

# The First Book of the Kings

## Chapter 1

When King David was very old and near the end of his life, Absalom's brother Adonijah plotted to become king.

The prophet Nathan therefore advised Bathsheba to go to David and remind him that he had promised to let Bathsheba's son Solomon become king.

David then summoned the priests and royal guards and ordered them and Nathan to anoint Solomon as king.

Dear God, please give the world good leaders

## Chapter 2

Before King David died, he encouraged his son Solomon to love the Lord with all his heart and soul.

Solomon executed his main enemies and rivals, including Adonijah who had again plotted to become king.

Solomon then was secure and safe as king.

Dear God, thank you for the life of David who, despite his faults, loved you with all his heart

## Chapter 3

The Lord appeared to King Solomon in a dream and said "Ask me for anything you'd like."

Solomon asked for wisdom: "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil."

God replied: "I now give you a heart full of wisdom, wisdom greater than anyone else has ever had.

And I also give you what you did not ask for:  
riches and glory and long life."

Not long after this, two prostitutes came for judgement:  
they lived in the same house and both had given birth  
to a son, but one of the babies died during the night.

The mother of the dead baby changed babies  
during the same night  
and claimed that the living baby was hers.

Solomon asked for a sword to cut the living baby in two  
and give half to each mother.

The lying woman agreed, but the real mother said  
"No. Don't kill the baby. Give it to the other woman."

Solomon then knew the real mother was telling the truth  
and gave the baby to her.

For wisdom such as this, Solomon's reputation spread far.

Dear Lord, please give me more wisdom for my life

## Chapters 4, 5

Solomon enjoyed peace with all his neighbouring countries.  
He was blessed by God  
with great wisdom and understanding.

He composed 3,000 proverbs and 1,000 songs.  
People from all nations went to hear Solomon's wisdom.  
Solomon made preparations for  
building a temple for the Lord.

Hiram, king of Tyre, made a treaty with Solomon.  
Hiram provided wood for building the temple.

Dear God, please help all nations  
live peacefully with each other

## Chapters 6, 7

Solomon built the temple of the Lord with finest wood and many precious materials.

The temple took 7 years to build.

Solomon also built a palace for himself.

This took 13 years to build.

Dear God, may all temples and churches in the world  
be places of prayer and peace

## Chapters 8, 9

When the temple was finished,

Solomon shifted the Sacred Chest to the temple.

After the Chest was placed in the temple,  
the glorious cloud of the Lord filled the temple.

Solomon then praised God and blessed the people.

Solomon prayed that

the temple would be a place of blessings.

Solomon also prayed that all the peoples of the world  
would come to know the Lord from whom all life comes.

The Lord again appeared to Solomon and said:

"I will be near to all who enter the temple you have built."

Dear God, may all temples and churches in the world  
be places where people praise and love you

## Chapter 10

Solomon's wealth continued to grow.

He acquired a fleet of ships for trading.

He also had a huge force of chariots and horses.

The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's wisdom  
and came to visit him.

Solomon answered all her questions.

None of her questions was too difficult for him.

Dear Lord, please give wisdom to all world leaders

## Chapter 11

Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines.

Many of these women were foreigners.

As Solomon grew old, his foreign women swayed his heart to allow the worship of foreign idols.

This displeased the Lord and led to the breakup of Solomon's kingdom.

Solomon was king for 40 years and then died.

Dear God, please protect leaders from corruption

## Chapters 12 – 16

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. The people asked Rehoboam not to be harsh like Solomon. Solomon had imposed heavy taxes, enforced labor etc.

Rehoboam asked the elders for advice.

They said "Treat the people kindly and they will serve you."

Rehoboam asked his peers for advice.

They said "Treat the people more harshly than your father."

Rehoboam accepted the advice of his peers.

Therefore the people of Israel rejected him as king.

Only the people of Judah accepted him.

The people of Israel made Jeroboam king.

He had previously led an unsuccessful revolt against Solomon.

Rehoboam and Jeroboam died and were succeeded by various kings who ruled over Judah and Israel.

Dear God, please help leaders be kind to their people

## Chapter 17

When Ahab was king of Israel, in the 9th century B.C., Elijah was a prophet of the Lord.

Elijah told Ahab there would be no rain for a long time because the people were following the cult of Baal.

Elijah did miracles in the name of the Lord: he blessed a poor widow's food to make it increase, and he brought back to life a young boy who had died.

Dear God, please bless our prayers  
as you blessed the prayers of Elijah

## Chapter 18

In the 3rd year of drought, the Lord sent Elijah to speak to Ahab.

Elijah got Ahab to gather all the people and all the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to produce fire to consume a sacrificed bull.

Elijah mocked the false prophets as they ranted and raved and cut themselves, but produced no fire for their bull.

Then Elijah got the people to pour water on his bull and he prayed to God to hear his prayer.

A fire from heaven then consumed the bull and the people acknowledged the Lord as God.

Elijah then told Ahab there would soon be rain, and the sky grew dark and produced torrents of rain.

Dear God, please help people not to follow false gods

## Chapter 19

Elijah once spent a night in a cave.

The Lord then told him to stand at the mouth of the cave.

Then there was a mighty wind that shattered trees and rocks.

But the Lord was not in the wind.

Then there was an earthquake.

But the Lord was not in the earthquake.

Then there was a gentle breeze.

And the Lord was in the breeze.

Not long after this

Elijah called Elisha to become his follower.

Dear Lord, please help us be aware  
of your presence in our lives

## Chapters 20, 21

King Ahab wanted the vineyard of Naboth,  
but Naboth refused to sell his ancestral inheritance.

Ahab's wife Jezebel then had Naboth murdered  
and Ahab took the vineyard.

The prophet Elijah confronted Ahab for his crime.

Ahab then repented of his crime.

Dear God, please help us respect other people's property

## Chapter 22

Some false prophets encouraged the king of Israel  
and the king of Judah to go to war.

Micah, a true prophet of the Lord,  
warned the kings not to go to war.

The men of Israel and Judah were defeated in the war.

Ahab, the king of Israel, died in the war.

Dear Lord, please don't let false prophets deceive the world