

*A Divided  
Heart...  
A Divided  
Nation*

IN & OUT®  
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 New American Standard Bible Text Format
57	Observation Worksheets of 1 Kings 1–15
121	Observation Worksheets of 2 Chronicles 1–13
151	1 Kings 1–15 at a Glance
153	2 Chronicles 1–13 at a Glance
155	The Divided Kingdom
157	Close-up of Jerusalem and Vicinity
159	The Kingdom Under Solomon
161	The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah
164	The Feasts of Israel
167	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 for the summer, you can assign your group to complete the optional assignment during the break. Use letters, phone calls, or emails to remind them to review what they’ve done before your first meeting in the fall. At your first meeting, briefly review the kings to help new students understand the context. Let them show some of their sketches. Then help all them 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, upon 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 charge 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, advanced in age; and they covered him with clothes, but he could not keep warm.

- 2 So his servants said to him, "Let them seek a young virgin for my lord the king, and let her attend the king and become his nurse; and let her lie in your bosom, that my lord the king may keep warm."
- 3 So they searched for a beautiful girl throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king.
- 4 The girl was very beautiful; and she became the king's nurse and served him, but the king did not cohabit with her.
- 5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him.
- 6 His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?" And he was also a very handsome man, and he was born after Absalom.
- 7 He had conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest; and following Adonijah they helped him.
- 8 But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David, were not with Adonijah.
- 9 Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fatlings by the stone of Zohemoth, which is beside En-rogel; and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.
- 10 But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, and Solomon his brother.

- 11** Then Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, “Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know *it*?”
- 12** “So now come, please let me give you counsel and save your life and the life of your son Solomon.
- 13** “Go at once to King David and say to him, ‘Have you not, my lord, O king, sworn to your maidservant, saying, “Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne”? Why then has Adonijah become king?’
- 14** “Behold, while you are still there speaking with the king, I will come in after you and confirm your words.”
- 15** So Bathsheba went in to the king in the bedroom. Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was ministering to the king.
- 16** Then Bathsheba bowed and prostrated herself before the king. And the king said, “What do you wish?”
- 17** She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the LORD your God, *saying*, ‘Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.’
- 18** “Now, behold, Adonijah is king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know *it*.
- 19** “He has sacrificed oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king and Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant.
- 20** “As for you 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 about, as soon as my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be considered offenders.”
- 22** Behold, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in.
- 23** They told the king, saying, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground.

- 24 Then Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne’?”
- 25 “For he has gone down today and has sacrificed oxen and fatlings and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king’s sons and the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest, and behold, they are eating and drinking before him; and they say, ‘*Long live King Adonijah!*’
- 26 “But me, *even* 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 done by my lord the king, and you have not shown to your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”
- 28 Then King David said, “Call Bathsheba to me.” And she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king.
- 29 The king vowed and said, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress,
- 30 surely as I vowed to you by the LORD the God of Israel, saying, ‘Your son Solomon shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place’; I will indeed do so this day.”
- 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, and prostrated herself before the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever.”
- 32 Then King David said, “Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada.” And they came into the king’s presence.
- 33 The king said to them, “Take with you the servants of your lord, and have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.
- 34 “Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, ‘*Long live King Solomon!*’
- 35 “Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne and be king in my place; for I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.”

- 36 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, “Amen! Thus may the LORD, the God of my lord the king, say.
- 37 “As the LORD has been with my lord the king, 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, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David’s mule, and brought him to Gihon.
- 39 Zadok the priest then 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 All the people went up after him, and the people were playing on flutes and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth shook at their noise.
- 41 Now Adonijah and all the guests who *were* with him heard *it* as they finished eating. When Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, “Why is the city making such an uproar?”
- 42 While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. Then Adonijah said, “Come in, for you are a valiant man and bring good news.”
- 43 But Jonathan replied to Adonijah, “No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.
- 44 “The king has also sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king’s mule.
- 45 “Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon, and they have come up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise which you have heard.
- 46 “Besides, Solomon has even taken his seat on the throne of the kingdom.
- 47 “Moreover, the king’s servants came to bless our lord King David, saying, ‘May your God make the name of Solomon better than your

name and his throne greater than your throne!’ And the king bowed himself on the bed.

48 “The king has also said thus, ‘Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted one to sit on my throne today while my own eyes see *it.*’ ”

49 Then all the guests of Adonijah were terrified; and they arose and each went on his way.

50 And Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, and he arose, went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

51 Now it was told Solomon, saying, “Behold, Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon, for behold, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, ‘Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.’ ”

52 Solomon said, “If he is a worthy man, not one of his hairs will fall to the ground; but if wickedness is found in him, he will die.”

53 So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and prostrated himself before King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, “Go to your house.”





## 1 KINGS 2

### Observation Worksheet

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

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- AS David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying,
- 2 "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man.
  - 3 "Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn,
  - 4 so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'
  - 5 "Now you also know what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me, what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner, and to Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed; he also shed the blood of war in peace. And he put the blood of war on his belt about his waist, and on his sandals on his feet.
  - 6 "So act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace.
  - 7 "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table; for they assisted me when I fled from Absalom your brother.
  - 8 "Behold, there is with you Shimei the son of Gera the Benjamite, of Bahurim; now it was he who cursed me with a violent curse on the day I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to 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 let him go unpunished, for you are a wise man; and you will know what you ought to do to him, and you will bring his gray hair down to Sheol with blood.”
- 10 Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.
- 11 The days that David reigned over Israel *were* forty years: seven years he reigned in Hebron and thirty-three years he reigned in Jerusalem.
- 12 And Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.
- 13 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, “Do you come peacefully?” And he said, “Peacefully.”
- 14 Then he said, “I have something *to say* to you.” And she said, “Speak.”
- 15 So he said, “You know that the kingdom was mine and that all Israel expected me to be king; however, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother’s, for it was his from the LORD.
- 16 “Now I am making one request of you; do not refuse me.” And she said to him, “Speak.”
- 17 Then he said, “Please speak to Solomon the king, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife.”
- 18 Bathsheba said, “Very well; I will speak to the king for you.”
- 19 So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king arose to meet her, bowed before her, and sat on his throne; then he had a throne set for the king’s mother, and she sat on his right.
- 20 Then she said, “I am making one small request of you; do not refuse me.” And the king said to her, “Ask, my mother, for I will not refuse you.”
- 21 So she said, “Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as a wife.”
- 22 King Solomon answered and said to his mother, “And why are you asking Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him also the kingdom—for he is my older brother—even for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah!”

- 23 Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, “May God do so to me and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life.
- 24 “Now therefore, as the LORD lives, who has established me and set me on the throne of David my father and who has made me a house as He promised, surely Adonijah shall be put to death today.”
- 25 So King Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he fell upon him so that he died.
- 26 Then to Abiathar the priest the king said, “Go to Anathoth to your own field, for you deserve to die; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David, and because you were afflicted in everything with which my father was afflicted.”
- 27 So Solomon dismissed Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD, which He had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.
- 28 Now the news came to Joab, for Joab had followed Adonijah, although he had not followed Absalom. And Joab fled to the tent of the LORD and took hold of the horns of the altar.
- 29 It was told King Solomon that Joab had fled to the tent of the LORD, and behold, he is beside the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, “Go, fall upon him.”
- 30 So Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD and said to him, “Thus the king has said, ‘Come out.’ ” But he said, “No, for I will die here.” And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, “Thus spoke Joab, and thus he answered me.”
- 31 The king said to him, “Do as he has spoken and fall upon him and bury him, that you may remove from me and from my father’s house the blood which Joab shed without cause.
- 32 “The LORD will return his blood on his own head, because he fell upon two men more righteous and better than he and killed them with the sword, while my father David did not know *it*: 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 return on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever; but to David and his descendants and his house and his throne, may there be peace from the LORD forever.”

34 Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and fell upon him and put him to death, and he was buried at his own house in the wilderness.

35 The king appointed Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in his place, and the king appointed Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

36 Now the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Build for yourself a house in Jerusalem and live there, and do not go out from there to any place.

37 “For on the day you go out and cross over the brook Kidron, you will know for certain that you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head.”

38 Shimei then said to the king, “The word is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do.” So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

39 But it came about at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, “Behold, your servants are in Gath.”

40 Then Shimei arose and saddled his donkey, and went to Gath to Achish to look for his servants. And Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath.

41 It was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and had returned.

42 So the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, “Did I not make you swear by the LORD and solemnly warn you, saying, ‘You will know for certain that on the day you depart and go anywhere, you shall surely die’? And you said to me, ‘The word which I have heard is good.’

43 “Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD, and the command which I have laid on you?”

- 44 The king also said to Shimei, “You know all the evil which you acknowledge in your heart, which you did to my father David; therefore the LORD shall return your evil on your own head.
- 45 “But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever.”
- 46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and fell upon him so that he died.
- Thus the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon.



# 1 KINGS 1-15 AT A GLANCE

**Book Theme:**

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes
		1
		2
		3
		4
		5
		6
		7
		8
		9
		10
		11
		12
		13
		14
		15

