

I. Half is the Operative Word

Solomon is the King with a Half Heart for God

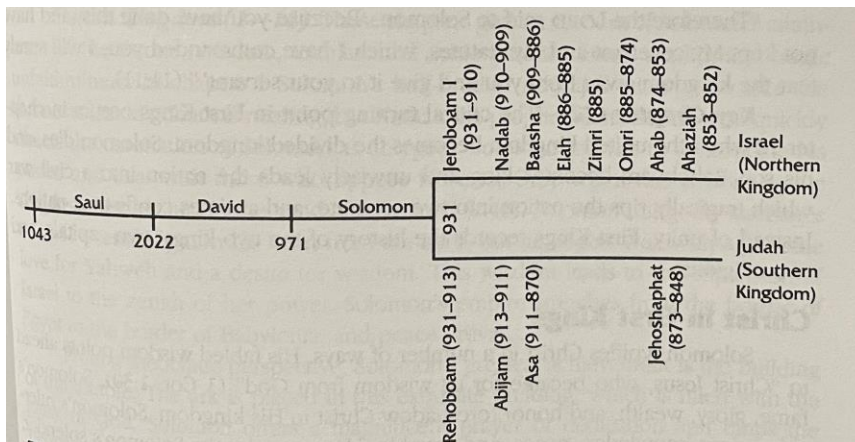
The Kingdom is Divided into Two Parts: Israel with 10 Tribes; Judah with 2 Tribes

The Book is Divided in Two Halves: Chapters 1-11 and Chapters 12-22

II. An Overview of the Book

FIRST KINGS	United Kingdom			Divided Kingdom				
	Focus	1:1	11:43	12:1	22:53			
Divisions	Establishment of Solomon	Rise of Solomon	Decline of Solomon	Division of the Kingdom	Reigns of Various Kings	Reign of Ahab with Elijah	Reign of Jehoshaphat in Judah	Reign of Ahaziah in Israel
	1:1	2:46	3:1	8:66	9:1	11:43	12:1	14:31
					15:1	16:28	16:29	22:40
							22:41	22:50
							22:51	22:53
Topics	Solomon			Many Kings				
	Kingdom in Tranquility			Kingdoms in Turmoil				
Place	Jerusalem: Capital of United Kingdom			Samaria: Capital of Israel Jerusalem: Capital of Judah				
Time	40 Years			90 Years				

III. A Timeline of the Text



IV. Authorship:

Jeremiah is the author according to Talmudic tradition. It is at least someone who lived at the end of the Kingdom of Judah, who had a prophetic voice, and who had access to the several historical documents which would have covered the “book of the acts of Solomon” (11:41); the “book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel” (14:19); and the “book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah” (14:29; 15:27).

V. Key Verses:

1 Kings 4:4-5 The Blessing

1 Kings 11:11 The Consequence for Disobedience

VI. Some Background to the Book:

Deut. 17: 14-20

DO NOT: Multiply Horses; Multiply Wives; Greatly Increase Gold and Silver for Himself

DO: Write a copy for himself of the law, it shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord is God by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes.

VII. The United Kingdom

A. The Establishment of Solomon, Ch. 1-2

- The Appointment of Solomon, ch 1
 - Adonijah’s Plot to be King
 - Anointing of Solomon
- The Solidification of Solomon, ch 2
 - David’s Charge
 - Solomon’s enemies purged

B. The Rise of Solomon, Ch. 3-8

- The Request for Wisdom and its display
- The Administration of the Kingdom
- The Building of the Royal House and the Temple
 - Ch. 8:12-61 The Evidence of Solomon’s Whole Heart for God
 - “Now the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifice before the LORD. Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.”
vv. 62-63

C. The Decline of Solomon, Ch. 9-11

- God reminds Solomon of the Covenant, ch. 9
- Solomon multiplies W_____ and H_____ and Chariots, ch. 10
- Solomon multiplies W_____, ch. 11
- Solomon introduces the Worship of Idols:
 - Ashtoreth: Sidonian goddess Milcom: Ammonites
 - Chemosh: Moabite god Molech: Ammonites (child sacrifice)
- God Raises Enemies Against Solomon

VIII. The Divided Kingdom, Ch. 12-22

A. The Division of the Kingdom, Ch. 12-14

- The Cause of the Division—F_____ A_____ of Rehoboam, 12:1-24
 - Northern Tribes revolt and Side with Jeroboam
- The Reign of Jeroboam, 12:25-14:20
 - More Idolatry with Two Golden Calves
 - Unqualified P_____
 - The Rise of Prophetic Ministers
- The Reign of Rehoboam, 14:21-31 Idolatry, Immorality, & S_____

B. The Reign of Two Kings in Judah, 15: 1-24

Abijam - Only good he did was father Asa

Asa - "The heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the Lord all his days."

- Wiped out almost all the idols in the land—even his mother's Asherah

C. The Reigns of 5 Kings in Israel, 15: 25- 16: 28

- Nadab, son of Jeroboam
- Baasha, killed Nadab and all the Family of Jeroboam, but followed in Jeroboam's wickedness and idolatry
- Elah, son of Baasha, another idolater
- Zimri, chariot commander of Elah's, killed Elah and all his household; only reigned 7 days, committed suicide by fire
- Omri, commander of Elah's army, acted more wickedly than those before him

- D. The Reign of Ahab & Ministry of Elijah, 16:29 – 22:40
- The Sins of Ahab – Introduced Baal worship through Marriage to J _____, 16
 - “Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him....he also made the Asherah.” 16:30 & 33
 - The Miracles and Ministry of Elijah, 17-19
 - Drought - Provision of Food -Resurrection of the Gentile Son
 - Fire on Mt C _____ - Miracle of Rain (and the Speedy Prophet)
 - The Misery of Elijah, 20 -D _____ and Self Pity
 - The Military Victories over Syria (Aram), 20
 - The Murder of Naboth & Stealing of his Vinyard and Ahab’s humbling, 21
 - The Death of Ahab in Defeat by Syria, 22:1-36
- E. The Reigns of Jehoshaphat (J) & Ahaziah (I), 22: 41-53
- Jehoshaphat is a good King
 - But he let a little idolatry stay in the high places, v. 43
 - Ahaziah, another Baal worshipper like his parents

IX. The Themes

- Idolatry provokes God’s r _____ anger in J _____.
- God is patient and His heart is moved when there is the smallest step towards repentance.
- Idolatry is like a pervasive weed and can’t just be cut back—it must be r _____ out.
- The leader sets the pace for those that follow.

X. The Applications

- We live in a world of idolatry.
- The Grammy’s two weeks ago: A celebration of Satanism, sensuality and transgenderism = the Asherim set up on the Mt. of Olives
- The abortion movement is akin to the offering of child s _____ to Molech
- “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.” 1 Cor. 10:14

IDOLATRY – is anything that displaces loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. It is the other half of our divided heart. It is the carelessness of thinking we can handle a little bit of c _____ and it won’t hurt us. It is who or what we turn to for help, wisdom, comfort, or strength.

- “Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to... G _____, which amounts to I _____.” Col. 3:5