

# God or Tyrants: A Study of 1 & 2 Kings

## Lesson 02: 36/1600

### Settling In

What questions do you have from your reading of 1 Kings 1-4?

### Introduction

The theme for this study is “God or Tyrants”. Right from the start we’re met with both – how is that so?

The main under-current for the Book of Kings is the faithfulness of God as contrasted to the unfaithfulness of humankind. How is that theme clear already in these first chapters of Kings?

### Just the Facts

1. Which son of David attempted to set himself up as king (without David’s permission)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was the support of Joab and Abiathar for the illegal coronation a coup of sorts? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Significantly, who was NOT invited to the illegitimate coronation ceremony?  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What question(s) did Nathan and Bathsheba have for David? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the “fake” king do when he heard that Solomon had been crowned? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does David define “showing yourself as a man”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How long did David rule... and how was that rule “split”? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How did the “fake” king get himself into fatal trouble? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What was Shimei’s fatal mistake? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What did Solomon ask God for and what stories illustrated that God answered that prayer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Take it to Heart

1. (ch.1) The kingdom of God looks, at times, so precarious that one wrong/false move could doom it to the dustbin of history. For example, after the death of Joseph, the transition from Moses to Joshua, or here, with the end of the reign of David. But there always appears to be a hand that “steadies the ship.”

In what ways has God “steadied the ship” throughout the history of the church?

As a group, list THREE crises that the church of today faces and give an insight into who and how God gives a foundation to the present day church.

2. (ch.2) To some God may give the blessing to anticipate that their end is near so that you can encourage those whom you may leave behind. Imagine that you have been given that opportunity. In the space below outline THREE to FIVE thoughts that you would share as words of encouragement to your loved ones.
3. (ch.3) Solomon’s prayer can be broken down in the following way:
  - a) The true incentive to prayer: the generosity of God (vs. 5b, 13-14)
  - b) The true foundation of prayer: the faithfulness of God (vs. 6-7a, 8)
  - c) The true anxiety of prayer: the people of God (vs. 7b-9)
  - d) The true goal of prayer: the pleasure of God (vs. 10-14)

In the space below, construct a prayer that you can use in your prayer life that follows Solomon’s outline, but with your contemporary concerns:

4. (ch.4) The tedious listing of Solomon’s government and provisions are more than a writer’s boast; there is some theology here, namely, that God is faithful. In 1 Kings 4:20-25, find evidence that the LORD fulfills his promises:

Write down THREE promises of God that he has fulfilled in your life. What attitudes and actions can/does God’s faithfulness produce in the believer?