

Handout: 1 Kings Lesson 1

SUMMARY OF 1 KINGS

Biblical Periods	#6 THE UNITED KINGDOM → #7 THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS					
Covenant	The Sinai Covenant [ & the Davidic Covenant]					
Focus	The United Davidic Kingdom of Israel			The Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah		
Scripture	1:1-----3:1-----9:1-----12:1-----15:1-----16:29---22:53					
Division	Solomon becomes king of Israel	The successes of the reign of King Solomon	The failures of King Solomon	The Great Schism: civil war = political and religious division of the kingdom	Histories of the kings of Israel and Judah	Elijah prophet of God
Topic	SOLOMON			KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH		
	UNITED KINGDOM IN PEACE			DIVIDED KINGDOMS IN TURMOIL		
Location	Jerusalem: Capital of United Israel			Samaria: Capital of Israel Jerusalem: Capital of Judah		
Time	40 years			90 years		

**Part I: The United Davidic Kingdom of Israel**

- I. Solomon Becomes King of Israel (1:1-2:46)
  - A. Solomon is anointed king (1:1-53)
  - B. David's death and Solomon solidifies his kingship (2:1-46)
- II. The Successes of the Reign of Solomon (3:1-8:66)
  - A. Solomon petitions God for wisdom (3:1-28)
  - B. Solomon's administration of the kingdom (4:1-34)
  - C. The building of the Temple and the palace (5:1-8:66)
- III. The Failures of the Reign of King Solomon (9:1-11:43)
  - A. Reiteration of the Davidic Covenant (9:1-9)
  - B. Disobedience of Solomon to the covenant laws for Israel's kings (9:10-11:8)
  - C. Chastisement of Solomon for breaking the covenant laws (11:9-40)
  - D. Death of Solomon (11:41-43)

King Solomon's mother, Bathsheba, was the *Gebirah*: the Queen-mother to whom the people brought their petitions. An Israelite king could have many wives, but he only had one mother and she was therefore the most important woman in the kingdom. See Biblical references to the office of the Gebirah (Queen Mother) in 1 Kng 11:19 (referring to the Egyptian Queen Mother by the Hebrew title); 15:13; 2 Kng 10:13; 24:15; 2 Chr 15:16; Jer 13:18; 29:2) and the document discussing the Virgin Mary's role as the Gebirah of the New Davidic Kingdom:

<http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/Mary%20The%20Queen%20Mother%20of%20the%20New%20Davidic%20Kingdom.htm>

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**THE KINGS OF ISRAEL IN THE UNITED MONARCHY AND THE KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL DURING THE PERIOD OF THE DIVIDED MONARCHY**

**THE UNITED KINGDOM OF ISRAEL**

<b>Saul</b> 1030-1010 BC	<b>Ishbaal</b> (son of Saul) 1010-1011	<b>David</b> 1010-970 BC 7 years king of Judah, 33 years king of Israel	<b>Solomon</b> (son of David) 970-930 BC
<b>THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH</b> (Tribes of Judah and Benjamin) <b>930 – 587/6 BC</b> <b>1 ruling family: the House of David</b>		<b>THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL</b> (10 Northern Tribes) <b>930 – 722 BC</b> <b>9 ruling families</b>	
Rehoboam 930 – 913		Jeroboam I 930 – 910	
Abijam (Abijah) 913 – 911		Nadab 910 – 909	
Asa 911 – 870		Baasha 909 – 884	
		Elah 886 – 885	
		Zimri 885	
		Omri 885 – 874	
Jehoshaphat 870 – 848		Ahab 874 – 853	
		Ahaziah 853 – 852	
Jehoram 848 – 841		Jehoram (Joram) 852 – 841	
Ahaziah 841		Jehu 841 – 814	
Queen Athaliah (mother of Ahaziah, dau. of Ahab and not a Davidic heir) 841 – 835			
Jehoash 835 – 796		Jehoahaz 814 – 798	
Amaziah 796-781		Jehoash 798 -783	
Uzziah (Azariah) 781 – 740		Jeroboam II 783 – 743	
		Zechariah 743	
		Shallum 743	
Jotham 750 – 736		Menahem 743 – 738	
		Pekahiah 738 – 737	
Ahaz 736 – 716		Pekah 737 – 732	
		Assyrians conquer Galilee and Gilead 732 BC	
Hezekiah 716 – 687		Hoshea 732 – 724	
Manasseh 687 – 642		Assyrians conquer Northern Kingdom; tribes taken into exile 722 BC	
Amon 642 – 640		5 foreign tribes from the east are moved into the territory of the Northern Kingdom. They become the Samaritans (2 Kings 17:24)	
Josiah 640 – 609			
Jehoahaz 609 (first deportation of exiles to Babylon)			
Jehoiakim 609 – 598			
Jehoiachin/Jehoniah 598 – 597 (second deportation of exiles to Babylon 597)			
Zedekiah 598 – 587/6 (third deportation of exiles to Babylon 587/6)			
Babylonian exile 70 years			

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## **Archaeological Evidence that Supports the Biblical Record of the Kings of Israel**

1. The discovery of Pharaoh Siamun's relief: Pharaoh Siamun, a contemporary of Israel's King Solomon, ordered a triumphal relief commemorating his campaign against the Philistines c. 970-960. The Bible records that a pharaoh conquered the Philistine city of Gezer and gave it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife in 1 Kings 9:16.
2. The discovery of Pharaoh Shoshenq's triumphal relief at Karnak and stela at Silisila: These artifacts commemorate the pharaoh's campaign in Israel 925 and in Judah 924BC during King Rehoboam's reign recorded in 1 Kings 14:25-26; 2 Chronicles 12:1-9.
3. Annals of Shalmaneser III (853/52): The Assyrian annals mention King Ahab of Israel by name.
4. Annals of Shalmaneser III (841/40): The Assyrian annals mention King Jehu of Israel by name.

### Solving an apparent discrepancy in the Biblical record:

The Assyrian annals put 12 years between King Ahab of Israel and King Jehu. However, the Biblical record records 14 years between the reigns of these two kings with two kings between them: Ahaziah who ruled for two years and Jehoram who ruled 12 years ( 1 Kings 22:51; 2 Kings 3:1). What at first glance appears to be a discrepancy can be easily explained by historians. Ancient kingdoms had different ways of recording reignal years. The Assyrians and Babylonians credited the entire year when a king died to his reign, even if he died in the beginning of the year and his successor ruled 11 months of that year. That first year for the new king was designated his "ascension year" and the new king's "Year #1" did not begin until the first day of the following year. Historians call this method the "accession year" system or the "post-dating" system.

Additional resource: see the document "Dating the Reigns of the Kings of Judah and the Kings of Israel":

<http://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/Dating%20the%20Reigns%20of%20the%20Kings%20of%20Judah%20and%20Kings%20of%20Israel.htm>

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### Resources and suggested reading:

1. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*, ed., James Pritchard, Princeton University Press, 1950.
2. *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, E.R. Thiele, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1986.
3. *The Chronology of the Kings of Israel and Judah*, Gershon Galil, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1996.
4. "How We Know When Solomon Ruled," Kenneth A. Kitchen, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, September/October 2001.