



1 Kings

Old Testament

β 11th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 2.62% of the verses in the Bible

β The author is unknown.

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What should you do when you're inexperienced in your job and fairly young? Seek God for wisdom and trust in Him! That is what Solomon did for much of his early reign. A now famous but difficult decision between two women (chapter 3), visits from other monarchs and a lot of grand building work was all powerfully executed because of his dynamic faith in God. Unfortunately this fervency didn't last for the whole of his reign.

When Israel and Judah split and become two nations during the reign of King Rehoboam (Solomon's son), we read how successive monarchs either followed God or didn't - surprisingly most of them didn't. The latter chapters contain some very dramatic incidents in the northern kingdom. We read how Elijah takes a stand against King Ahab and his cohort of evil, menacing companions. The prophets are important people!

Facts: In the Hebrew Bible 1 and 2 Kings are one book. King Solomon is established as king after his father dies, though in the next generation the ten northern tribes revolt due to the new king's folly. The prophets Elijah and Elisha are used mightily by God.

We find that even though some people don't want to know God or follow Him and actively encourage others not to, God *still* reigns. This is not just in a Temple or a special sacred place, but on a mountain-top and in a vineyard. God *is* in control. *He hasn't* abdicated His sovereignty.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.