

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA–ESTHER
1 KINGS: SOLOMON AND A CIVIL WAR
A SURVEY OF 1 KINGS



The Heart of the Matter

One of the haunting perils of leadership is the great divorce between what happens at the office and what happens at home. Many a man and many a woman may hit a home run at the office, but what good is it if they strike out at home? This is the dilemma Solomon faced as he rose to the position of king over Israel. Blessed with a wonderful opportunity for success for both nation and family, Solomon did justice to neither. The national success Solomon achieved during his reign proved to be fool's gold; it all crumbled under the inept leadership of his son and the descendants that followed. Solomon's failures to lead in the home eventually impacted his nation—a sad demise to a once great nation.



Discovering the Way

1. Dividing the Book

The first half of 1 Kings portrays Israel united under the rule of one man. The second half of the book traces the nation divided and under the rule of many men.

2. Glorious Solomon to Disrupted Nation

The book of 1 Kings begins by tracking the rise of Solomon and Israel to a position of great power and influence. However, as the king faltered near the end of his life, the nation fell into war and immorality.



Starting Your Journey

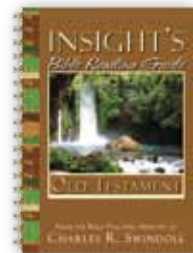
Four enduring lessons come out of our study of this book. First, unchecked, sinful bents are passed from parent to child. Second, we are most vulnerable when we least expect it. Third, God always has the right person to match the hour. And finally, when life seems especially dark, God comes especially close to His followers.



Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork
Volume Two
The Story of God's
People—A Survey
of Joshua–Esther**
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



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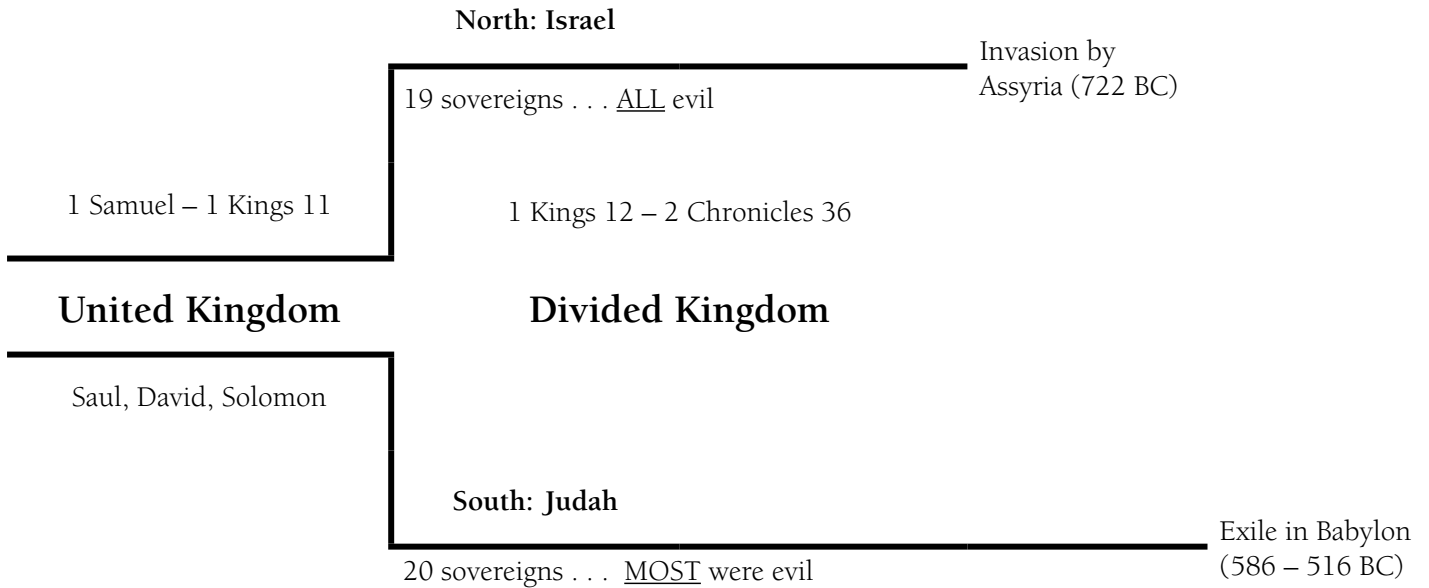
FIRST KINGS

<p>POLITICALLY David succeeded by Solomon</p> <p>NATIONALLY Kingdom united</p> <p>ECONOMICALLY Solid and secure</p> <p>SPIRITUALLY Shaky</p>	<p>Solomon “In all his glory” (Luke 12:27)</p> <p>Crowned and inaugurated (1–2) Married and exalted (3–4) Temple erected and dedicated (5–8) Warned and blessed (9–10)</p> <p>CHAPTERS 1–10</p>	<p>Decline and Demise</p> <p>CHAPTER 11</p>	<p>Disruption “A kingdom divided against itself” (Mark 3:24)</p> <p>Internal conflict and hostility (12–14) Civil war and idolatry (15–16) Ahab and Elijah (17–22) “He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done” (22:53).</p> <p>CHAPTERS 12–22</p>	<p>POLITICALLY King after king</p> <p>NATIONALLY Kingdom divided</p> <p>ECONOMICALLY Unstable</p> <p>SPIRITUALLY Empty</p>
Time	40 years		80 years	
Kingdom	United and strong		Divided and weak	
People	Solomon		Jeroboam to Ahaziah Rehoboam to Jehoshaphat	
Identity	“All Israel . . . sons of Israel”		North: Israel; Samaria; Ephraim South: Judah; Jerusalem	
Theme	Spiritual and moral decay lead to destruction.			
Key Verses	9:3–9; 11:11–13			
Christ in 1 Kings	Solomon’s wisdom, which foreshadows Him who “became to us wisdom from God” (1 Corinthians 1:30); the prophetic ministry and miracles of Elijah			

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SURVEY CHART OF CIVIL WAR



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