

✠ Unsheathing the SWORD ✠



1 Kings

MEMORIZATION – 1 Kings 8:23 – “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below – You who keep Your covenant of love with Your servants who continue wholeheartedly in Your way.”

Chapter 1

1. Notice the side note regarding David’s parenting style. Would you say it is “hands on” or “hands off?”

2. Are they “for” or “against” Adonijah? Place an X in the appropriate blank.

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Joab	_____	_____
Abiathar	_____	_____
Zadok	_____	_____
Benaiah	_____	_____
Nathan	_____	_____
Shimei	_____	_____
Rei	_____	_____
David’s special guard	_____	_____

3. List those who are not invited to Adonijah’s sacrifice.

A review question: Who is Solomon’s mother?

4. Who wins the power play for the throne?

Chapter 2

1. Check your “for or against” list. What happens to Adonijah and each of those “for” him?

Chapter 3

1. a) Think back. Is there any reference in Scripture to David worshipping any god other than the Lord?

b) Now look at 3:3. Solomon walked according to David’s statutes except what?

2. God says, “Ask for whatever you want Me to give you.” For what does Solomon ask?

3. Have you heard this classic story of Solomon’s wisdom before? Are there any new details that you noticed?

Chapter 4

1. Another bunch of names of people and places. Write down a few that sound familiar.

2. Solomon’s wisdom is incredible.

a) He spoke how many proverbs?

b) What was the number of his songs?

Chapter 5

1. News of Solomon being anointed king reaches Hiram, king of Tyre. The two kings negotiate what business transaction?

2. To which god/God does Hiram offer praise when he hears Solomon’s message?

3. What is the total number of conscripted laborers, carriers, stone-cutters and foremen working on the construction of the temple (circle one):

- a) about 1,000
- b) about 80,000
- c) about 180,000

Chapter 6

1. Construction on the temple of the Lord begins how many years after the Israelites came out of Egypt?

2. As you read the description of Solomon's temple in chapters 6 and 7, picture it in your mind and compare it to the tabernacle described in Exodus.

3. How many years does Solomon spend building the temple?

Chapter 7 – none

Chapter 8

1. What is in the ark at this time?

2. What happens in the temple of the Lord when the priests withdraw from the Holy Place?

3. Solomon's prayer of dedication is full of meaning for that time, and is a glimpse into Israel's future. As you read Solomon's prayer, remember that Israel's fall and captivity will follow in less than 500 years.

4. Solomon mentions God's promise to David that David's line will always sit on the throne of Israel "if only." "If only" what?

5. In his wisdom Solomon knows that God is not contained in a building. "But will God really dwell on earth? The _____, even the highest _____ cannot contain You. How much less this temple I have built!"

6. Today some people doubt that Old Testament individuals believed in the need for forgiveness. Find Solomon's pleas to the Lord:

a) to hear the prayers of the people Israel and "when you hear, _____."

b) when Israel is defeated by an enemy "because they have sinned against You" but then repent, then "hear from heaven and _____ of your people Israel and bring them _____."

c) when there is no rain "because Your people have sinned against You" and then the people repent, "then hear from heaven and _____ of Your servants, Your people Israel. Teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land You gave Your people for an inheritance."

d) when famine or plague come to the land...or whatever disaster or disease may come, "then hear from heaven, Your dwelling place. _____ and act."

e) and the prayer is extended beyond the nation of Israel – when the foreigner prays "then hear from heaven, Your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of You, so that _____, as do Your own people Israel..."

f) "When they sin against You – for _____" and they are taken captive and then, if they repent, "then from heaven, Your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea and uphold their cause. And _____ Your people, who have _____; _____ all the offenses they have committed against You..."

7. Solomon rises from his kneeling position and blesses the assembly of Israel. He prays that the words of this prayer be near to the Lord, "so that _____ may know that _____ and that there is no other."

Chapter 9

1. The Lord is very clear about what will happen if the Israelites worship and serve other gods. From what will Israel be cut off?

2. Arranged royal marriages. Which foreign ruler's daughter is mentioned as one of Solomon's wives?

Chapter 10

Extra credit: Where is Sheba?

1. The Queen of Sheba comes to see for herself the wonders of which she has heard. And her response includes praise and witness to the Lord. Write out verse nine.

2. Jesus says that this "Queen of the South" will testify on judgment day. Read Matthew 12:42.

Extra credit: Among the gifts brought to Solomon by Sheba's queen are 120 talents of gold. How much gold is this?

3. What metal is not used by Solomon because it is considered to be of little value?

Chapter 11

1. What a recital of Solomon's wisdom, wealth, and riches! Then chapter 11 begins "King Solomon, _____, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter..." What had the Lord said regarding intermarriage with these nations?

2. What two gods or goddesses are mentioned specifically as being followed by Solomon as he grows old?

3. Solomon built "high places" (places of worship) for the gods of his foreign wives. So all the wisdom of the Lord couldn't keep Solomon's heart devoted to the Lord. Examine your heart and pray that you will be fully devoted to your Lord and God to the end of your days.

4. The Lord speaks to Solomon again and says that most of the kingdom will be torn from him. Why will one tribe remain with Solomon's son?

5. Adversaries arise against Solomon. Name them.

Extra credit: Whose descendants are the Edomites?

6. Ahijah, the prophet of Shiloh, tells Jeroboam of the Lord's intention and gives the reason. What is it?

7. Can you find the grace? Because of their unfaithfulness, David's descendants will be humbled, "but _____."

8. A typical royal reaction: Solomon tries to kill Jeroboam. What happens?

9. For how long does Solomon reign over Israel?

10. Who succeeds Solomon?

Chapter 12

1. Rehoboam receives conflicting advice from the elders and from the young men.

a) Whose advice does Rehoboam follow?

b) Does he choose wisely?

2. Here is the origin of the split of Israel into two kingdoms. Which tribe or tribes remain(s) loyal to the house of David?

3. King Rehoboam musters his troops and plans war – Israelites against Israelites. Whose message is Shemaiah delivering when he says "...Go home, every one of you, for this is My doing?"

Extra credit: Locate the kingdoms of Judah and Israel, and their capitals of Jerusalem and Shechem on a map. Also locate the Northern Kingdom's worship centers of Bethel and Dan.

4. Read 12:28-33 and list the religious reforms which Jeroboam institutes.
5. What do these actions tell you of Jeroboam's reverence for the Lord of Israel?

Chapter 13

1. "By the word of the Lord" a man of God prophesies against Jeroboam's altar. A son from the house of David will cleanse the high places. What is the name of this son from the house of David?
2. How does Jeroboam respond to this statement from the man of God?
3. What sin led to the fall and destruction of the house of Jeroboam from the face of the earth?

Chapter 14

1. The prophet Ahijah has blunt words from God for Jeroboam (through Jeroboam's wife). Among them: "You have done _____ than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself _____, _____ made of metal; you have _____ and _____ behind your back."
2. The Lord predicts disaster for the house of Jeroboam. The Lord will uproot Israel from the good land that He gave to their forefathers. Where will God scatter them?
3. True or false: While Israel is involved in false worship in the north, Judah remains faithful to only the one true God in the south.

4. Name the king and country who attack Jerusalem during the reign of King Rehoboam.

5. Rate the kings of the south as good or bad. (See chapters 14-15.)

Rehoboam _____

Abijah _____

Asa _____

Chapter 15

1. Rate the kings of the north as good or bad. (See chapters 15-16.)

Jeroboam _____

Nadab _____

Baasha _____

Elah _____

Zimri _____

Omri _____

Ahab _____

Chapter 16

1. Summary:

a) What is the Northern Kingdom called?

b) How many tribes are with the Northern Kingdom?

c) Who is the first king of the Northern Kingdom?

d) What is the Southern Kingdom called?

e) How many tribes are with the Southern Kingdom?

f) Who is the first king of the Southern Kingdom?

g) Which of Israel's kings is the worst and why?

2. Whom does Ahab marry?

Chapter 17

1. Here's another familiar Sunday School character. Elijah proclaims a drought to King Ahab and then is told to go into hiding. Elijah goes to Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. What does Elijah eat and drink while hiding?
2. When the brook dries up, where does the Lord send Elijah?

Trick question: Is Sidon part of Israel or Judah?

3. What food miracle occurs for the widow and her household in Zarepheth?
4. What life and death miracle occurs in the widow's household?

Chapter 18

1. Even in the midst of an unfaithful nation, the Lord still has faithful followers. Who is the devout believer in charge of Ahab's palace?
2. Who tries to kill off the Lord's prophets?
3. Meanwhile, Ahab and Jezebel have supported 450 prophets of _____ and 400 prophets of _____.
4. Where is the showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal?
5. What methods do Baal's prophets use to summon Baal?
6. Does Baal answer?

7. Write out the rest of Elijah's prayer at the time of sacrifice: "Answer me, O Lord, answer me..."

8. How does the Lord respond to Elijah's first prayer?

9. Close your eyes and picture the fire consuming the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and the water. Then imagine the sound of the sacrifice burning and the people's response. Write out the people's response.

10. Elijah then prays fervently and what happens?

Chapter 19

1. Poor Elijah. Instead of repentance, Jezebel embraces revenge, and Elijah runs for his life. He ends up praying under a broom tree. What does he pray?

2. Ravens, then a widow's unending flour jar, and now how is Elijah fed?

3. Make a list of what Elijah sees/hears/feels as he waits for the Lord to pass by.

4. And the Lord is present in which one?

5. Elijah tells the Lord he is "the only one left." What is the Lord's response regarding His faithful in Israel?

6. Whom does Elijah call to succeed himself?

Chapter 20

1. The Lord proves His superiority through victory in the plains as well as the hills. Besides the casualties of 100,000 Aramean foot soldiers, how do an additional 27,000 die?

Chapter 21

1. Quite a couple! Choose one:
 - a) Ahab is bad.
 - b) Jezebel is bad.
 - c) both Ahab and Jezebel are bad.

2. What does the Lord say regarding Jezebel and dogs?

Chapter 22

1. Judah's king, Jehoshaphat, specifically asks for a "prophet of the Lord." How many "prophets of the Lord" does Ahab mention?

2. It's a pretty dramatic encounter. Whose death does Micaiah predict?

3. Good king/bad king – which is Jehoshaphat of Judah?

4. Good king/bad king – which is Ahaziah of Israel?

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