

The Kings and I

Lesson 3: The Kingdom is Established I Kings 1-4

TEACHING NOTES

Introduction to Kings

❖ Title

- Septuagint – “3rd and 4th Kingdoms” (Samuel is 1st and 2nd)
- Hebrew – “Melechim” – which means “Kings”
- I Kings 1:1 – Vehamelech – “Now King”
- English Bible – part of History
- Hebrew Bible – part of Former Prophets

❖ Date

- I Kings covers 971 – 851 BC
- II Kings covers 853 – 560 BC
- Both written during the exile
 - Some exilic details
 - No return/ post-exilic details

❖ Author

- Not stated anywhere
- Several Theories
 - Jeremiah
 - Babylonian Talmud claims this
 - Double Redaction (Josiah / Exile)
 - I Kings 13:2 prophecy of Josiah, II Kings 23:15-20 fulfill
 - 2nd redactor add exilic details
 - Deuteronomic Historian
 - Focus on Law as found in Deuteronomy
 - Part of Joshua – II Kings
 - One author, changing style as shows increasing discrepancy between expectations and reality, decrease in use of Davidic promises
 - Deuteronomic Circle
 - Lots of redactors, each generation adding more details
 - * Key * We do not know and are not told, so not issue to sidetrack on!

❖ Sources

- Derived from other books
 - Book of the Acts of Solomon
 - Annals of the Kings of Israel
 - Annals of the Kings of Judah
 - Isaiah 36-39

❖ **Audience**

- Maybe pre-exilic Judah
- Definitely Exiles

❖ **Chronology**

- Told Three Things:
 - Length of each King's Reign
 - Synchronization between Kings of Israel and Judah
 - Synchronization between certain events and other Nations
 - (*note: more on exact structure of this in 2 weeks*)
- Difficulties
 - Co-Regents
 - Two kings reign overlap (same time, or at least same year)
 - Egyptian Antedating / Mesopotamian Postdating
 - Antedating: 1st year of reign and at New Year, 2nd begin then
 - Postdating: 1st year of reign not begin until New Year
 - Royal and Calendar Years
 - Royal: start in spring/ Nissan
 - Calendar: start in Fall/Tishni
 - Intermix between North / South and Various Kings

❖ **Timeline**

- United Kingdom – 112 Years (1043-931 BC)
- Northern Kingdom – 209 Years (931-722 BC)
- Southern Kingdom – 335 Years (931-586 BC)
- *See also Timeline Reference Pages C6-C10*

❖ **Chart of Kings**

- For you to fill in as read: *see Reference A1*
- Complete Kings List: *se Reference A10*

❖ **Geography**

- Table of Nations / Joshua's Conquest: *Reference B1*
- 12 Tribes / Judges: *Reference B2*
- Saul / Jerusalem under David: *reference B3*
- Kingdom of David and Solomon: *Reference B4*
- Kingdoms of Israel and Judah: *Reference B4*

❖ **Purpose**

- Reason for Exile
- Show God's faithfulness
- Show man's sinfulness
- Hold up David Lineage / Messiah's Line

❖ **Quotes**

❖ Outline of I Kings

- **The Period of Solomon (Chapters 1-11)**
 - The Struggle for Succession (1)
 - David's Death and Solomon's Solidification (2)
 - Solomon's Power and Wisdom (3-4)
 - Solomon's Building Activities (5-8)
 - Covenant with Solomon (9:1-9)
 - Solomon's Glory (9:10-10:29)
 - Solomon's Sin and Death (11)

- **The Period of Jeroboam's Dynasty (chapters 12:1-15:32)**
 - Rehoboam's Threat (12:1-15)
 - Israel's Rebellion (12:16-24)
 - Jeroboam's Idolatry (12:25-13:34)
 - Jeroboam's Rejection by the Lord (14:1-120)
 - The Reign of Rehoboam (14:21-31)
 - The Reign of Abijam (15:1-8)
 - The Reign of Asa (15:9-24)
 - The Reign of Nadab (15:25-32)

- **The Period of Baasha's Dynasty (15:33-16:14)**
 - The Reign of Baasha (15:33-16:7)
 - The Reign of Elah (16:8-14)

- **The Period of Omri's Dynasty (16:23-22:53)**
 - The Reign of Omri (16:23-28)
 - The Beginning of Ahab's Reign (16:29-34)
 - Elijah the Prophet (17-19)
 - The Seige of Samaria (20)
 - Naboth's Vineyard (21)
 - Ahab's Death (22)

- {outline from Dyer and Merrill, "Nelson's Old Testament Survey", 248-249}
- See also **Reference Pages A7-A9**

❖ **God in Kings {Reading Version – verses removed}**

- (from Wiseman, “1 & 2 kings”, “Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries” p.18-19)
- God is referred to frequently but most often here as the Lord (Yahweh) God (over five hundred times). He is the Sovereign Lord, the Lord Almighty. He is declared to be the one true God, incomparable, the creator and giver of life. He is living (and often in the oath formula ‘As the Lord lives’). God is especially thought of as the God of the fathers and God of Israel. So he is the God of David and Solomon who refer to him personally as ‘My God/ Lord’ as the people do of him as ‘our God’. He is transcendent, omnipresent, yet with his people, thought of as invisibly enthroned in his temple which bears his name, where he is to be worshiped and praised. His name is to be made known to others. As the God of law he commands and requires trust and obedience. He shows himself in deeds, some thought miraculous, and reveals himself in words through his spokesmen the prophets...
- In history God is conceived as ruling over the kingdoms of men, raising up kings (against Solomon) and controlling events. He drives out some nations or reduces their territory, rejects others, removing them from his presence into exile when they stubbornly fail to serve him. It is God who sends enemies to punish his people and strikes Israel. Indeed God can be provoked to anger. To him is attributed disaster, tragedy, disease, famine and even sudden death by fire. Yet at the same time God is the one who hears and answers prayer, and the prayers of Solomon and Hezekiah are recorded. God gives deliverance, victory, forgiveness, wisdom, his Spirit and power.

❖ **God in Kings** (from Wiseman, “1 & 2 kings”, “Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries” p.18-19)

- God is referred to frequently but most often here as the Lord (Yahweh) God (over five hundred times). He is the Sovereign Lord (1 Ki. 2L26), the Lord Almighty (1 Ki. 18:15; 19:10, 14; 2 Ki. 19:31). He is declared to be the one true God (1 Ki. 18:24), incomparable (1 Ki. 8:23), the creator (2 Ki. 19:15) and giver of life (1 Ki. 17:21). He is living (1 Ki. 18:15 and often in the oath formula ‘As the Lord lives’, 1 Ki. 17:12; 18:10, 15; 22:14; 2 Ki. 2:4, 6: 3:14). God is especially thought of as the God of the fathers (1 Ki. 18:36) and God of Israel (1 Ki. 1:30, 48, *passim*). So he is the God of David (2 Ki. 20:5) and Solomon (1 Ki. 3:3, 7; 5:4; 8:28) who refer to him personally as ‘My God/ Lord’ as the people do of him as ‘our God’ (1 Ki. 8:59, 61, 65; 9:9; 10:9). He is transcendent (1 Ki. 8:27; 2 Ki. 2:1-12), omnipresent (1 Ki. 8:27; 20:28) yet with his people (1 Ki. 8:3, 12, 57), thought of as invisibly enthroned in his temple (2 Ki. 19:15) which bears his name (1 Ki. 5:3, 5; 8:43), where he is to be worshiped (1 Ki. 18:12, *cf.* 2 Ki. 17:32-34, 39, 41) and praised (1 Ki. 1:48; 8:15, 56; 10:9). His name is to be made known to others (1 Ki. 8:60; 2 Ki. 19:19). As the God of law he commands (1 Ki. 9:4; 13:21) and requires trust and obedience (2 Ki. 18:5-6). He shows himself in deeds, some thought miraculous (2 Ki. 20:11), and reveals himself in words through his spokesmen the prophets...
- In history God is conceived as ruling over the kingdoms of men (2 Ki. 19:15), raising up kings (against Solomon, 1 Ki. 11:23) and controlling events (1 Ki. 12:15; *cf.* 3:13). He drives out some nations (2 Ki. 16:3; 17:8) or reduces their territory (2 Ki. 10:32), rejects others, removing them from his presence into exile (2 Ki. 17:20-23; 23:27) when they stubbornly fail to serve him. It is God who sends enemies to punish his people (2 Ki. 24:2) and strikes Israel (1 Ki. 14:15). Indeed God can be provoked to anger (1 Ki. 11:9; 16:7, 13, 33; 2 Ki. 17:11, 18). To him is attributed disaster (1 Ki. 9:9; 2 Ki. 6:33), tragedy (1 Ki. 17:20), disease (2 Ki. 15:5), famine (2 Ki. 8:1) and even sudden death by fire (2 Ki. 1:12). Yet at the same time God is the one who hears and answers prayer, and the prayers of Solomon (1 Ki. 8:22-54) and Hezekiah (2 Ki. 19:14-19) are recorded. God gives deliverance (1 Ki. 13:5; 18:30-35; 19:6-7, 35-37), victory (2 Ki. 5:1), forgiveness (2 Ki. 5:18), wisdom (1 Ki. 3:28; 4:29; 5:12; 10:24), his Spirit (1 Ki. 18:12; 2 Ki. 2:16) and power (1 Ki. 18:46; 2 Ki. 3:15).

Intro: God's Covenant with David

❖ **God's Promises** (*II Samuel 7:8-16*)

- **Covenant with David - *Read II Samuel 7:8-16***
 - **After:**
 - Kingdom removed from Saul, Saul chases David, but eventually dies
 - God establishes David as King
 - Through David's army God establishes Kingdom
 - **God promises**
 - Son to David – will sit on throne
 - Son will build Temple for the Lord
 - Lord set up land as place of rest from enemies
 - God will be his God – including discipline as needed
 - Steadfast love not depart
 - Your house and Kingdom forever before God
 - David's throne established forever

Solomon – A Taste of the Glory of God's Kingdom

❖ **Solomon is Anointed King** (I Kings 1)

- **Adonijah attempts to take the throne**
 - V1 – David old, advanced in years
 - V5 – Adonijah says “I will be King”
 - Recruits Joab, commander of militia and Abiathar the Priest
 - Does not include Zadok the priest, Benaiah, Nathan the prophet, David's mighty men
 - Sacrifice at the Serpents Stone in En Rogel (Kidron Valley, between Judah & Benjamin)
 - Nathan and Bathsheeba intervene
 - Convince David of treachery
 - Ask David to keep promise to Solomon by anointing him King
- **Solomon Anointed King**
 - Solomon ride David's mule to Gihon
 - Kings rode on white she-mule
 - (thus symbol of kingship when Jesus rode)
 - Gihon in Kidron Valley just 1 kilometer from En Rogel
 - Anointed by Zadok and Nathan
 - Blow trumpet – Announce “Long Live King Solomon”
 - All people follow to Jerusalem - playing pipes, singing
 - Sits on David's throne

- **Adonijah Gives Up**
 - News reaches the gathering, they fear Solomon and scatter
 - Adonijah takes hold of horn of altar and asks Solomon to swear to not put him to death with the sword
 - V52 – Solomon answers that “if he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die” and Adonijah is sent home

- ❖ **Solomon Follows David’s Instructions** (I Kings 2)
 - **David’s Charge: Walk in God’s Way**
 - Charge to Solomon - *Read I Kings 2:1-4*
 - Be strong – show self a man (like charge to Joshua)
 - Keep the charge of God – walk in all His commands! (refere to Moses, 10 commandments, and all others)
 - God will Prosper you (promise to Abraham, Moses)
 - God establish His Word to David: (covenant with David)
 - If sons walk with faithful hearts to God
 - “walk before God” repeated phrase in Kings
 - David not lack a man on throne of Israel
 - *See Covenant with David in Intro on page 5 (II Samuel 7:8-16)*
 - **David’s Instructions: Wrap up Loose Ends**
 - Deal with specific loyal and disloyal people in the land
 - **David Dies**
 - Reigned 40 years (7 in Hebron, 33 in Jerusalem)
 - Solomon sits on David’s throne and Kingdom is established!
 - **Solomon Establishes Rule**
 - Cleans up loose ends with Adonijah
 - Ties up David’s loose ends
 - V. 46 – “So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon

- ❖ **Solomon’s Prayer – Wisdom** (I Kings 3) *{note: you can listen to my Sermon on this}*
 - **Solomon’s Prayer - *Read I Kings 3:1-9***
 - Solomon marries daughter of Pharaoh
 - Solomon sacrifices at High Places
 - V3 – Solomon loved the Lord
 - God speaks (in dream) – Ask what I shall give you
 - Solomon prays:
 - Sees God’s love and faithfulness to David
 - Sees self as God’s servant over this great people of God’s
 - Give servant understanding mind
 - To govern people
 - To discern good and evil

- **God's Answer - *Read I Kings 3:10-14***
 - God is pleased with the request!
 - Did not ask long life
 - Did not ask riches
 - Did not ask victory over enemies
 - Asked for wisdom and discernment
 - God grant:
 - Wise and discerning mind – like no other before or since!
 - Also riches and honor more than any other king!
 - God requires:
 - Walk in my ways – keeping commands and statutes
 - Walk as your father David walked (1st of many compare to David)
 - God will lengthen your days

- **Solomon Responds - *Read I Kings 3:15***
 - Comes to Jerusalem, stood before the Ark of Covenant
 - Offered burnt and peace offerings
 - Made a feast for his servants!

- **The People See It – *Story of 2 Babies***
 - Two prostitutes, living together, each have a baby
 - One rolls over baby in night, killing it
 - Other claims first came and switched babies in night, giving her dead son
 - Solomon calls for his sword to divide living in two, give each half
 - First woman says to stop, not kill child, give him to second; Second says divide is fair
 - Solomon awards the baby to the first
 - V. 28 – All Israel stood in awe of the king – perceived wisdom of God in him to do justice

- **Wisdom Recorded and Lived out**
 - What is Wisdom? – *Read Wiseman page 85*
 - (2 paragraphs and 1 line at bottom of page, do not turn page)
 - Proverbs (personified and explained)
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Solomon
 - Life of Solomon (at least first ½) / Life of Christ / Life of Godly

- **Application for us:**
 - If God asked you for one wish – what would it be?
 - How are you doing at coming to God to hear Him?
 - Would you start your prayer with praise, with promises ...
 - How well versed are you in the promises of God
 - Would it be for riches or life or power... or for wisdom?
 - How are you doing at acquiring the Wisdom God has already written down?
 - Would it be for a new life ... or to live out the calling you have?
 - How are you doing at living out your calling?
 - Would it be for you ... or for God's people in your care?
 - How are you doing at caring for God's people?
 - If the condition was faithful heart for God ... would you get your wish?
 - How would God describe your faithfulness
 -

Solomon's Administration (I Kings 4-5)

- **Solomon Organizes the Kingdom**
 - Sets up officials
 - Sets up yearly rotations for food, etc
 - Ch 5 – sets up system of slavery and forced labor to provide for building projects, organizes great buildings and infrastructure
 - Negotiates with foreign kings to get supplies for great buildings
- **God Grants Wealth**
 - 4:20 – Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea, they ate, drank and were happy
 - Fulfill parts of Abrahamic and Mosiac promises!
 - 4:21 – Solomon rules over all kingdoms from Euphrates to Philistines to border of Egypt – they brought tribute and served Solomon all his life
 - notice tribute, later forced labor – as Samuel had predicted
- **God Grants Wisdom**
 - 4:29 – God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so Solomon's wisdom surpassed all the peoples of the East and with wisdom of Egypt!
 - 4:30 – For he was wiser than all other men – (then it names a bunch!)

❖ Solomon Builds the Lord's Temple (I Kings 5-7)

**** We will look at this more in depth NEXT WEEK (see notes for lesson 5) ****

{go on to Lesson 4: The Kingdom Reaches a Climax}