



1 Kings



Reading the Bible Together

August 2015

What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' (Psalm 119:16)

Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

1 Kings : What can we expect?

1 Kings is a selective history of ancient Israel from the conclusion of David's reign through to the death of King Ahab, a period of 118 years. King Solomon is the dominant character in the first half of 1 Kings; the prophet Elijah is the dominant character in the second half of the book. 1 Kings and 2 Kings would originally have been a single book.

The background to 1 Kings is the book of Deuteronomy and the warnings that were given to Israel through Moses to serve and obey the LORD, otherwise they would experience God's judgment. Each king (along with the nation itself) must choose whether to follow God or to worship idols. King David is regularly invoked as the royal standard by which other kings are measured and judged. Many kings fail to live faithfully and to rule wisely.

In 1 Kings we read of Solomon, who, at the start of his reign, asks God for wisdom when he could have asked for wealth or long life. Solomon's wisdom is known throughout the world and he acquires much wealth. It is a golden age for Israel. Solomon oversees the construction of the temple and is involved in its dedication. But over time, through multiple marriages and political alliances, Solomon becomes spiritually compromised and encourages the worship of idols. After Solomon's death, the kingdom is divided, into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, each with their own king. God raises up Elijah who calls the people of Israel to repentance and to faith in the living God.

The book can be divided as follows:

Chpts 1-11	The reign of King Solomon
Chpts 12-16	The kingdom is divided
Chpts 17-22	The ministry of Elijah

How to read?

1 Kings has 22 chapters, so could easily be completed by reading a chapter a day for a month.

In-Sync for September : Minor Prophets



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