

Welcome to term two 2011 growth group bible studies. This term we will be mainly studying 1Kings To show you where we are heading here is the breakdown of the studies.

15 th May	1 Kings 1-4	The good old days
22 nd May	1 Kings 5-9	God gets a house
29 th May	1 Kings 10-16	The fading of a shadow
5 th June	1 Kings 17-18	How long will you waver?
12 th June	1 Kings 19-	The sound of silence
19 th June	1 Kings 20-22.	The kings are dead



I Kings

introduction

When we think of reading through 1Kings we can feel historical boredom coming on. But this should not be the case. 1 & 2 Kings was originally a single book. It covers 400 years of Israel's history in only 50000 words which means two things. The content is incredibly selective and what is recorded therefore must be and is vitally important

for us to know about.

Regarding who wrote Kings, we know the divine author but we know nothing of the human author/s. Whoever wrote it compiled the work post 560BC as 2 Kings 24-25 record that terrible event.

Basically the historical content breaks down into three main sections.

- I. The Golden age... 1 Kings 1-11
- II. The torn Kingdom... 1Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17
- III. The last days... 2 Kings 18-25.

This term we will be focusing only on 1st Kings. In this book we are shown a glimpse of how fantastic life under a God appointed, godly king in God's place is meant to be. It also shows us how we as citizens of the kingdom are meant to behave.

As we work through the series, do try and read the whole book through to get a feel for the key players and action. God's word is not only useful for teaching, correction, rebuke and training in righteousness... it's also a fantastic read and full of interesting twists and turns. Enjoy.

1 Kings.

Who will be king?



Key verse: 1 Kings 1:47b-48.

And the king bowed in worship on his bed and said, 'Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.'

Study one...



Big Idea: In the uncertainty and chaos of life it's good to know the Lord is in control and is taking care of his church and people.

Kick Off

Have you ever read through 1 and 2 Kings before and if yes how did you find it?

What major events have rocked our world of late and have these events affected the church in any way?

STUDY

Read 1 Kings 1: 1-53

1. An old cold king. What is the problem with King David in vv1-4 and how is this a problem for the whole nation?
2. Contrast Adonijah in 5-9 with David in 1-4... what stands out?

Adonijah's presentation, ambition, style, image, position, and military and religious support, make him look like a very good choice for future king. But where before have we seen a glossy exterior end badly? Cf. 2 Sam 14:27-27 and 1 Sam 9:2; 10:23-24.

Lust for power and position are not the marks for leadership among God's people. In 1 Tim 3 God's qualifications for Christian leadership are recorded... it's worth noting carefully how God's qualifications almost totally stress godliness rather than giftedness, character rather than skill set. Why is this so?

3. Transition periods are always times of anxiety and stress. This transition from David to Solomon is no exception. The big repeated question is who will sit on the throne, vv13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 30, 46, 48 but in the end the person God had planned to reign 2 Sam 7:12-16 is on the throne. What comfort is this to us as we see the church going through various crises both local and national and international?

4. Notice how crucial the role of Nathan the prophet is in saving the situation for the kingdom from v11ff. List the things he does to prevent the disaster happening.

5. Nathan stirs David into action by highlighting the fate of God's kingdom is stake (partly as a result of David's apathy, see v6). What actions does David then set in motion vv28-40?

6. Chapter 2 of 1 Kings details how the kingdom is going to be made secure with Solomon as King in two ways. What are the two ways?

1. vv1-4 O_____ to the L____

2. vv 13-46 E_____ of E_____

7. What basic underlying reason caused the demise of all of those who were destroyed?

8. Chapters 3 and 4 of one Kings detail Solomon's prayer for wisdom and God's response in the affirmative. How is Solomon's wisdom showcased in:

- 3:16-28

- 4: 1-19

- 4:20-28

- 4:29-34

THINK AND APPLY

David as a man after God's own heart is stirred back into action out of concern for God's kingdom. What things really stir you into action? Be honest!

The church is constantly under threat from those who would wish to shut it down. Should we rely on God or sort it out as best we can ourselves?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
1 Kings 5-9**