

1 Kings: The Strengths and Struggles of Leaders

"The titles of these books are certainly descriptive of their contents: the history of the kings and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. First and Second Kings are part of a larger body of the Old Testament known as the 12 Historical Books (Joshua-Esther). Originally, the books were just one book."

David Jeremiah – "First Kings tells how one nation became two. It also tells one segment of the rise and fall of prophets, priests, and kings in Israel-all of which set the stage for the perfect Prophet, Priest, and King to come: Jesus. Before Jesus stepped onto earth's stage, however, the greatest Old Testament prophet of all marched onto the scene and into the ministry of renewal in Israel's darkest hour."

1. It's _____ to pursue leadership positions without God's call and blessings.

1 Kings 1:5 – *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.*

2. The time is _____ to speak God's truth into the lives of future leaders.

1 Kings 2:1-4 – *When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 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, 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.'*

3. The way a leader _____ reveals his or her heart for the Lord and other people.

1 Kings 3:5-9 – *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"*

4. God's people need to understand the difference between _____ and _____ promises.

1 Kings 6:11-13 – Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, “Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel.”

5. God’s people need to be _____, _____, and _____.

1 Kings 8:57-61 – The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.”

6. The story of a leader who _____ and later _____ is all too common.

1 Kings 11:6 – So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.

7. It’s powerful to be in a place and see God reveal His _____ and _____.

1 Kings 18:36-39 – And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”

8. God’s servants need to understand the _____ ups and downs of ministry.

1 Kings 19:4 – But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”

9. It’s always wise to _____ the Lord and His Word _____.

1 Kings 22:5 – And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Inquire first for the word of the Lord.”

1 Kings: The Strengths and Struggles of Leaders

"The titles of these books are certainly descriptive of their contents: the history of the kings and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. First and Second Kings are part of a larger body of the Old Testament known as the 12 Historical Books (Joshua-Esther). Originally, the books were just one book."

David Jeremiah – "First Kings tells how one nation became two. It also tells one segment of the rise and fall of prophets, priests, and kings in Israel—all of which set the stage for the perfect Prophet, Priest, and King to come: Jesus. Before Jesus stepped onto earth's stage, however, the greatest Old Testament prophet of all marched onto the scene and into the ministry of renewal in Israel's darkest hour."

1. It's **dangerous** to pursue leadership positions without God's call and blessings.

1 Kings 1:5 – *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.*

2. The time is **urgent** to speak God's truth into the lives of future leaders.

1 Kings 2:1-4 – *When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, 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, 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.'*

3. The way a leader **prays** reveals his or her heart for the Lord and other people.

1 Kings 3:5-9 – *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"*

4. God's people need to understand the difference between **conditional** and **unconditional** promises.

1 Kings 6:11-13 – Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, “Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel.”

5. God’s people need to be **encouraged**, **reminded**, and **challenged**.

1 Kings 8:57-61 – The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other. Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.”

6. The story of a leader who **soared** and later **stumbled** is all too common.

1 Kings 11:6 – So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.

7. It’s powerful to be in a place and see God reveal His **power** and **glory**.

1 Kings 18:36-39 – And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”

8. God’s servants need to understand the **emotional** ups and downs of ministry.

1 Kings 19:4 – But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”

9. It’s always wise to **seek** the Lord and His Word **first**.

1 Kings 22:5 – And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Inquire first for the word of the Lord.”