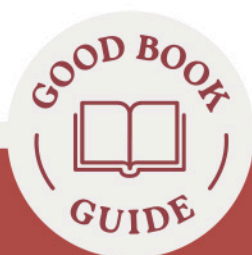


Tim Chester

1 Kings

The Power of God's Word



 6-Session Bible Study

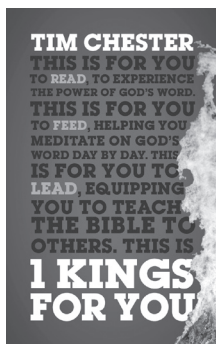
Tim Chester

1 Kings

The Power of God's Word



✔ 6-Session Bible Study



1 Kings For You

These studies are adapted from *1 Kings For You*. If you are reading *1 Kings For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *1 Kings For You*:

Study 1 > Ch 1-2

Study 2 > Ch 3

Study 3 > Ch 4-5

Study 4 > Ch 6

Study 5 > Ch 7-8

Study 6 > Ch 10

Find out more about *1 Kings For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

1 Kings: The Power of God's Word

A Good Book Guide

© Tim Chester/The Good Book Company, 2026.

Published by The Good Book Company

thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk

thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz

the good book
COMPANY

Unless indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 2011 Biblica. Used by permission.

All emphases in Bible quotations added by the author.

Every book published by The Good Book Company has been written by a human author and edited by a human editor. While AI tools are sometimes used to assist with research and support certain processes, all content has been created by a human author and thoroughly checked by our editorial team to ensure it is biblically faithful and pastorally wise.

Tim Chester has asserted his right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as author of this work.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781802541465 | JOB-008567 | Printed in Turkey

Contents

Introduction	4
Why Study 1 Kings?	5
1. A New King <i>1 Kings 1 – 3</i>	7
2. A Place for God's Name <i>1 Kings 5 – 8</i>	13
3. Obey or Disobey <i>1 Kings 9 – 11</i>	19
4. Death and Life <i>1 Kings 13, 17</i>	25
5. Praying for Fire <i>1 Kings 18 – 19</i>	31
6. Ahab's End <i>1 Kings 22</i>	37
Leader's Guide	43



Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study 1 Kings?

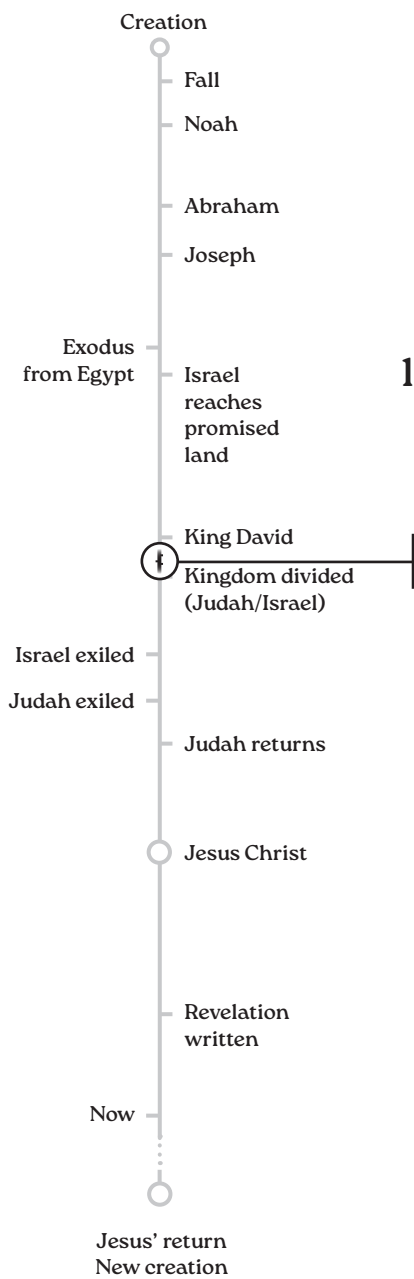
The message of 1 Kings is a message for our times. Today, as Christians, we increasingly find ourselves on the margins of the culture. Our beliefs and ethics are no longer mainstream. As people scorn our views, we find ourselves asking, *What's going on? Is God powerless to intervene or has he abandoned us? Why has the Lord done such a thing?*

The situation in which 1 Kings was written was not dissimilar. It tells the story of the kings who came after King David. Things start well enough with King Solomon, who builds a temple as a sign of God's presence among his people. But then things go from bad to worse. With just one or two exceptions, the kings do not rule well. The kingdom divides into two as a result of human misrule and divine judgment.

1 Kings was probably written during the Babylonian exile. So, it's not hard to guess what the first audience of the book of Kings are thinking or the questions they are asking. *What's going on? How did we end up in exile and will we ever get home? Is God powerless to intervene or has he abandoned us? Why has the Lord done such a thing?*

The message of 1 Kings is that God's word is powerful. What God says will happen is what happens—not simply because God is good at predicting the future, but because it is God's word that shapes history. If God's word is powerful, then his word of promise is also certain. And that means there is hope, a hope found in a coming king from David's line, King Jesus.

This is a message we need to hear today. Though it doesn't always look like it, history is shaped by God's word. What we see on the surface, as it were, is the church being marginalised and our faith being ridiculed. But running through the undercurrents of history is God's word, still alive and at work in the world today. Both God's word of judgment and God's word of promise are certain, and history is heading to their fulfilment—the victory of Jesus and the vindication of his people. That means we need to shape our lives by God's word.



1 Kings 970 - 853 BC

- 970 Solomon becomes king
- 966 The temple is built
- 930 Kingdom divided (Judah/Israel)
- 836 Elijah on Mount Carmel
- 853 King Ahab dies

1

A New King

1 Kings 1 – 3

Talkabout

1. Have you ever been promised something, but it didn't happen? How did you feel about the person who made the promise?

Investigate

In 2 Samuel 7, God promised King David that his offspring would succeed him and the throne of his kingdom would be established for ever. The original audience for 1 Kings needed to remember that promise. 1 Kings was probably written when the Israelites were in exile, their kingdom dismantled. They must have been wondering whether God's promise was really trustworthy.

 **Read 1 Kings 1:1-15**

DICTIONARY

Adonijah (v 5): one of David's sons.

Priest (v 7): a man responsible for offering sacrifices to God and teaching God's law.

Prophet (v 8): a man who shared God's word with the people.

Sacrificed (v 9): killed an animal as an offering to God.

2. How do you get the sense that David has lost his power in this passage?

- Verses 1-4

- Verses 5-10

- Verses 11-15

3. Why would David's loss of power have been concerning to the people at the time? And to the original audience of 1 Kings?

We pick up the story after Bathsheba and Nathan have informed the king of what's happening.

 **Read 1 Kings 1:29-51**

DICTIONARY

Oath (v 29): a declaration calling on God as witness.

Prostrating herself (v 31): bowing deeply.

Anoint (v 34): pour oil over someone's head to show they have been chosen for a particular role.

Dispersed (v 49): scattered.

4. Summarise what happens next.

- Verses 29-35

- Verses 38-40

- Verses 41-50

5. It is often hard for us to make sense of the events of history. But what is happening in all the ups and downs of Israel's politics according to 2:12, 24, 45, 46?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

 **Read 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Luke 1:31-33**

- What is it about the promise in 2 Samuel that makes it seem difficult or impossible for God to keep?
- Why would it have been important for the Israelites in exile to read 1 Kings and see an example of God establishing David's throne?
- Who is the ultimate fulfilment of the promise in 2 Samuel 7? What does this prove about God's promises?

Apply

Ultimately, God's promise to David is fulfilled not in Solomon but in Jesus. One day, Jesus will come again to rule as the perfect King for all eternity.

Even knowing this, we can sometimes act like Jesus is not really coming or God is not really in control. Like Adonijah, we might actively resist Jesus' rule. Or we might simply struggle to trust God's promises.

6. When is it particularly hard for us to trust in God's rule?

- What do we need to remind ourselves of in these situations?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Jesus is the King who gave his life to redeem his people, and whose reign brings freedom and peace.

Think about your own life. Is it marked by submission to or rejection of the rule of King Jesus? Try to think of 2-3 clear examples to support your answer.

Investigate

 **Read 1 Kings 2:1-4**

7. What kind of king does David want Solomon to be? How easy do you think it will be for Solomon to achieve this?

 **Read 1 Kings 3:4-14**

DICTIONARY

High place (v 4): a local shrine used to worship God.

Burnt offerings (v 4): a type of sacrifice.

Discerning (v 9): wise, having good judgement.

8. What does Solomon's description of himself and his request for wisdom demonstrate about him?
9. Why does Solomon need wisdom?
10. Why do you think God promises to give Solomon more than he asked for?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

What would you ask for if you could have anything you wanted? Would it help you live well in your current circumstances? What about if you asked for wisdom—how might that transform how you live?

Solomon's wisdom is immediately put to the test...

 **Read 1 Kings 3:16-28**

DICTIONARY

Verdict (v 28): a formal decision.

Justice (v 28): distinguishing between right and wrong and taking action.

11. Why is this situation so difficult? Can you think of a different way of solving it?

- How do people respond to Solomon's verdict and why?

Apply

Solomon's wisdom is so remarkable, it can only come from God. We need to seek wisdom from God too—trusting in his word instead of our own perceptions or the opinions of the world around us.

12. Read 1 Kings 4:34. What are the missionary consequences of living according to God's wisdom?

- Can you think of contemporary examples of people being attracted to God through the wise life lived by his people?

Pray

Praise God for providing a wise, good and powerful King in Jesus.

Pray for wisdom for your government, and for any Christians you know of who are in leadership positions.

Share any difficult situations you are facing and ask God for wisdom together.

1 Kings

The Power of God's Word

1 Kings is the story of God's powerful word at work in the history of his people from Solomon to Ahab. More than that, it helps us follow our better King, Jesus Christ.

Every session in this Good Book Guide will draw you to look closely at the Bible text and apply it meaningfully to your everyday life. It includes questions that open up discussion, optional personal reflections, and a full Leader's Guide.

Flexible and easy to use, Good Book Guides are perfect for both groups and individuals.



6-Session Bible Study



**Good
Book
Guide**

the good book
COMPANY

thegoodbook.com | .co.uk

ISBN 978-1-80254-146-5



9 781802 541465

Biblical Studies / Bible Study Guides