

**God's Masterwork, Volume Two**  
**The Story of God's People — A Survey of Joshua – Esther**  
1 Kings: Solomon and a Civil War  
*A SURVEY OF 1 KINGS*



## The Heart of the Matter

One of the haunting perils of leadership is the great divorce between what happens at the office and what happens at home. Many a man and many a woman may hit a home run at the office, but what good is it if they strike out at home? This is the dilemma Solomon faced as he rose to the position of king over Israel. Blessed with a wonderful opportunity for success for both nation and family, Solomon did justice to neither. The national success Solomon achieved during his reign proved to be fool's gold; it all crumbled under the inept leadership of his son and the descendants that followed. Solomon's failures to lead in the home eventually impacted his nation—a sad demise to a once great nation.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Dividing the Book

The first half of 1 Kings portrays Israel united under the rule of one man. The second half of the book traces the nation divided and under the rule of many men.

### 2. Glorious Solomon to Disrupted Nation

The book of 1 Kings begins by tracking the rise of Solomon and Israel to a position of great power and influence. However, as the king faltered near the end of his life, the nation fell into war and immorality.

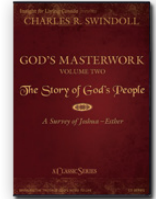


## Starting Your Journey

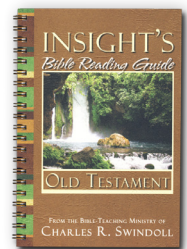
Four enduring lessons come out of our study of this book. First, unchecked, sinful bents are passed from parent to child. Second, we are most vulnerable when we least expect it. Third, God always has the right person to match the hour. And finally, when life seems especially dark, God comes especially close to His followers.



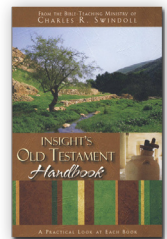
## Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork  
Volume Two  
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of Joshua–Esther  
by Charles R. Swindoll



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### FIRST KINGS

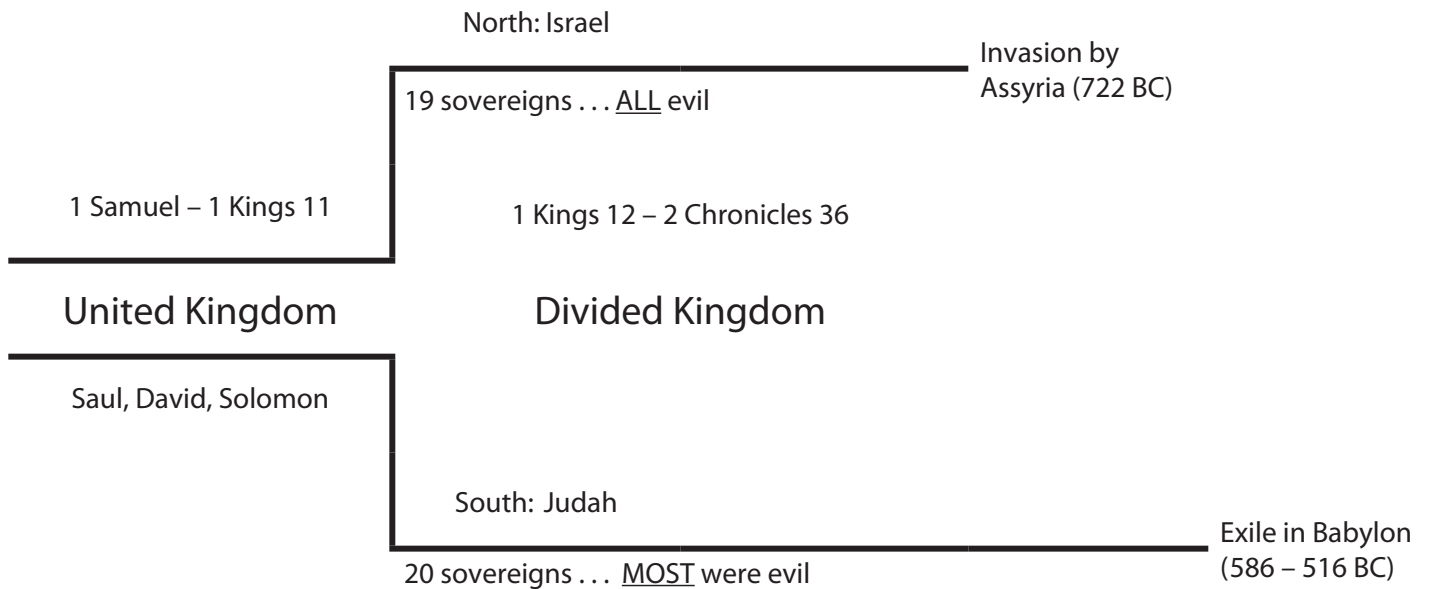
POLITICALLY David succeeded by Solomon  NATIONALLY Kingdom united  ECONOMICALLY Solid and secure  SPIRITUALLY Shaky	<b>Solomon</b> <b>“In all his glory”</b> <b>(Luke 12:27)</b>  Crowned and inaugurated (1–2) Married and exalted (3–4) Temple erected and dedicated (5–8) Warned and blessed (9–10)  CHAPTERS 1–10	<b>Decline and Demise</b>          CHAPTER 11	<b>Disruption</b> <b>“A kingdom divided against itself”</b> <b>(Mark 3:24)</b>  Internal conflict and hostility (12–14) Civil war and idolatry (15–16) Ahab and Elijah (17–22) “He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done” (22:53).  CHAPTERS 12–22	POLITICALLY King after king  NATIONALLY Kingdom divided  ECONOMICALLY Unstable  SPIRITUALLY Empty
<b>Time</b>	40 years		80 years	
<b>Kingdom</b>	United and strong		Divided and weak	
<b>People</b>	Solomon		Jeroboam to Ahaziah Rehoboam to Jehoshaphat	
<b>Identity</b>	“All Israel . . . sons of Israel”		North: Israel; Samaria; Ephraim South: Judah; Jerusalem	
<b>Theme</b>	Spiritual and moral decay lead to destruction.			
<b>Key Verses</b>	9:3–9; 11:11–13			
<b>Christ in 1 Kings</b>	Solomon's wisdom, which foreshadows Him who “became to us wisdom from God” (1 Corinthians 1:30); the prophetic ministry and miracles of Elijah			

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### SURVEY CHART OF CIVIL WAR



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