

Outline of 1 Kings

1-11 United Kingdom

12-22 Divided Kingdom

Author and Introduction

The text does not identify the author. The Talmud credits the prophet Jeremiah to First and Second Kings. What we call First and Second Kings is really one book in the original Hebrew. The Septuagint divided the books into two parts. The title comes from the first word of the book, namely “king” (referring to King David). The book of Kings is the sequel to the book of Samuel.

Solomon

Psalm 72 is likely David's prayer for Solomon while he was on his death-bed (1Ki.2:1-4). It is believed Solomon later put the Psalm to music after David's death.

David's Parting Instruction for Solomon (1Ki.2:1-9)

1. Obey the Word of God (1Ki.2:1-4)
2. Execute Joab (1Ki.2:5-6)
3. Be Gracious to Barzillai the Galeadite (1Ki.2:7)
4. Execute Shimei the son of Gera (1Ki.2:8-9)

Solomon requested to have a “hearing heart” so he could render Divine judgment when making judicial decisions (1Ki.3:9-11). God blessed him and answered the prayer beyond his expectations (1Ki.3:10-14). Solomon's wisdom appears to be oriented toward temporal-life matters. Solomon, like his father David, had a weakness for women which did bring him down. He had many wives which led him to worship their idols leading

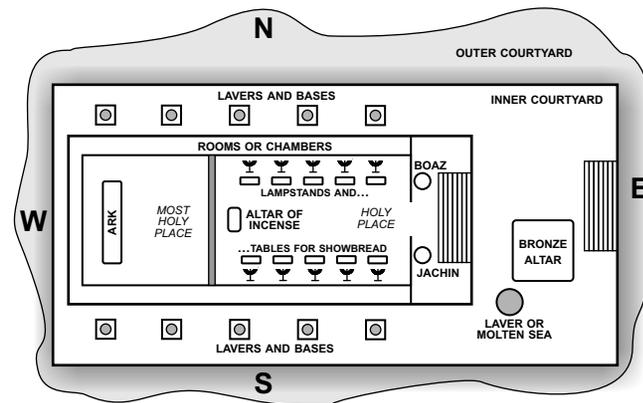
1 KINGS

First Kings covers the 40 years of Solomon's reign as King. It also covers the first 85 years of the divided kingdom. It shows a kingdom in transition from tranquility to turmoil.

him away from God. This led the nation away from God. This is why God sent Prophets (like Elijah) to teach the truth to the people. It took 7 years for Solomon to build the Temple, yet he took 13 years to build a palace for himself.

The Temple of God

The Temple is similar in design to the Tabernacle. However the size of the two main rooms were double and the number of lampstands and lavers (washing places) increase to 10.



The Temple was built during a time of peace. The Temple itself was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had 2,700 square feet of floor space. Its exterior was limestone, cedar, and gold. The work on the Temple was done through both freewill and forced labor (1Ki.5:13-18). The forced labor became a divisive issue in the civil war (1Ki.12:18).

HISTORY

BOOK 11
1Ki
1 KINGS
22 CHAPTERS

Elijah the Prophet

Elijah was a prophet of God to the northern tribes of Israel. The Lord raised up many other prophets during the divided kingdom era. The good kings listened to these prophets. The bad kings persecuted and killed them. Elijah and the widow of Zarephath was a significant event. Her response showed that she was a Gentile believer in Yahweh (1Ki.17:12; Lk.4:26). Elijah asked her to put God's interest above her own as a condition of blessing (1Ki.17:13; Mk.12:41-44). She believed Yahweh over Baal which was prominent in that region. This situation strengthened the faith of both Elijah and the widow. Elijah challenged the priests of Baal to a showdown with God on Mount Carmel. God won which made Queen Jezebel angry enough to order Elijah's death. Elijah, after all that he had seen, ran to the wilderness and became depressed.



CHRIST IN 1 KINGS

- Jesus is the King Who is “greater than Solomon” and greater than the Temple