

1 Kings Ch 1

1st and 2nd Kings are really a continuation of 1st and 2nd Samuel regarding the history of the nation of Israel. 1st Samuel basically picks up on the heels of the Judges and we see Samuel as not only a prophet, but also really the last Judge in Israel's history. And as Samuel prepares to pass from the scene he anoints Saul as the 1st King over Israel, and so 1st and 2nd Samuel covers the time period from Samuel thru the reign of the 2nd King of Israel, what, perhaps 150 yrs, give or take. 1st and 2nd Kings covers a period of about 400 yrs and will follow the history of the Kings of both Judah and Israel. And as I said it just picks up, basically where 2nd Samuel left off, with David preparing to pass from the scene and the anointing of his son Solomon in his place. Now 1st and 2nd Chronicles repeats a lot of the history of the kings of Judah, but not really so much the kings of Israel as to where 1st and 2nd Kings deal with both the various kings of both Judah and Israel, those who reigned in the North, and those who reigned in the South. And originally 1st and 2nd Kings were just one book, as was the books of Samuel, and the Chronicles, the writers of the Septuagint (which is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew) were the ones who divided them each into 2 different books.

But these are historical narratives and it's in these books that we'll see everything from the pinnacle of the kingdom of Israel to the collapse of the kingdom, it basically goes like this; Kingdom united, Kingdom divided, Kingdom collapsed. You've heard the motto, untied we stand divided we fall, and that was surely true of Israel, and in reality it's true of any group of people, that's why the bible exhorts us as the body of Christ so emphatically regarding the need for unity among us. Paul told the Ephesians, "*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*" Eph 4:1-3 and Later on he said that that's why God gave us apostles and prophets. That's why He continues to give us Pastors and teachers and evangelists, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry. To edify and build up the body, (notice) "...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God," Eph 4:13 To the Philippians he said, "...fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil 2:2 Sunday morning we spoke of how Jesus said that we're to love one another just as He has loved us, and given Himself for us, why? Because God is love, and if God be in us than we're to love one another, and even as He's forgiven us, we're to forgive others because division works ruin among a family, among a church body, among a nation. That's why God hates it when people are sowing discord and working division, because it destroys lives, and it definitely doesn't bring glory to Him who's given us the ministry of reconciliation. The bible says that we're not to be ignorant of our enemy's devices, and so recognize it when perhaps you're finding yourself being tempted by the subtle suggestions of our enemy to say things about people that aren't edifying, or have the potential to bring division into a situation and repent of those things. Be one who preserves the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, be a peacemaker, not a peace breaker.

1st Kings will show is the division of the nation, 2nd Kings records the collapse, 1st of the northern kingdom of Israel, and then ultimately of the southern kingdom of Judah.

Of Israel we read, *“For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.”* 2 Kings 17:22-23 and Finally of Judah we’ll read, *“Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.”* 2 Kings 25:21 Division, declension, and destruction is the basic outline that takes place.

As for who wrote the book of 1st and 2nd Kings, many believe it was Jeremiah, but no one knows for sure, the bottom line is that the instrumental author is of no significant relevance, the actual author is the same One who wrote all of the scripture, the Holy Spirit. 2nd Timothy 3:16 tells us that all scripture is God breathed, so the Holy Spirit is the author of these books.

Vs1

So this book opens with David on his deathbed, which means he’s approximately 70 yrs old at this point and apparently the end of his days weren’t favorable to him physically. He was obviously very weak, and in significantly poor health. And there are some who would say that this is more of his reaping what he’d sown over the years and sin is taking it’s final toll on David as he slowly erodes away. And though it’s absolutely true that sin has an eroding and decaying effect on our lives, and we absolutely reap what we sow, I’m not sure that it’s fair to David to say that because he’s in poor health it’s a direct result of his sin. The bottom line is that we all live in a fallen world and part of the ramifications of the sin of Adam is the breakdown of the human frame. Now with some people, like Moses, the bible is clear that clear up till the day he died at age 120 his eyes weren’t dim, nor was his natural vigor diminished, his back wasn’t weak, he wasn’t feeble in his ability to maneuver around or whatever. But that wasn’t the case with David, he got old, fell victim to poor health, and in the end was basically bedridden. Does that mean God loved Moses more than David? No, does that mean that David is simply absorbing the consequence of his ways? Not necessarily, he just got old and feeble, now it’s sort of sad to see this man who once slew giants, leaped over walls, and subdued nations come to this, but we all can’t walk around unabated by age until we breathe our last and so such was the fate of David. Now having said that, David will have one more harvest to reap in before he breathes his last, there’s one more dark cloud looming on the horizon of David’s life, his life doesn’t really end in a peaceful resolve as far as this world is concerned, but rather with further dissension in his own family. So David is laying there, and no matter what they do for him, he can’t get warm.

Vs2-4

That is, never had sexual relations with her, her function in his life was basically home healthcare. This was before the days of waterbeds, and electric blankets and so they would take another individual and lay them next to you so that you could absorb their body heat. And though the bible doesn’t mention anything about this in a negative way because it was a common cultural practice, let me just say this, just because something is accepted culturally, that does not constitute justification biblically.

The word of God serves as the highest law for the believer, not socially accepted customs, for example, when we were in Amsterdam its both legal and acceptable socially to buy and smoke pot (marijuana). But that doesn't mean that I took the missions team, gathered them all in a circle so that we could all pass a joint. "Well in America this would be sin, but it's ok here!" No, it doesn't work that way, what the bible calls sin, is sin regardless of what our culture, or any other culture approves, the word of God is our standard. And so let's be careful not to slip into the mentality of justifying our actions on the basis of social acceptability, you and I do well to just stay away from questionable situations.

Vs5

Does this sound familiar? David here in a weakened position and one of his sons seeking to take advantage of the matter and exalt himself that he might be made king in his place? It's like he went to Absalom's school of conspiracy and treason, even down to preparing horsemen and chariots and 50 men to run before him. Remember this, "*After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.*" 2 Sam 15:1 and Now at the end of his life, David has another son try to usurp the throne.

And this is what I was in regards to when I spoke of one final harvest that David would reap before he dies. You recall that after David had sinned with Bathsheba that the Lord told him through Nathan the prophet that because he had troubled another mans house, that his house would be troubled, and that because he'd killed Uriah with the sword of the people of Ammon, that God would raise up adversity against him from with in his own house. And here even at the end of his life, David is faced with adversity from with in his own house.

Vs 6

You know David was a phenomenal man in multiple ways, but marriage and family was a real weakness for him, and godly discipline for his children was virtually non-existent in his home. And so often people fear that they'll somehow do damage to their children if they discipline them, but in reality what they fear will happen through their discipline actually comes upon them due to the lack of it. Even when children are disciplined it's sometimes very difficult to infuse and cultivate into their lives godly habits and mannerisms and convictions, how much more when there's *no* biblical correction in the home? The bible says, "*He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.*" Prov 13:24 When the issue needs dealt with we're to deal with it in a godly manner, not in a flesh filled rage, but in a manner that's true to biblical convictions. David never did this, he was more or less a "Yes" man with his kids, let them do what they wanted, when they wanted, and it snapped back to haunt him in his latter years.

But before we move on we need to draw attention to this phrase back in vs 5 where Adonijah "exalted himself" saying, "I will be king." The bible is clear, "*Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.*" Prov 16:18 and Again, "*Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty,*" Prov 18:12

And you know that Jesus said it like this, “...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14 and Adonijah will be no exception, he exalted himself, yet he’ll be brought low, now he may’ve taken for granted that this position was for him, he was David’s 4th son, yet presumably the eldest one living. Amnon was killed by Absalom, Chileab presumably died at infancy or perhaps very young because the scripture has little to nothing to say of him, Absalom was killed by Joab, and no Adonijah is next in line. And since the birthright went to the eldest, he may’ve presumed that the crown would to. But the Lord is the one who raises one man up, and sits another man down, promotion comes not from the east or from the west, but from the Lord, and God had not appointed Adonijah to be the next king, and so he was exalting himself.

Vs7

Now it doesn’t really surprise us to see Joab defect like this, he’s always been about serving his own agenda anyway, loyal to David yes, but David’s as good as dead in his eyes and it’s time to move on in whatever manner is going to serve him best. But Abiathar is kind of a mystery. You may recall when Saul had those 85 priests murdered because he accused them of assisting David when Saul was trying to kill him. And Abiathar escaped and fled to David and David took him in and said, don’t be afraid, the one who’s seeking your life is seeking mine to, but with me you’ll be safe. And David took him in and protected him all these years, and now he’s defecting against David, and sometimes it’s just that way, people turn on you and you don’t know why, and to my knowledge the bible doesn’t really indicate why Abiathar turned on David here at the end, it’s just a tragedy.

Vs8-10

And so he takes these guys Joab, who had significant influence among the people, and Abiathar, who posed as integrity, and he throws this big feast for all these prominent people in order to secure their vote so to speak in his presidential campaign. But he didn’t invite Nathan, or Benaiah, or Solomon.

And so by the very nature of the way this thing is unfolding, it’s got bad situation written all over it, and they all should have been suspicious when they heard where the party was being thrown, “Zohelath” means “Serpent.” and So when he threw his party at the stone of the serpent, that should’ve been the 1st clue that he was planning to somehow slither into his father’s throne deceptively.

Vs11-14

Now why didn’t Nathan just go in there and tell David what was going on? Why did he encourage Bathsheba to go in 1st and begin to divulge to David what she already knew was going on 1st? Because back in the book of Deut, the scripture said, “*One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.*” Deut 19:15 In Matt chapter 18 with regard to dealing with sinful situations in the Christian community Jesus established the same principle, and then Paul the apostle reaffirmed it again in both 2 Cor 13, and 1st Timothy chapter 5.

There are to be at least 2 witnesses confirming every word in a questionable situation, and there's not to be any accusation received without the confirmation of 2 witnesses. And a good way to squelch gossip and hearsay is to simply say when someone comes to you with something questionable concerning a brother or sister in the body is to simply say to them, "Can I quote you on that? Because I'm going to need to go that brother or that sister regarding this matter and for the sake of confirmation I'm going to need to quote you as the source of this information." and Generally speaking people aren't too quick to want to attach their name to a rumor they've taken in, and sought to spread. And if you'll begin to respond to people who are always dumping into you along that manner, you'll find that people quit coming to you with their gossip. Now if you want to be the cesspool of carnal things that other people desire to dump into your life, then just keep on listening, but apart from 2 witnesses we're to receive nothing, and Nathan knew that, and so he's establishing the matter biblically.

Vs15-27

Notice that Bathsheba came in and immediately began to dispense the facts, then Nathan came in, and he didn't approach it the same way, he phrased his facts in the form of a question, so that David might be left with the initiative rather than being placed on the defensive. What's my point? There's more than one way to communicate a problem and encourage solutions, you can say the same thing 2 different ways, and get 2 totally different responses, and Nathan here is using both wisdom and tact. Now that's not to say that Bathsheba did wrong, what I'm saying is that Nathan did well not to come in like the 2nd barrel and just blast him, but rather he approached the matter delicately and very gracefully. He could've said, "David, what are you doing, how long are you going to blow life, haven't you learned over the years to regulate your family a little better, here you are on your deathbed and we're still having to iron out your lack of simple delegation in radically important matters." and He'd have been right, but he chose a better way, listen, when you feel the need to exhort someone, don't be rude, think about it for a little bit, how would you like to be approached? The bible tells us, "*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.*" Prov 15:28 Don't just blurt out anything because you're upset or frustrated, take your time to pray it through and consider it well, then approach the matter delicately and gracefully.

Vs28-31

You might somehow draw attention to vs 29, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress." The key word there is "Redeemed," he didn't say, "The Lord has kept my life from every distress."

As we've mentioned before some people are under the mistaken notion that because I'm a believer the Lord will somehow give me divine immunity from any kind of problems, or distressing and vexing situation. But that's not true, often times I face distressing situations *because* I'm a child of God. We have no immunity from suffering, or pain, or problems, the difference between a believer and a nonbeliever is not an immunity from problems.

Because I'm going to have the same problems often times that the ungodly person has, but as to where the ungodly has to somehow make their way the best they can *through* them, or perish *in* them, but the Lord will redeem *my* life from every one *of* them. Remember when Paul was writing to Timothy and he said, "*I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!*" 2 Tim 4:17-18 So he was delivered, and was confident that he *would* be delivered out of every distress, and as David looks back over his life, he testifies of the same fact, distress came into my life but the Lord was with me in them and delivered me from them. And he'll do the same thing for you and for me, Isa 43:2-3 says it like this, "*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;*"

Vs32

Now these guys represent the priesthood, the prophet, and the power of Israel's military.

Vs33-40

And basically what I see in this happening is that even though Satan seeks over and over to subvert the plans of God, God remains in control nonetheless. Adonijah tried to take the throne, but Solomon was God's choice, and so Solomon is on the throne. And of course he rode a mule for a couple of reasons, Adonijah prepared horses and chariots, the horse was the king's vehicle of warfare, but the mule was the vehicle of peace, and the mule represented to the people that the King was there to serve them. And so Adonijah is prepared to take the throne by force, but Solomon comes in peace, presents himself as the servant *of* the people, not a tyrant *over* the people. You remember when Jesus came into Jerusalem on the day viewed typically as the "Triumphal Entry" He came on a donkey's colt, lowly, as a servant to the people, presenting Himself in peace, He came in peace, to be the King of peace. But the next time He comes He's waging war, so how does He return to the earth? "*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*" Rev 19:11-16

Vs41

The blowing of the horn means there's official business taking place, that's why Joab is aroused here.

Vs 42-49

With these kind of friends who needs enemies right? They hear the news, and they're out of there, "See ya later Adonijah, you're on your own pal!" But you know what, when you center around this cause, or that basis, things can be so flaky, that's why we center our fellowship around the Lord Jesus Christ He's the reason we gather, to know Him and make Him known.

Vs50

Now the altar was the place where people came to God with their wrongs, and God extended mercy to them through sacrifice, and so this was an act basically crying out for mercy, how that even as God had been merciful to you, could you be merciful to me? and It basically represented home base, like when you place hide and go seek, but if you make it home before you're found you're safe. That was sort of what the altar represented to these people, it was their "Olley Olley Ox in free" or whatever.

Vs51-52

So, wickedness, or worthiness, that's the basis of judgment, and that's the basis of God's judgment, if we're worthy we'll be spared, if we're wicked, we'll be penalized. The only problem is that we're all wicked, we've all sinned and fall short of God's glory, but the good news is that we're deemed worthy as we're robed in the righteousness of Christ by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Vs53

Solomon begins his reign in peace, Adonijah is going to blow it soon, but for now there's peace. So David's reign is for all intents and purposes over, Solomon is on the throne and a new page in Israel's history begins to unfold.