

The First Book of Kings

Introduction

Author and Date

Who does Jewish rabbinic tradition consider as the author of the first book of Kings and when was the book completed?

Title

How did the Greek Septuagint treat the books of Kings?

Place in the Canon

Where does the book of First Kings fit in the Hebrew Canon and the Christian Canon?

Structure

What is the twofold structure of the book of First Kings?

Genre and Purpose

What type of genre is First Kings?

Is the primary purpose of the book to deal with secular affairs or theological interests?

Content and Themes

Who is the main character of the book and what happens after the death of Solomon?

Christian Perspective

What are the typological links between 1 Kings and the New Testament?

What is the pressing issue that opens in chapter 1 of First Kings? (Note 1:1-53)

How old was David at his death? (Note 1:1)

Read (1:5-8) Who is Adonijah and how does his attempt to gain power parallel with his brother Absalom? (Note 1:5)

Who is Joab and Zadok? (Note 1:7) (Note 1:8)

Read (1:9-10) Can Adonijah offer sacrifice? (Note 1:9)

Read (1:15-37) What is the official rite of installation for someone to become king? (Note 1:34)

Will Solomon rule over all 12 tribes of Israel? (Note 1:35)

Read (1:37) What is the relationship between Yahweh and the kings of Israel?
(Note 1:37)

Read (1:38-40) How is Solomon's accession to the throne manifested to the people? (Note 1:38-40)

Read (1:41-53) Why would Adonijah lay hold of the horns of the altar? (Note 1:50)

Read (2:1-9) What instructions does David give to Solomon concerning Joab and Shimei? (Note 2:5) (Note 2:8)

How does Solomon begin his reign as King? (Note 2:13-46)

Read (2:13-18) Does the queen mother possess considerable authority when petitioning the Kings court for favor? (Note 2:17) ***See Topical Essay: The Queen Mother***

Read (2:26-27) Why does Solomon strip Abiathar from his priestly privileges? (Note 2:26)

Read (3:1-2) What does the term “sacrificing at the high places” mean? (Note 3:2)

Read (3:3-9) What does “understanding of mind” mean? (Note 3:9)

Read (3:16-28) How does Solomon manifest his wisdom? (Note 3:16-28)

Word Study: Wisdom

How does Solomon organize his administrative districts? (Note 4:7-19)

Does the glory of Solomon fulfill the promise made to Abraham? (Note 4:20-34)
(Note 4:20) (Note 4:21)

Read (4:29-32) How did Solomon manifest his wisdom? (Note 4:32)