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.
# First Kings

**Crowned and inaugurated (1–2)**
- Solomon
  - "In all his glory" (Luke 12:27)

**Married and exalted (3–4)**
- Solomon

**Temple erected and dedicated (5–8)**

**Warned and blessed (9–10)**

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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

Survey Chart of Civil War

North: Israel

1 Samuel – 1 Kings 11
19 sovereigns . . . ALL evil

United Kingdom

Saul, David, Solomon

Divided Kingdom

South: Judah

1 Kings 12 – 2 Chronicles 36
20 sovereigns . . . MOST were evil

Invasion by Assyria (722 BC)

Exile in Babylon (586 – 516 BC)