

1 KINGS

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To contrast the lives of those who live for God and those who refuse to do so through the history of the kings of Israel and Judah.

Author

Unknown. Possibly Jeremiah or a group of prophets.

Date

First Kings was written c.550 BC during the Babylonian captivity.

Audience

The people of Israel and Judah who are in exile.

Setting

The once great nation of Israel turned into a land divided, not only physically, but also spiritually.

Special Features

The books of 1 Kings and 2 Kings were originally one book written in the form of historical narrative—specifically, a record of monarchical succession. The main rhetorical format of this court history is the summary of individual kings' careers.



Key Verses

And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, "You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel." (9:4-5 ESV)

...“As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.” (17:1 ESV)

Key People

David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Elijah, Ahab, Jezebel.

Key Places

Shechem, Israel, Judah, Jerusalem, Dan, Bethel, Tizrah, Samaria, Mount Carmel, Jezreel, Ramoth Gilead.