



IN  
OUT

*English Standard Version*

*A Divided  
Heart...  
A Divided  
Nation*

IN & OUT®  
*English Standard Version*  
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES  
Course 1  
A DIVIDED HEART...A DIVIDED NATION

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PAGE	
	<b>I N T R O D U C T I O N</b>
1	Before You Begin We Want You to Know . . .
2	Important Note to In & Out Leaders
	<b>L E S S O N S</b>
3	LESSON ONE: Man's Quest for Power and Prominence
7	LESSON TWO: What Do You Need Above All to Live Successfully?
13	LESSON THREE: Building the Temple of God
17	LESSON FOUR: Regard the Prayer of Your Servant—Hear from Heaven
25	LESSON FIVE: "If My People . . ."
29	LESSON SIX: When Our Hearts Turn Away
35	LESSON SEVEN: The Inevitable Calamity of a Divided Heart: A Divided Family, A Divided Kingdom
43	LESSON EIGHT: Forsaking God: The Essence of Pride
51	WHO'S WHO OPTIONAL REVIEW
	<b>A P P E N D I X</b>
56	Explanations of the English Standard Version Bible Text Format
57	Observation Worksheets of 1 Kings 1–15
119	Observation Worksheets of 2 Chronicles 1–13
149	1 Kings 1–14 at a Glance
151	2 Chronicles 1–13 at a Glance
153	The Divided Kingdom
155	Close-up of Jerusalem and Vicinity
157	The Kingdom Under Solomon
159	The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah
162	The Feasts of Israel
165	The Kings of Israel and Judah





## BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW...

We are thrilled that you have chosen to study *A Divided Heart...A Divided Nation*, the first of our ten courses in the Kings and Prophets Series. It will be such a blessing to your life because the Old Testament places a tremendous emphasis on the holy character and works of God that anticipate fulfillment in the person of Christ in the New Testament. In essence, it lays the groundwork for the only salvation possible—the salvation God provides in His Son “by which we must be saved.” The Bible is a progressive revelation—all sixty-six parts are essential to understanding the whole counsel of God.

As you begin this series, it’s vital to understand the importance of a study like this and some of the differences between studying (primarily historical) Old Testament books and (primarily doctrinal) New Testament epistles.

- In the Old Testament we come to know God—who He is and how He works in the affairs of mankind—and we develop a godly fear of His awesome majesty, holy character, and works.
- The nation that is in the front and center of all God’s dealings is Israel. So as you study Kings and Chronicles, you find yourself immersed in Israel’s history, studying events surrounding the reigns of her kings in an effort to get the *big* picture—to understand how these events affect her relationship to God and how God responds to His covenant people. It’s much like looking at the history of your country through the lives of its leaders, what the times were like under each, the direction each led the country, and how each impacted its future.
- As you observe the texts of Kings and Chronicles, remember observing history is different from observing doctrine. If you’ve done New Testament Precept courses, you’ll find doing Observation Worksheets of historical books is much different from doing one on a doctrinal epistle. You don’t want to get bogged down with details; rather, you want to get a general understanding of the times and God’s dealings. Also, your focus on key words will not be as strong as when you’re observing doctrine.
- It’s not important to remember every detail of a king’s life as long as you understand the essence of it—how lessons from his life and leadership can apply to your life and walk with the Lord.
- If you study the entire series (we pray that you will), you will also hear and understand God’s message to His people through the voices of His prophets during those times.
- According to 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4, what God chose to preserve in the Old Testament is for our example and instruction, “upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The application, the encouragement, and the hope from these historical studies are distinctive.



## IMPORTANT NOTE TO IN & OUT LEADERS

We have included “The Who’s Who Optional Review” after the last lesson for you and your students to help review the kings studied in this course.

Here are some suggestions of how this optional assignment can be used:

- In scheduling this course, plan an extra week at the end and have your group complete the optional assignment for that week. You can encourage them to be creative by preparing a song, poem, skit, etc. and/or sharing some of their completed sketches. This is a great way to review the kings of Israel and Judah and some of the main events of their reign. Allow time for them to tell how God spoke to them through His Word in this course. You may also have a time of fellowship with snacks or a luncheon.
- If you’re completing this course and then breaking, you can assign students to complete the optional assignment during the break. Remind them to review what they’ve done before your first meeting of the next course. At your first meeting, briefly review the kings to help new students understand the context. Let students show some of their sketches. Then help all students get started on their first lesson, making sure the new ones know how to do the assignments.



## Man's Quest for Power and Prominence

**Life is not without conflict. Yet above and beyond the conflict, the Word of the Lord stands sure. God's purposes will not be thwarted by man.**

**What peace such knowledge can bring to your heart!**

**Let's look at how this is played out in the life of Solomon, the son of David, the King.**

### TAKING IT IN

1. After you seek God in prayer, let's begin our study with 1 Kings 1. You will find the text in the Appendix of this workbook. Remember this is history, God's record of what transpired millennia ago. The Old Testament, the Bible of the Jewish people known as the Tanach, was recorded for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

There are many lessons to learn from biblical history, which is HIS story—the account of God's dealings with His chosen people (who came through the seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his twelve sons) and with the nations which interacted with them.

Jacob, whose name was changed by God to Israel, is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, which comprise the nation of Israel.

Observe 1 Kings 1. Although there is not a lot to mark at this point in chapter 1, make sure you do the following:

- a. Mark references to time. You can use a green circle.
- b. Mark geographical references. Many of us simply double underline these in green.
- c. Pick a distinctive color for the following people and color-code them throughout the chapter. *There is no need to color pronouns, unless of course you prefer to or it helps you discern who is who.* Next to each of these names write down what they are.

- 1) Abishag



- 2) Adonijah
  - 3) Joab
  - 4) Abiathar
  - 5) Solomon
- d. Divide the chapter into segments by events. Simply draw lines on your Observation Worksheet between verses indicating new paragraphs or changes of events. Then in the margin record what happens in the segment.
- e. Now summarize 1 Kings 1 in as few words as possible. This will be the theme of the chapter. Record it on the “1 Kings 1-15 at a Glance” chart found in the Appendix.
2. Why are several vying for the throne? Was David’s successor uncertain?
- a. Read the following and note what you learn.
    - 1) 1 Chronicles 22:7-10, 17-19—Note who is told what and by whom.
    - 2) 1 Chronicles 28:1-5
  - b. What does this tell you about Adonijah and those who align with him? Who are they opposing?





3. First Kings 2 opens with David's final command to his son, Solomon. It is quite interesting, so observe it carefully.
  - a. Make a bookmark for 1 Kings with the following words and mark each with a distinctive color, color combination, or symbol. You can use the blank side of the bookmark on the back of your workbook. This Key Word Bookmark will help you remember how to mark specific words you observe in each chapter.
    - 1) *the ark of the Lord*
    - 2) *altar*
    - 3) *the tent of the LORD*
    - 4) *death, including die(d), \* killed*
    - 5) *time phrases*
    - 6) *geographical locations*

\*Indicates words with marking suggestions on the back side of the bookmark.
  - b. Color-code references to the people you marked in 1 Kings 1.
  - c. Because so many people are mentioned in 1 Kings 2, you may find it helpful to write their names in the margins of your Observation Worksheet next to the verse where they are first mentioned.
  - d. And again, you may find it helpful to divide the chapter into segments and record the main event within each segment.
  - e. Now record the main theme or event of 1 Kings 2 on the "1 Kings 1-15 at a Glance" chart as you did for 1 Kings 1.

LIVING  
IT OUT

1. Let's finish our lesson with some application. Read James 3:13-18. What kind of wisdom did Adonijah and his followers have?





## 1 KINGS 1

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

- NOW** King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm.
- 2 Therefore his servants said to him, “Let a young woman be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king and be in his service. Let her lie in your arms, that my lord the king may be warm.”
  - 3 So they sought for a beautiful young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king.
  - 4 The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of service to the king and attended to him, but the king knew her not.
  - 5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king.” And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.
  - 6 His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, “Why have you done thus and so?” He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.
  - 7 He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him.
  - 8 But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David’s mighty men were not with Adonijah.
  - 9 Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent’s Stone, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king’s sons, and all the royal officials of Judah,
  - 10 but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.



- 11 Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it?
- 12 “Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.
- 13 “Go in at once to King David, and say to him, ‘Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, “Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne”?’ Why then is Adonijah king?’
- 14 “Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words.”
- 15 So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king).
- 16 Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, “What do you desire?”
- 17 She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your servant by the LORD your God, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.’
- 18 “And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it.
- 19 “He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited.
- 20 “And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.
- 21 “Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders.”
- 22 While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in.
- 23 And they told the king, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground.
- 24 And Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne’?”



- 25 “For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king’s sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’
- 26 “But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited.
- 27 “Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”
- 28 Then King David answered, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king.
- 29 And the king swore, saying, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity,
- 30 as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ even so will I do this day.”
- 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”
- 32 King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” So they came before the king.
- 33 And the king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.
- 34 “And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’
- 35 “You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah.”
- 36 And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, say so.
- 37 “As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David.”



- 38 So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon.
- 39 There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"
- 40 And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise.
- 41 Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What does this uproar in the city mean?"
- 42 While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news."
- 43 Jonathan answered Adonijah, "No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king,
- 44 and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule.
- 45 "And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon, and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.
- 46 "Solomon sits on the royal throne.
- 47 "Moreover, the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' And the king bowed himself on the bed.
- 48 "And the king also said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.'"
- 49 Then all the guests of Adonijah trembled and rose, and each went his own way.



- 50 And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.
- 51 Then it was told Solomon, “Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’ ”
- 52 And Solomon said, “If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die.”
- 53 So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”







## 1 KINGS 2

### Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN** David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying,

- 2 "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man,
- 3 and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn,
- 4 that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'
- 5 "Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet.
- 6 "Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.
- 7 "But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.
- 8 "And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.'



- 9 “Now therefore do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol.”
- 10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.
- 11 And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.
- 12 So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.
- 13 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, “Do you come peacefully?” He said, “Peacefully.”
- 14 Then he said, “I have something to say to you.” She said, “Speak.”
- 15 He said, “You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother’s, for it was his from the LORD.
- 16 “And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me.” She said to him, “Speak.”
- 17 And he said, “Please ask King Solomon—he will not refuse you—to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife.”
- 18 Bathsheba said, “Very well; I will speak for you to the king.”
- 19 So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king’s mother, and she sat on his right.
- 20 Then she said, “I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me.” And the king said to her, “Make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you.”
- 21 She said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as his wife.”
- 22 King Solomon answered his mother, “And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah.”
- 23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, “God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life!



- 24 “Now therefore as the LORD lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of David my father, and who has made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today.”
- 25 So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he struck him down, and he died.
- 26 And to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth, to your estate, for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because you shared in all my father’s affliction.”
- 27 So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.
- 28 When the news came to Joab—for Joab had supported Adonijah although he had not supported Absalom—Joab fled to the tent of the LORD and caught hold of the horns of the altar.
- 29 And when it was told King Solomon, “Joab has fled to the tent of the LORD, and behold, he is beside the altar,” Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, strike him down.”
- 30 So Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD and said to him, “The king commands, ‘Come out.’ ” But he said, “No, I will die here.” Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, “Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.”
- 31 The king replied to him, “Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and from my father’s house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause.
- 32 “The LORD will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah.
- 33 “So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever. But for David and for his descendants and for his house and for his throne there shall be peace from the LORD forevermore.”



- 34 Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and put him to death. And he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.
- 35 The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in place of Joab, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.
- 36 Then the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, “Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there to any place whatever.
- 37 “For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die. Your blood shall be on your own head.”
- 38 And Shimei said to the king, “What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.
- 39 But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei’s servants ran away to Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shimei, “Behold, your servants are in Gath,”
- 40 Shimei arose and saddled a donkey and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants. Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath.
- 41 And when Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned,
- 42 the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you swear by the LORD and solemnly warn you, saying, ‘Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die’? And you said to me, ‘What you say is good; I will obey.’
- 43 “Why then have you not kept your oath to the LORD and the commandment with which I commanded you?”
- 44 The king also said to Shimei, “You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father. So the LORD will bring back your harm on your own head.
- 45 “But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever.”
- 46 Then the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him down, and he died.
- So the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.



## 1 KINGS 1-14 AT A GLANCE

**Book Theme:**

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes
		1
		2
		3
		4
		5
		6
		7
		8
		9
		10
		11
		12
		13
		14

