

A Tour Through the Divine Library  
(1 Kings)

Introduction

**Joshua** → **Judges/Ruth** → **1 Samuel–2 Chronicles**  
(Entrance into Canaan) (Israel after Joshua) (Monarchy; Exile from Canaan)

I. General Introduction to 1 Kings

- Title: first half of 'Kings' (Hebrew Bible); 3 Kingdoms (LXX); 1 Kings (Later Latin Bible)
- Author/Date: compiled sometime after the division of the kingdom in 931 BC and before the exile in 586 BC (8:8; 12:19) from various accounts (11:41; 14:19, 29)
- Theme/Purpose: explain why the exiles were in captivity; encourage the exiles during their captivity
- Structure:
  - I. The United Kingdom (chs. 1-11)
  - II. The Divided Kingdom (chs. 12-22)

II. General Overview of 1 Kings

- Solomon's 40-year reign (chs. 1-11): see 2:3, 4; 3:7-9; Solomon's Rise (chs. 5-8); God's Warning (9:1-9); Solomon's Prosperity (10:14-29); Solomon's Unfaithfulness (11:1-14, 23, 26)
- Division (ch. 12)
- Israel (Northern Kingdom): Jeroboam's false religion; Ahab and Jezebel's idolatry; Elijah the prophet
- Judah (Southern Kingdom): favored by God

III. Prominent People and Themes in 1 Kings

- People: David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah the prophet
- Themes: God's Character and Ways (Sovereignty; Judgment Upon Kings and Nations; Covenant Faithfulness to David; Patience and Grace); The Sinfulness of Idolatry; The Importance of Obedience to God

IV. Christ in 1 Kings

- In David
- In Solomon (His kingdom, wisdom, and work)

V. Practical Lessons in 1 Kings

- 1) Human leadership fails when it turns away from God.
- 2) Worship that pleases God is worship that is according to His Word.
- 3) The best of men are but men at best.
- 4) Jesus is the greater than Solomon to whom all must come for life and salvation.