning as to what will happen to Israel if it turns from God. Israel did turn from God's ways and all these words of punishment did come to pass in 722 B.C. when the Assyrian empire captured Israel (the Northern Kingdom); and Babylon captured Judah (the Southern Kingdom) in 586 B.C. The book of Daniel will explain this event further.
21. 1 Kings 10:28 gives further reference of Solomon's defiance to God's laws.

Solomon's Downfall

22. 1 Kings 11:1-8 describes the downfall of Solomon. In all of Solomon's wisdom, his mind was strong but his body was weak. Verses 9-13 prophesy that the

- kingdom will be torn from Solomon (with the exception of Judah). From this time on, God allowed foreign kings to begin taking parts of Solomon's kingdom.
23. 1 Kings 11:29-God takes the 10 northern tribes and promises them to Jeroboam, a man not of Solomon's household. God will, however, allow the tribe of Judah to remain as a result of God's promise to David.

Old Testament Survey

I Kings 12-22

Introduction

1. I Kings chronicles the account of King Solomon from the time of his coronation to his death. Solomon disobeyed the Lord and took riches and foreign wives. As a result, Solomon's heart was turned away from God and his kingdom began to deteriorate.
2. God tells Jeroboam that he will inherit 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel. Because of this prophecy, Solomon tries to kill Jeroboam and he flees to Egypt.

I Kings 12-22 Israel's Division

3. Rehoboam, Saul's son, becomes king after his father Solomon dies. Because of bad council, Rehoboam induces harsh labor upon the Israelites (I Kings 12:11; 15). God was in control of this situation in order to bring about the Prophecy of the divided kingdom.
4. The 10 northern tribes of Israel established Rehoboam as King. This division becomes a lasting separation and a united kingdom will not be established until Christ comes again to reign.
5. Jeroboam makes two golden calves and sets one at the northern border of the empire (Dan) and one at the southern border of Israel (Bethel). Jeroboam was afraid that the people of Israel (northern tribes) would go to worship at Jerusalem and then follow Rehoboam, the southern king (12:28). Jeroboam then instituted a feast for Israel during the eighth month. The tribe of Judah would have celebrated the Feast of Booths during the seventh month. This new feast was probably to take the place of the Feast of Booths.
6. A man of God came from Judah and rebuked Jeroboam for building a false altar at Bethel. This man of God prophesied that "Josiah" would tear down the false altar and kill the false prophets. What is interesting about this prophecy is that Josiah's name is specifically referenced but Josiah would not become king not until 300 years later (2 Kings 23:15-20). In order to prove that the word was true, the heathen altar was split in two.
7. Jeroboam made priests according to his wishes and not that of God's design (13:33). This was a direct violation of God's commands since only Levites could become priests.
8. God caused Jeroboam's son to die as a result of Jeroboam's sins. God used Ahijah, a prophet of God, to prophecy concerning the destruction of Israel (14:15). This prophecy comes to pass in 722 B.C. when the Assyrian empire destroyed Israel.

9. Rehoboam and the tribe of Judah also did evil in the sight of God (14:21; 24). The king of Egypt invaded Judah during Rehoboam's reign (931-910 B.C) and took the treasures from the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house.
10. Omri becomes king over Israel (16:23-24) and establishes Samaria as the capital over Israel (the northern kingdom). The entire northern kingdom takes the name of Samaria. The city becomes the center of idolatrous worship (16:32) and would eventually be despised by those Jews living during Jesus' ministry.
11. Ahab, the son of Omri becomes more evil than any other king. Ahab marries Jezebel, the daughter of the king of the Sidonians. Ahab erected an alter to Baal and established Baal worship in Samaria.
12. Elijah, a prophet of God, predicts that no rain will fall for three and one half years. Elijah is instructed to go to Zarephath, which is a town on the Mediterranean coast between Tyre and Sidon, the home of Jezebel, and the heart of Baal worship. Elijah brought about a miracle for a Gentile woman. This act was referenced in Luke 4:24-26 to rebuke the Jewish people for not trusting in God.
13. I Kings 18 gives the incredible account of how God worked through Elijah to display His sovereignty over Baal. It is amazing how quickly Elijah feared the consequences of Jezebel's wrath. God gave Elijah a powerful lesson to live by faith and not by sight (19:10-13). God instructed Elijah to anoint Elisha as Elijah's replacement.
14. "Elisha means 'God is salvation.' His ministry spanned the reigns of Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, and Jehoash of the Northern Kingdom. He headed schools of prophets...and performed more recorded miracles than anyone other than Jesus Christ"
15. God showed His incredible mercy to those who have a repentant heart (21:25-29).

Summary

God will never lay a burden upon us that is too difficult to handle (1 Corinthians 10:13). It should be our prayer that we will always be careful to obey all of God's commands. God will always bless those who have a repentant heart and who will follow His ways. However, for those who choose not to follow His laws, those will receive punishment. Often this punishment comes in the form of God allowing them to have their way. May we always have a heart that prays, "Not my will be done, but yours O Lord."

As mentioned throughout the Old Testament, God is always willing to forgive and bless those who have a repentant heart. Though it is very difficult to understand God's love toward us, we must accept the fact that His love is unconditional. God will always love us no matter how much we may choose to disobey and turn from His ways. Often, the most difficult person to forgive is oneself. It is easy to heap guilt upon ourselves, believing God to be angry with us for some past sin. We must accept God's forgiveness and walk with a clean conscience.