

**BIG WORD: 1 Kings**  
Homework for Chapters 1—4  
Discussion Dates: 23 January 2013 (in house)  
and 24 January 2013 (online)

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**DAY ONE: Overview**

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 1 Kings 1—4.

If possible, read all four chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

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**DAY TWO: Adonijah's Opportunity**

READ: 1 Kings 1:1—10.

Describe David's condition.

What arrangements had been made for his succession or continued governance?

Who was Adonijah?

READ 2 Samuel 3:2—5.

Where does Adonijah fall in the birth order of David's sons?

Why would he assume he was the next king?

Consider the sons born before him. Where were they? Describe what brought each to that status. (*You may need to visit some passages in 2 Samuel for the history.*)

- Amnon (2 Samuel 13—14)
- Kileab/Daniel (no other mention in Scripture)
- Absalom (2 Samuel 15—18)

Who supported Adonijah? (*See verses 7—9.*)

Which of these names held significance and granted him credibility? How so?

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### **DAY THREE: Solomon Anointed King**

READ 1 Kings 1:11—40.

Who opposed Adonijah? Why?

What actions did they take?

What was David's response?

Adonijah had gathered his supporters at En-Rogel, just outside of Jerusalem. David, however, organized a coronation party 25 miles away. Where?

Why is this location significant?

READ: 1 Kings 1:41—53.

How did Adonijah respond to the surprise coronation?

How did Solomon treat his brother?

Did Adonijah do anything wrong? Why should his younger brother be given the crown instead of him?

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#### **DAY FOUR: David's Charge**

READ 1 Kings 2:1—12.

What advice did David give his son about being king?

READ Deuteronomy 17:14—20.

These were the laws pertaining to kings. What harmonious theme do you recognize between these laws and David's advice?

David also had some specific instructions regarding loose ends within the kingdom. What did he say regarding the following people?

- Joab
  
- Barzillai
  
- Shimei

These seem like old grudges. Why wait until now to address them? Why ask Solomon to do it?

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**DAY FIVE: Solomon's Kingdom Confirmed**

READ 1 Kings 2:13—25.

Adonijah rises again. This time he employs the king's mother, Bathsheba, in his efforts. What was his request?

Why would this offend the new king?

From this exchange, what do we learn about Solomon's relationship with his mother?

READ 1 Kings 2:26—3:1.

Upon the sentencing of Adonijah, something seems to awaken within Solomon. He truly seizes the throne. As his need for closure becomes urgent, he immediately begins completing the tasks to which his father charged him. Describe this section. What reactions might the people have had?

Were these acts beneficial or detrimental to Solomon and the kingdom? How so?

Once Solomon's kingship is secure and his sovereignty established, he takes a wife. Do you see any red flags here?

### **DAY SIX: The Wisdom of Solomon**

READ: 1 Kings 3:2—28 and 2 Chronicles 1:1—13.

This is likely the best-known story of Solomon's life. Most of you have read it before. What stands out to you this time, perhaps a detail previously overlooked?

Even though it was clearly illegal, the king (according to the record we have) says nothing about these women's profession. What do you think about that?

Do you find it odd that they would approach the king knowing their professions deemed them worthy of stoning?

What do you think this says about Solomon? About his relationship with the people?

READ Proverbs 2:1—7 and 3:14—24.

We all know that Solomon gave the "right" answer to God's offer, but I wonder how many of us would honestly make the same choice without the foreknowledge of this story. Wisdom is immeasurably valuable, but too often we place a low price on it.

How can we, in today's society, pursue and uphold wisdom?

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### **DAY SEVEN: Solomon's Administration**

READ 1 Kings 4:1—34 and 2 Chronicles 1:14—17.

David ran his kingdom almost by committee. He had his three most trusted confidants, his commander and then his thirty Mighty Men. Solomon seems to take administration to a whole new level.

Describe the hierarchies within Solomon's government.

Why do you think all these names and appointments are so specifically listed in Scripture? What might we learn from this passage?

Referring back to the kingly instructions in Deuteronomy 17, how would you say Solomon is doing so far?

What do you make of his riches? Would you say he is blessed by God?

Do material riches automatically equal blessings?

READ Matthew 6:24—34.

Consider together God's promises here, the extent of His love and provision for us, with the wealth accumulated by Solomon. How does this make you feel?

Does it alter your perspectives on current life? Your perspectives of God? How so?