

1 & 2 Kings: God, the Keeper of Promises

Historical Context

- How 1 & 2 Kings fits into the flow of the Old Testament
- The time of the monarchy (see chart)
- Some background on Saul and David

The Writing of the Book

- 1 & 2 Kings was originally one book
- The author—unknown
- Sources for the author

Purpose of the Book

- Purposes
- Comparison to 1 & 2 Chronicles

God's Promises

- **Deuteronomy 28: 15, 64-66**—¹⁵ However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you... Then the Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. ⁶⁵ Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. ⁶⁶ You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.
- **1 Chronicles 17: 10b-14**—^{10b} “I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: ¹¹ When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹² He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. ¹³ I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. ¹⁴ I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.”

“The book, then, provides a retrospective analysis of Israel’s history. It explains the reasons both for the destruction of Samaria and Jerusalem and their respective kingdoms and for the bitter experience of being forced into exile. This does not mean, however, that there is no hope for the future. The writer consistently keeps the promise to David in view as a basis on which Israel in exile may look to the future with hope rather than with despair.”—NIV Study Bible

Things to Look for in the Content

- Three Key Phrases
 - High Places
 - “Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord”
 - “Did what was right in the sight of the Lord”
 - How the kings are judged
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1 Kings 1: Who Will be David's Successor?

David in Old Age (verses 1-4)

1. What condition do we find David in at the beginning of the chapter?

Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King (verses 5-10)

2. Adonijah appears to be next in line for king as the oldest surviving son. Instead of waiting for David to announce his successor, Adonijah goes ahead and declares himself as king. What are possible reasons for why Adonijah thought he could get away with this act of rebellion?
3. Who were some of the supporters of Adonijah?
4. Which of David's officials were not supportive of this action by Adonijah?

Nathan and Bathsheba Appear Before David (verses 11-27)

5. According to Nathan (in verse 12), what is at stake for Bathsheba and her son Solomon?
6. What do Bathsheba and Nathan want to make sure that David knows?
 - a. See verses 13 and 17
 - b. See verse 18

Solomon is Anointed King (verses 28-40)

7. David may be feeble in body, but his mind is still sharp. What steps does he put in place to make it clear that Solomon is his chosen replacement?
 - a. Verse 33:
 - b. Verse 34a:
 - c. Verse 34b:

d. Verse 35:

8. What was the people's reaction (verse 40)?

Adonijah's Reaction (verses 41-53)

9. Adonijah and his guests learn that David has made Solomon king. What is the reaction of the guests?

10. Where did Adonijah flee and how did Solomon react?

Resources:

- NIV and ESV Study Bibles
- LifeLight—1 and 2 Kings: Leaders Guide and Study Guide (CPH)
- 1 & 2 Kings—God's Word for Today (CPH)
- People's Bible Commentary: Kings