

BIBLE SYNTHESIS II
(Bible Survey)
Introduction to I Kings

1. Author:

Unknown — probably a succession of prophets in Israel and Judah. Jeremiah is the traditional writer, but this may be questioned.

2. Addressees:

Not specifically indicated. It is a record of the annals of God's chosen people written to them, and to us.

3. Date:

(1) Of coverage:

About 125 years, roughly from the close of David's reign to the death of Ahab of Israel and Jehoshaphat of Judah—i.e., from about 970 B.C. to 853 B.C., although it includes the very last small part of David's reign —1:1; 22:40–50.

(2) Of writing:

Possibly written throughout the period of coverage. We do here have a forthright record of the deeds of the kings. No writer of the royal annals would have dared to publish such incriminating facts during the reigns of those monarchs.

The authors mention plainly that they had sources for this record:

—1. The Acts of Solomon (I Kings 11:41)

—2. The chronicles of the kings of Judah (e.g., I Kings 4:29, etc.)

—3. The chronicles of the kings of Israel (e.g., I Kings 14:19)

[**Note:** e.g. means *exempli gratia* (Latin) for the sake of example, or for example.]

4. Circumstances:

(1) I and II Kings speak of man's rule of God's kingdom.

(2) To record the building of the Temple, the decline of the kingdom under Solomon, its division into two parts, the ministry of Elijah (of Tishbeh in Gilead) —6:14; 12:20; 17:1; 18:37.

(3) To record the apostasy of Israel —12:28–33; 15:26, 34; 16:13; 21:25–26; etc.

(4) To record the preservation of the Davidic line after the division of the kingdom —11:11–13; 12:20.

5. Relationship to Other Books:

I Kings continues the history of the kingdom begun in I and II Samuel and concluded in II Kings.

I and II Kings speak of history from the human standpoint.

I and II Chronicles present history from the divine standpoint.

Kings gives this history of Israel from the viewpoint of the prophets.

Chronicles present history from the viewpoint of the priests.

Kings shows man ruling

Chronicles shows God overruling.

6. Theme:

Division and apostasy —12:19–20, 26:33; etc.

7. Key Phrase:

“The way of Jeroboam” (or similar phrase) —9 times —14:16; 15:26,30, 34; 16:2, 19, 26, 31; 22:52.

8. Key Passage

12:28–33 (We’ll memorize II Kings 17:22–23 for this book.)

Bible Synthesis II
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OUTLINE OF I KINGS

Originally I and II Kings were one book. They were divided by the translators of the Septuagint (LXX).

Here, we have David's death (2:10), Solomon's accession and greatness (2:12; 4:21, 24–25, 29–30), and his sin (11:3–8), the division and apostasy under Jeroboam (12:19, 28), and God's appeal to Israel through Elijah to return to Him (18:37–39 —contrast 22:53).

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| 1. David's Last Days | —I Kings 1:1 — 2:11 |
| (1) Adonijah attempts to seize the kingdom (1:5) | —1:1–10 |
| (2) David confirms the choice of Solomon (1:28–30) | —1:11–31 |
| (3) Solomon anointed king, and Adonijah submits (1:39, 51–53) | —1:32–53 |
| (4) David instructs Solomon and dies (2:1–4, 10–11) | —2:1–11 |
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| 2. The Reign of Solomon | —I Kings 2:12 — 11:43 |
| (1) His early days (2:12, 35, 46; 3:11–12; 4:24) | —2:12 — 4:34 |
| (2) His building and dedication of the Temple (5:10, 17–18; 6:1, 38; 8:62–63) | —I Kings 5 — 8 |
| (3) His latter days | —I Kings 9 — 11 |
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| 3. From the Division of the Kingdom to Ahab | —I Kings 12 — 16 |
| (1) The kingdom divided | —12:1–24 |
| (2) Israel's apostasy under Jeroboam | —12:25–33 |
| (3) Reigns of Jeroboam and Rehoboam | —I Kings 13 — 14 |
| (4) Long war between Judah and Israel | —15:1 – 16:7 |
| (5) From Baasha to Ahab in Israel | —16:8–34 |
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| 4. Elijah and Ahab | —II Kings 17 — 22 |
| (1) Elijah and the terrible drought | —I Kings 17 — 18 |
| (2) Elijah alone with God (19:1–3, 11–14, 18) | —I Kings 19 |
| (3) Ahab's wars with Syria (20:19–20, 29–30, 34; 21:17–19; 22:37–38) | —I Kings 20 — 22 |

