

## The Book of 1 Kings

# 13

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we start reading the book of **1 Kings**. Like **1 Samuel** and **2 Samuel**, **1 Kings** and **2 Kings** originally comprised just one book in the Hebrew Scriptures – the book of **Kings**. The book of **1 Kings** is really a continuation of **2 Samuel**. In fact, **Samuel** and **Kings** could easily be viewed as one continuing narrative.

**1 Kings** picks up the story at the close of David’s life and traces the royal succession following David’s death through to the time of Elijah. **2 Kings** continues the story right up the time of Israel’s exile in Babylon.

The author of **Kings** drew his historical material from a number of official sources, such as “the book of the annals of Solomon” (**1 Kings 11:41**), “the book of the annals of the kings of Judah” (**1 Kings 14:19**), “the book of the annals of the kings of Israel” (**1 Kings 14:29**) and numerous other documents. It is likely that the author compiled and edited the material of **Kings** not long after the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar.

No one knows the identity of the author of the twin-book of **Kings**, although some have suggested Jeremiah. Regardless of the author’s identity, his objective was clearly two-fold. Firstly, he wanted to provide an accurate picture of Israel’s history, focused on the kingly succession. And secondly, he wanted to paint a clear picture of Israel’s failure to keep her covenant with God, and thus explain the reason for the fall of Jerusalem and exile in Babylon.

**1 Kings** can be divided into three main sections:

- **Chapters 1-11** – The united kingdom (under Solomon’s rule)
- **Chapters 12-16** – The early divided kingdom
- **Chapters 17-22** – The ministry of Elijah

Let’s pull up a comfortable chair and read **1 Kings 1-11** in one sitting. Note particularly how Solomon fulfills the prophecy of **Deuteronomy 17:16-17**.

# Memory Verse

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:6-7

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!