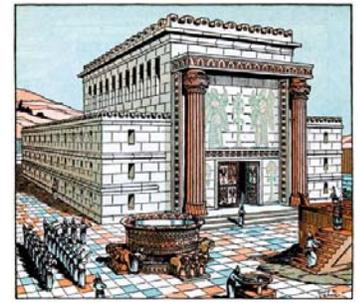


# 11 – 1 Kings: The Kingdom Falters and Fails



- **No break between books of Samuel and books of Kings.** There is no time gap. Its main theme covers the reign of Solomon, and the subsequent collapse and division of the Kingdom of Israel into two kingdoms. We don't know who wrote these books. Jewish Talmud says it was Jeremiah (likely).
- Although opens with death of David, **David is held as a standard for all other kings.** David is referenced 91 times in the books of the Kings.
- The writer of Kings frequently references non-inspired works but **inspiration for these books is from above,** with confirmation from earthly sources.

## Highlights

Last Days of David Reign of Solomon (1 – 11)	The Kingdom is Divided (12-22) Kings of Northern Kingdom of Israel, Southern Kingdom of Judah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>David's last days and crowning of Solomon:</b> Sickness of David, Adonijah, David's 4th but oldest living son, attempts to take throne, David does not rebuke him, Joab and Abiathar help Adonijah, Zadok, Benaiah, Shimei, Rei, and Nathan oppose Adonijah, Bathsheba and Nathan conspire to inform David, Bathsheba reminds David of promise to make Solomon king, David appoints Solomon to be king after him, Solomon grants amnesty to Adonijah, Death and burial of David</li> <li>▪ <b>Reign of Solomon 970-930 BC 40 years,</b> Adonijah, Joab put to death, Benaiah made captain of army; Zadok made high-priest, Shemei put to death after 3 years, Solomon marries Pharaoh's daughter, Solomon's request for wisdom, Solomon's judgment between two harlots (to whom the baby belonged), Solomon's success and prosperity, Solomon's stables, Solomon's wisdom</li> <li>▪ <b>Building the Temple</b> Alliance with King Hiram of Tyre (furnished material for building Temple), took 7 years, palace built, Dedication of temple, God's presence, people's praise</li> <li>▪ God makes covenant with Solomon</li> <li>▪ Queen of Sheba visits Solomon</li> <li>▪ Great wealth of Solomon</li> <li>▪ Solomon's apostasy, 700 wives and 300 concubines, Solomon's idolatry, God is angry</li> <li>▪ <b>Enemies of Solomon, Jeroboam.</b> Jeroboam put over house of Joseph, to become king over 10 tribes of Israel, Jeroboam flees to Egypt</li> <li>▪ <b>Death and burial of Solomon</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Reign of Rehoboam, son of Solomon 930-913 BC Reigned 17 years</b> Rehoboam goes to Shechem to be made king, Jeroboam recalled from Egypt to head delegation asking for relief from heavy taxes, kingdom divided when 10 tribes rebelled, Rehoboam forbidden to war with Israel, Rehoboam did evil in sight of God</li> <li>▪ Rehoboam is succeeded by <b>his son, Abijam</b></li> <li>▪ Reign of <b>Jeroboam</b> over 10 tribes of Israel 930-908 BC Reigned 22 years. Shechem made capital, false religion, old prophet and young prophet, Jeroboam persists in evil, dynasty to end violently, death of Jeroboam</li> <li>▪ Jeroboam succeeded by his son, <b>Nadab 908-907 BC Reigned 2 years,</b> evil, assassinated</li> <li>▪ <b>Abijam reigns in Judah 913-910 BC Reigned 3 years, wicked</b></li> <li>▪ Abijam is succeeded by his son, <b>Asa</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Asa reigns in Judah 910-869 BC Reigned 41 years,</b> good king, warred with Baasha, king of Israel (<b>Baasha reigns 24 years in Israel 907-883 BC,</b> evil, dynasty does not last)</li> <li>▪ Asa is succeeded by his son, <b>Jehoshaphat</b></li> <li>▪ Baasha succeeded by his son, <b>Elah, reigns in Israel 883-881 BC 2 years,</b> wicked, assassinated by <b>Zimri</b> (who also kills entire house of Baasha)</li> <li>▪ <b>Zimri reigns in Israel 881 BC Reigned 7 days,</b> dies in a fire</li> <li>▪ People make <b>Omri</b> king, <b>reigns in Israel 881-869 BC 12 years,</b> wicked, puts down rebellion</li> <li>▪ Omri is succeeded by his son, <b>Ahab, reigns in Israel 869-847 BC 22 years,</b> excessively wicked, marries Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, king of Zidonians and priest of Baal</li> <li>▪ Elijah, prophet to Israel, raises widow's son, meets Obadiah, rebukes Ahab; <u>contest at mount Carmel</u></li> <li>▪ Call of Elisha to succeed Elijah</li> <li>▪ Ben-hadad of Syria wars with Ahab of Israel, Ahab wins 2nd battle, releases Ben-hadad, wounded prophet tells of Ahab's destruction</li> <li>▪ Jezebel obtains Naboth's vineyard, Elijah meets Ahab in Naboth's vineyard and foretells Ahab and Jezebel's deaths</li> <li>▪ Exceeding wickedness of Ahab, repentance</li> <li>▪ Alliance between Jehosaphat of Judah and Ahab of Israel to recover Ramoth-gilead, Ahab killed in the battle</li> <li>▪ Ahab succeeded by his son, <b>Ahaziah 847-845 BC reigned 2 yrs,</b> wicked, worships Baal</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehoshaphat reigns in Judah 869-847 BC at least 18 (probably 25) years,</b> good king, peace with Israel</li> <li>▪ Jehoshaphat succeeded by his son, <b>Jehoram (22:50)</b></li> </ul>

- **Reign of Solomon, 40 years,** begins well (Josephus says he was only 15 years old when he became king), asked for wisdom from God to reign. Temple built, fame and glory for Israel, Solomon's decline, apostasy.
- David tells Solomon to "clean house" for overdue punishments (Joab, Shimei)

- **Temple is constructed**, huge building project, designs and most materials given by David, 183,300 workforce, temple dedicated after 7 years construction. Dimensions of Tabernacle are doubled. 10 lampstands; 10 lavers + “molten sea” (Called the Sea of cast metal, other versions) held about 11,500 gallons of water. In front of entrance is altar of burnt offering (“holocaust” altar). The word holocaust comes from the Hebrew “olah” which means whole burnt offering. This translated into Greek in the Septuagint translation *holocauston* and has passed down into English. Knowing the literal meaning of this word and its origins makes our understanding the Jewish Holocaust a little more meaningful. An addition from the tabernacle is the porch and two pillars, which are named Jachin (“In His Counsel”) and Boaz (“In His Strength”) There was an outer court, and inner court (where the altar of burnt offering and the lavers were), then the porch or portico with the pillars and then the holy place where the lampstands, the tables of showbread and the altar of incense were. Finally was the Holy of Holies, with the huge cherubim overshadowing the Ark of the Covenant. This is where the Shekinah Glory of God dwelled.
- **Queen of Sheba visits Solomon:** *“Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”* (1 Kings 10:9) Some speculation that they had an “alliance” which produced a son, Menelik I, who is the beginning of the Ethiopian dynasty. Some believe he stole the Ark of the Covenant and brought it to Ethiopia. This may be why there are so many Ethiopian Jews, call Falasha Jews. Many have come to Israel to live now. There are MANY, many stories, traditions and speculations about all of this, and other stories about the Queen of Sheba and Solomon. None can be proven, but probably hold some element of truth.
- **Solomon probably world’s greatest polygamist.** Had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Foreigners, led Solomon to worship other gods. Like his father, Solomon was brilliant, blessed with Godly wisdom, but he lacked moral discipline. Like David, very self-indulgent. In Deuteronomy 17 God tells kings of Israel not to multiply their wealth, their horses or their wives. Solomon does all of this in grand style. Also excessively taxed his people.
- At the end of his life, **Solomon was bitter old man.** Wrote Ecclesiastes, opens with “Meaningless, meaningless (vanity) it is all meaningless!”
- **Solomon dies, son Rehoboam takes throne.** People want lower taxes, denied. Kingdom divided, Jeroboam takes advantage of situation and becomes king of northern tribes, kingdom called “Israel.” Rehoboam reigns over southern tribes, called kingdom of “Judah.” Listing and description of the kings skips around, so it is difficult to follow the chronology of the kings of the north and of the south.

Kingdom of Israel (north) kings in this book:			Kingdom of Judah (south) kings in this book:		
Jeroboam	22 years	Wicked	Rehoboam	17 years	Wicked
Nadab	2 years	Wicked	Abijam	3 years	Wicked
Baasha	24 years	Wicked	Asa	41 years	Good
Elah	2 years	Wicked	Jehoshaphat	25 years	Good
Zimri	7 days	Wicked	Jehoram	12 years*	Wicked*
Omri	12 years	Wicked	*(this info in 2 Kings, Jehoram evil, but not as much as others)		
Ahab	22 years	Excessively evil			
Ahaziah	2 years	Wicked			

- **Ahab and Jezebel**, nasty people! Ahab king of Israel, marries Jezebel daughter of pagan priest. She is equated with deceit, violence, craftiness, cruelty, maliciousness. Mentioned in Revelation 2 in the letter to Thyatira. She obtains property for Ahab through false accusation and murder. Chases down Elijah to kill him. Elijah runs and hides. *“Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”* (1 Kings 16:33) Both die violently later.
- **Interesting little note:** *“In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.* (1 Kings 16:34) Recall that in the book of Joshua, after the Israelites defeated Jericho and totally destroyed the city, he pronounced a curse on anyone who would attempt to rebuild it. Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, *“Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates.”* (Joshua 6:26) Hiel lost two sons as a fulfillment of this curse.
- **Last 6 chapters about Elijah.** Prophet to northern kingdom of Israel. (NT references Elijah more than any other prophet. He appears twice, at Jesus’ transfiguration (Matt 17) and perhaps as one of two witnesses in Revelation 11). Did 8 major miracles, suspended rain for 3 ½ years, huge confrontation on Mt. Carmel between himself (prophet of God) and the priests of Baal.
- Contest at Carmel – Elijah challenges people also: *“And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.”* (1 Kings 18:21) Sounds familiar.