



# LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

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## FOUR-STEP METHOD

Living Way Bible Study suggests this four-step method:

1. PERSONAL - The student prays for guidance from the Holy Spirit and answers the Personal Application questions at home using only the Bible (no commentaries).
2. SMALL GROUPS – The class meets for an opening and divides into small groups of 8–10 people. The Small Group Leader guides the group through the P.A. questions encouraging each to share their answers and add discussion.
3. THE MESSAGE – The lecture or message is given by a Pastor or lay person who has researched the material and presents the study giving personal experiences and complimenting, but not merely duplicating, the author's comments.
4. THE NARRATIVE – The author's comments or narrative, along with the P.A. questions for the next lesson, are given out at the door as the student leaves the class. At the next class meeting, before answering the P.A. questions, the Small Groups review the author's comments of the last lesson, and share what each has high-lighted as meaningful or important.

The first meeting of the class is an introduction to the study. Since the members of the small groups have no PERSONAL APPLICATION questions to discuss at the first meeting, they may use the time to get acquainted or to tell what they hope to receive by studying this course. At the first meeting the Lecturer presents background information about the course using the INTRODUCTION lesson as a guide.

Each lesson should be stapled together using the number of the lesson in the right hand corner of the page. To keep the lessons in order check the Bible text listed at the top of each page. The PERSONAL APPLICATION questions are attached to the author's narrative and will be the home study for the next class session.

With this 4-step method the student has the opportunity to study the particular section of Scripture covered by this lesson from four different approaches. This emphasizes the Bible text and gives the student a feeling of understanding and ownership for each section studied.

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Bibliography:

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HALLEY'S COMMENTARY

WIERSBY'S EXPOSITORY OUTLINES ON THE OLD TESTAMENT

HOWARD F. VOS COMMENTARY

## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

### 1 KINGS

Lois Engelbart

#### Introduction

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people:” King Solomon (Proverbs 14:34).

The account of Judah and Israel’s kings and kingdoms exemplifies this Biblical truth. The two books of Kings speak more of the religious tone of both Israel and Judah (God’s chosen people), than they do of the political arena in which they lived. The separate kingdoms flourished as long as the people’s eyes and hearts were seeking God’s Word with a desire to obey it. But they fell when evil kings came to power and enticed the people to follow false gods.

Each time this happened, God removed His protecting, preserving Hand from His chosen people. He let them flounder until they returned to His decrees, sought His forgiveness, and again became His obedient, chosen children.

Studying this first book of Kings will increase our awareness of the spiritual condition which presently exists in our own beloved nation. There are parallels which will become evident: Parallels of godliness which once ruled our nation, and parallels of the evil which is at work to undermine the Christian heritage on which our nation was founded.

Throughout this first book of Kings, God never left His people. This fact shines though. God graciously provided His fallen people with the voice of His prophets speaking His Word of truth to them, calling them to repentance and back to Himself.

The same is true today. Amid the noise, clutter, false teachings, and often ungodly but persuasive magazine, radio, computer, and television analysts, the Word of God is being abased. But it is still being preached by faithful men of God to a degenerate society. Thankfully, it is also still being read and lived by many of God’s chosen people in our land. God has always retained a remnant that faithfully follows Him. We are a part of God’s remnant.

The book of 1 Kings begins with the closing chapter of King David’s life here on earth. One of David’s final acts as king of Israel was to secure his son Solomon as his rightful heir to the throne of Israel.

#### Authorship of 1 Kings

The author of First and Second Kings remains a mystery. Jewish tradition credits Jeremiah as its author. Whoever compiled the two books drew the material from other historical records. Three are mentioned in the pages of 1 Kings: “The book of the annals of Solomon” (11:41), “the book of the annals of the kings of Israel” (14:19), and “the book of the annals of the kings of Judah” (14:29).

As we study this book of 1 Kings, let us keep our eyes focused on its True Author. Saint Paul tells us that “all scripture is God-breathed.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

### Highlights of 1 Kings

Highlights of 1 Kings include:

1. The building of God’s temple here on earth, which David had worked toward and then desired be built by his son, Solomon.
2. The kingdom of Israel being split into two separate and competing kingdoms: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.
3. When evil became the rule of the land, God raised up His chosen prophet Elijah who, in the midst of every kind of evil, spoke God’s Word to God’s fallen people.

As the book of 1 Kings ends, Israel’s most infamous family, Ahab and Jezebel, rule over the kingdom of Israel. During the same time period, the kingdom of Judah was being ruled by godly Jehoshaphat. God was holding out His best to Judah, because they were following His Mosaic Covenant and submitting to His rule. Israel was not. While godliness abounded in Judah, evil abounded in Israel.

### Kingdoms and Kingships

As we study Israel’s good, bad, and vile kings, the standard which God’s Word set before them remained the same. The quality of kingship was based not on how talented each king’s leadership abilities were, nor on their personal charm and charisma. Rather: did they “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”?

Thousands of years have passed since 1 Kings was written, but God’s standards have not changed. He is still looking for people whose greatest desire is to love Him with all of their hearts, souls, and minds.

His call on our lives remains unchanged. Our God lovingly places His Hand on our lives and says, “I will have all of you.” It is when we submit to His rule over our lives that He bestows blessings on us.

David’s son Solomon succinctly portrays the events we will be studying in 1 Kings with these words, “The Lord’s curse is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous.” (Proverbs 3:33, 34) Both houses are daily set before us. Which house are you choosing to live in?

As long as we are living on this earth, kingdoms will rise and fall. But there is a kingdom which is rising and will never fall. The Apostle John saw it. It is the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. “There were loud voices in heaven which said, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever.’” (Revelation 11:15)

As we study the kingdoms which comprise 1 Kings, let us personally focus on the Eternal Kingdom which we who believe and confess Jesus as Lord are already a part of—now—and for ever and ever.

## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

## Personal Application

Heavenly Father, We have no King but You. Take up residence in our hearts and rule supreme. Fashion us into Your likeness as we daily read Your Word. Amen.

## 1 Kings 1:1-4

1. As we begin 1 Kings, David is an old man. What physical problem does he have, and how do his servants try to help him?

2. State your opinion of the solution which David's servants provided.

## 1 Kings 1:5-10

3. Compare David's son Adonijah with his deceased brother Absalom. (2 Samuel 15:1,10,12) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Adonijah not invite his brother Solomon to his coronation as king of Israel? (vs. 13, 1 Chronicles 28:1-7) \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Kings 1:11-14

5. Who became aware of Adonijah's plot, and with whom did he share this information? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What plan did Nathan propose and then set into motion? \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Kings 1:15-27

7. Describe Bathsheba's intercession with King David. \_\_\_\_\_
8. How would Bathsheba and Solomon be treated by Adonijah if he became king when King David died? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When the prophet Nathan arrived, what further information did he bring to King David? \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Kings 1:28-31

10. How did David verify that everything Bathsheba had said was true? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What did David acknowledge that the Lord had done for him? (vs. 29) Can you also say what David said? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

12. What statement made by Bathsheba indicated that she believed that we are eternal beings? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 1:32-39

13. Name the three men that David called for. What positions did they hold? What threefold office do we ascribe to Jesus, the "Son of David"? (Matthew 21:11, John 18:37, Hebrews 7:24)

14. What position of authority did Benaiah hold, and why was his presence necessary? (2 Samuel 23:22,23) \_\_\_\_\_
15. David wasted no time. Describe the plan which he set before the three men. How did they carry out the king's plan? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 1:40-46

16. Describe how the people reacted when they heard that David had made Solomon their king. What effect did this have on Adonijah's presumptuous celebration? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 1:47-49

17. King David was nearing the end of his life. Apparently he was carried to his son Solomon on a stretcher. What two sentences, spoken by David, are recorded for us to read? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Kings 1:50-53

18. Upon hearing of Solomon's kingship being finalized, what did Adonijah do? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What request did Adonijah make of his brother, King Solomon? \_\_\_\_\_
20. The name Solomon means "peaceful". How did Solomon show himself to be a man of peace when addressing Adonijah? \_\_\_\_\_
21. What did Jesus, the "Son of David" say about peacemakers? (Matthew 5:9) Share with your class a time when you were a peacemaker. \_\_\_\_\_
22. While King Solomon's answer was merciful, he did state conditions which Adonijah must meet if he was to live in Solomon's kingdom of peace. Name the conditions. \_\_\_\_\_
23. When Adonijah appeared before Solomon, what outward act of respect did he show to Solomon? How was he dismissed? \_\_\_\_\_

## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

## 1 KINGS

Lois Engelbart

## King David's Last Days: 1 Kings 1:1-4

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4 KJV) David had written these words many years earlier. Now he was living them. Death was standing at his door. He was elderly and cold and no number of blankets could warm his aged body.

Sadly, those watching over the dying king decided he would be helped by placing a beauty contest winner next to him in his bed. But sexual desire was no longer a part of David's life. His only desire now was to be with the Lord, whom he had worshiped for so many years.

Abishag was the beautiful young woman chosen to be with David. Apparently, Abishag had also developed inner beauty. She willingly became David's caregiver and nurse.

## Adonijah Attempts to take his Father's Throne: 1 Kings 1:5-10

As David lay dying, Nathan's prophecy was again seeing fulfillment. "Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you." (2 Samuel 12:11) Adonijah, who was now King David's oldest son, saw his father lying in bed, unable to carry out the duties of his kingship and decided, "I will be king." Apparently he had admired his deceased older brother's style of living, and now emulated it. He presented himself to the people much the same as Absalom had done. He rode through the streets of Jerusalem in a carriage with fifty men running ahead of him announcing his coming. His name, Adonijah (Jehovah is my Lord), belied his lifestyle.

Hundreds of years later, when the sinless "Son of David" came to this earth to pay our sin debt, he did not ride in a carriage. He walked the dusty streets of Israel with a handful of followers, healing the sick, preaching repentance, and announcing forgiveness to even the worst of sinners. This world's glory held no place in Jesus' heart.

Adonijah had set his own political machine in motion. Joab, the head of Israel's military forces, accepted the invitation to his coronation. Abiathar, the chief priest, who had the authority to anoint Israel's kings also attended. Most of King David's extended family was also invited. Solomon and Bathsheba were the exception. They were not invited.

## Nathan and Bathsheba Request an Audience with King David: 1 Kings 1:11-14

While Adonijah's royal festivities were going on, there was an important meeting taking place at the palace. The prophet Nathan, and Bathsheba, had sought an audience with King David. Their mission was intercession on behalf of Solomon. Bathsheba

reminded her aged husband of the promise he had made years earlier: that Solomon would become the next king.

#### Bathsheba Intercedes with King David: 1 Kings 1:15-21

Bathsheba approached David first. She came with great humility as she knelt before her husband, the king. Bathsheba's approach to King David provides us with an excellent example of intercessory prayer.

1. She bowed low and knelt before the king.
2. She addressed him as her "Lord."
3. She reminded him of his promise.
4. She informed him of the evil plot Adonijah was attempting to carry out.
5. She appealed for *his* decision, not hers.
6. She reminded him of the consequences she and their son would face if no action was taken.

#### Nathan Addresses King David: 1 Kings 1:22-27

While Bathsheba was speaking to King David, Nathan arrived, bowed low before the king, and verified her words. Bathsheba and Nathan were prayer partners. Their intercession was based on God's Word which had been promised to them. It was not based on selfish desire.

We, like Bathsheba and Nathan, should know the will of the Lord and then pray in accord with it. There are times when we may have to wait for the Lord's answer. Bathsheba had waited many years for this promise (that her son Solomon would become king), to see fulfillment. But God, in His time, allowed her to see it.

Bathsheba ended her intercession as she had begun. She bowed low before the king and kneeling, said "May my Lord, King David, live forever." Eternity was written in Bathsheba's heart. (vs. 31)

#### David Proclaims Solomon King: 1 Kings 1:28-40

King David's answer was certain and immediate. It was all that Nathan and Bathsheba had hoped for:

- Call Zadok the Priest...
- Call Nathan the prophet..., and
- Call Benaiah my personal bodyguard.
- Set Solomon on my own royal mule.
- Take the horn of oil from the sacred tent.
- Anoint Solomon king over Israel.
- Blow the trumpet.
- Place Solomon on my throne.
- He will reign in my place.

Sadly, many of the king's appointed cabinet members were missing King Solomon's coronation since they were attending the wrong event.

When the Son of David walked this earth He told a story about ten virgins. Five were prepared when the call came, “Here’s the bridegroom, come out and meet him.” But five were unprepared. They missed the “wedding banquet of the Bridegroom.”

Jesus’ story tells us how important it is that we constantly stay prepared for the Lord’s coming by remaining in His Word, so that our hearts are filled with God’s Holy Spirit.

- Zadok the priest anointed Solomon king over Israel.
- The trumpet sounded, announcing Israel’s new king.
- Flutes played joyful music.
- The people shouted “Long live King Solomon.”
- There was such rejoicing that the ground shook.

King David, although bedridden, bowed before his son Solomon and said with joy in his failing heart, “Praise be to the Lord...who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today.”

#### Adonijah’s Plot Fails: 1 Kings 1:41-51

Adonijah’s hidden agenda—to usurp the throne—was still taking place. But the tumult of the celebration declaring Solomon king brought an abrupt halt to Adonijah’s plot. Panic seized Adonijah. He ran to God’s tabernacle and grabbed hold of the horns on the altar. Adonijah ran—frantically seeking God’s protection. Love of God did not bring him to God’s tabernacle. Only great fear drove him to God’s house. Adonijah grasped the horns of the altar for protection. His desperate prayer was “Help.”

#### Solomon Shows Clemency to his Brother Adonijah: 1 Kings 1:52, 53

When Solomon was told that Adonijah was clinging to the horns of the altar—fearing for his life—he showed him kindness. His gift to his erring brother was mercy, tempered with God’s law. He gave him a second chance.

Adonijah, who had tried to take the throne by deception, now bowed low before his brother Solomon, who had been promised the throne by their father and the Lord Himself. Adonijah trembled because he knew that Solomon, the rightful heir to Israel’s throne, now occupied it.

The day is coming when each of us will bow before the ONE righteous King, Jesus, in humiliation and adoration.

#### Conclusion

David may have been writing about his son Adonijah when he wrote, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”(Psalm 53:1) Adonijah had failed to acknowledge God in all of his misplaced plans. He had failed to seek the Lord’s direction. In fact, he had placed himself above the Word of the Lord. Sadly he had many followers who similarly did not care what the Word of God said.

Our nation today is filled with “Adonijahs,” who snub God’s Word—mock it—ignore it—willfully choose to disobey it—and place themselves above it. Many of these “Adonijahs” occupy high positions in our land.

We who are followers of the Lord have a calling to be “Nathans” and “Bathshebas,” who intercede for God’s godly chosen leaders to rise and govern our nation with wisdom and righteousness.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, Bring to naught the “Adonijahs” in our land, who do not listen to Your Word. In Your mercy, place “Solomons” in high positions; men whose desire it is to live God-pleasing lives which glorify You. Bring spiritual healing to our nation. Bless our land and again make us into a “people of God.” We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

## Personal Application

Lord Jesus, Thank You that You are preparing a place for me right now in heaven. I anxiously await Your return so that I can be with You forever. Amen.

## 1 Kings 2:1-4

1. What did David pray in Psalm 61:4?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How was David's prayer about to be fulfilled?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who did David call to his bedside? \_\_\_\_\_
4. List at least four things which David requested that Solomon do.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Which request of David do you consider to be of greatest importance? State why. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What promise was given to Solomon if he followed David's advice?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What condition was attached to David's promise of future kingships?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Which part of David's promise to Solomon also applies to each of us? (Psalm 1:1-3)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Kings 2:5, 6

9. What sin had Joab committed twice? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How and why did Joab kill Abner? (2 Samuel 3:27, 30)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. David sang at Abner's funeral. Read the words of his lament and comment on them. (2 Samuel 3:33, 34)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Describe Joab's murder of Amasa. (2 Samuel 20:9,10)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What did David ask his son Solomon to do to Joab?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Kings 2:7

14. Who was Solomon to show kindness to and why? (2 Samuel 19:31-37)

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## 1 Kings 2:8, 9

15. Describe Shimei's treatment of David as he was leaving Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 16:6-8)

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16. Why might Shimei have acted so cruelly toward David? (2 Samuel 16:5)

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17. Why had David stopped Abishai from killing Shimei? (2 Samuel 16:10)

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18. How had Shimei approached David when David was returning to Jerusalem? (2 Samuel 19:16-23)

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19. What instruction did David give to his son Solomon regarding Shimei?

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20. David had forgiven both Joab and Shimei. State your opinion of why he now wanted them eliminated.

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## 1 Kings 2:10-12

21. Barzillai had left David standing at the Jordan. (2 Samuel 19:39) Where did the two friends now meet?

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22. Are you prepared to cross over into God's Jordan? Explain.

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23. How long had David reigned as king over all of Israel? (2 Samuel 5:5)

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