

Church of St. George
Sporting - Alexandria

Stories for boys

Inspired by the Old Testament [11]

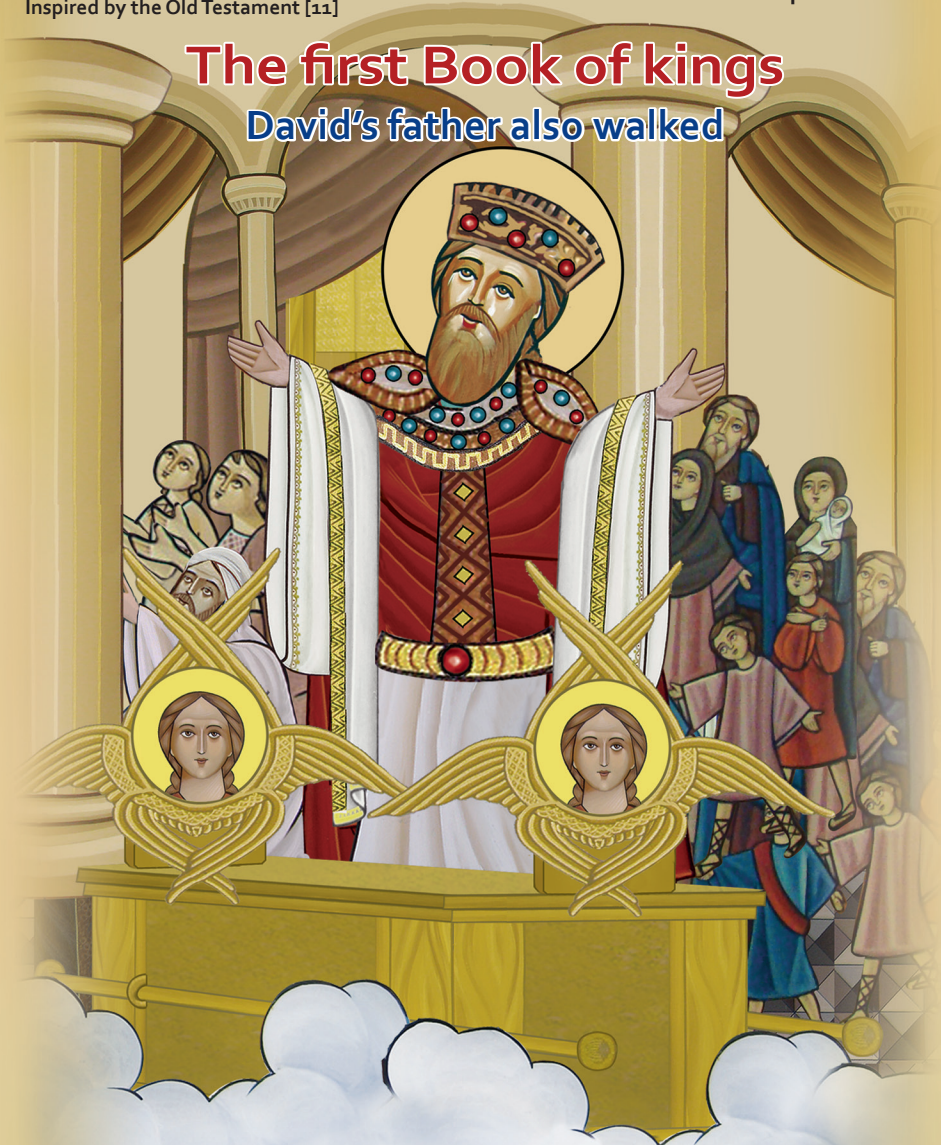
Supportive introductory edition

2020

Decorated with Coptic icons

The first Book of kings

David's father also walked



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South Brunswick, NJ 08831

**In the Name of The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit
One God, Amen**



The book's name: Stories for Boys Inspired by the Book of Kings I [11]

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Decorated with Coptic icons, by Sister Sawsan

Paul and his grandfather's funeral

Paul whispered in his father's ears saying: What did the priest who preached at my grandfather's funeral today mean? He recalled the chanter saying : " I have been young, and now am old: yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. "(Ps 37:25)?

The father replied: This is because, with the death of the righteous, he becomes an intercessor who loves them and prays for them. If a believer dies, death cannot take away his love and giving. He prays for the whole family, for the needy, and even for all of humanity. In His love for the pious, God hears their prayers even after their departure to Paradise.

Paul asked: Did the Bible mention anything about the power of those pious who passed away and their blessing?

The father replied: It appeared in Solomon's prayer for the inauguration of the temple: "And now, Lord God of Israel, I pray that you will also keep the other promise you made to my father when you told him that there would always be one of his descendants ruling as king of Israel, provided they obeyed you as



carefully as he did. "(1King 8:25). That promise He gave to David is a promise offered to each believer that his descendants enjoy the kingdom of God if they follow the divine commandment. Know, my son, that your grandfather who departed today has become more beneficial to us and to all humans. He looks to all humanity as his beloved family. He prays for them to enjoy eternal heavenly inheritance. For our part, we pray That God forgives his faults, for no one is without sin.

Paul asked: Why did great prophets appear in the age of Kings?

The father replied: The first and second book of kings are actually a presentation of God's dealings with leaders as with the people. They are historical educational books. The prophets at that time were asserting that the invisible leader is God who is able to Urge us to step into heaven. The prophets played a vital and major role in the lives of good and bad kings. They were supporting the righteous, and resisting the wicked with all might and boldness, declaring to them as to the people the will of God, and the possibility of achieving it.

It was told about Elijah and Elisha that they are "the vehicle of Israel and its knights Military «(2kings 2:12; 13:14.) They had their part in the spiritual war for kings, as for the people. When king Solomon was holy to the Lord, God appeared to him in a dream, immediately after the throne and also after the inauguration of The Temple and promised him to respond to his prayers (1kings 3: 5 etc., 9:1 etc.) when he deviated, God sent him a prophet (1Kings 11:11 etc.). After the kingdom split, the work of the prophets appeared powerfully in resisting apostasy

and predicting the devastation in both kingdoms Israel and Judah. The main role of the Prophet was to affirm that life is based on the sincerity toward God or breaking the covenant with Him.

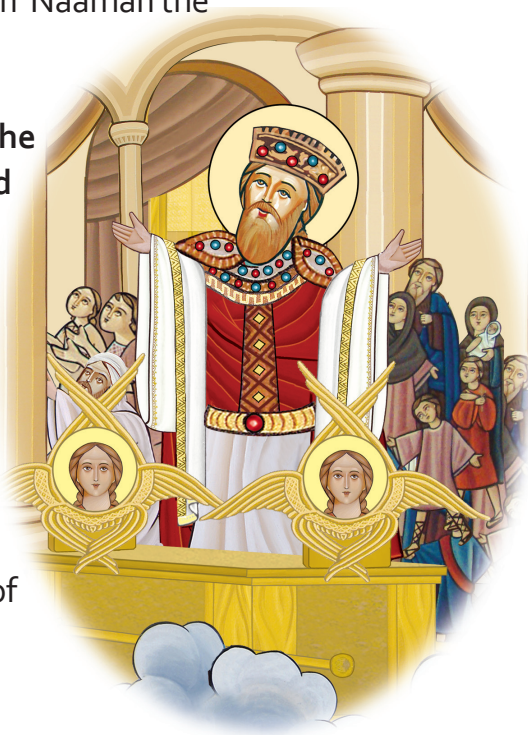
Paul asked: Did women have a significant role in the two books of kings?

The Father answered: Yes, the two books show how evil Jezebel lured her man, state men and people into paganism and corruption. Another woman also played a part in King Solomon's rule, in addition to the role of the Queen of Sheba and Jeroboam's wife and the widow who prophet Elijah has blessed her flour and oil and the Israeli slave girl who witnessed to her God before the Syrian Naaman the Syrian's wife (2 Kings 5).

Paul asked: What is the subject of the first and second book of kings?

The Father answered: The two books cared for the house of David, from which God's incarnated word comes. They dealt with the period of Solomon's accession until the fall of the kingdom of Judah under exile.

It divides into 3 phases:



First Phase: The period of Solomon's reign (1Kings 1-11):

1. The beginning of Solomon's rule, which is his assumption of the throne and its reign (1-2).

2. Increasing of his power, glory and doings (3:1,5:14), building and Inauguration of the altar (5:15, 9:9), his interest in merchant and naval fleet, and the spreading of his fame of wisdom (Page 10)

3. His falling and deterioration because of the polygamy and the spread of pagan worship.(11)

Second Phase: It begins with dividing the kingdom into two kingdoms, they live once in a battle and once in alliance. This period ended with the collapse of the kingdom of Israel, which is formed of ten tribes, by the hands of Assyrians

Third Phase: The kingdom of Judah continued until it was exiled by the Babylonians . (Page 18-25).

Paul asked: How did Solomon become a king? (1Kings 1)

The father answered: King Saul died in disgrace, his royal family ended and was followed by David the righteous king, and he got old and died in peace , after his heart rested by his son Solomon becoming a king to build the altar. Adonijah ,the son of David ,planned to receive the kingship ,as he is the older, with Joab's help, but prophet Nathan brought down the plan, and Solomon received the kingdom.

The anointing of Solomon as king in his father's life was absolutely necessary after Adonijah's attempt to usurp the throne. Then David praised God by saying: «Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!» (1king 1:48).

Saint Augustine invites you to praise the Lord : (Sing and complete your journey!) (Sing and move on!) (Sing and strive as a soldier!)

Paul asked: What is king David's commandment to his son Solomon? (1Kings 2)

The father answered: David's commandments for his son to take the throne was written in (1Chronicles 28-29) and it is as follows: -

1. He introduced his son to the palace men as God's chosen king.
2. He asked them to obey God's commandments.
3. He urged that the altar be built, offering them a model of it and the materials he collected for this purpose.
4. He offered praise and thanks to God, and held a religious ceremony.
5. Solomon anointed in the presence of God before the people (1Chronicles 29:22) for the second time.

David's farewell commandment came as a living example of what fathers should offer to their children:

1. Their view of death as the soul's journey in a mass procession going to its last residence.
2. Urging the new generation to



work with strength, commitment and a sense of responsibility .(2)

3. Urging to be faithful and committed to God's covenant and obedience to His commandments .

Paul asked: Why did Solomon marry the Pharaoh's daughter?

The father answered: He didn't seek to form alliance with Egypt, the most dangerous military force of the day, but he did this by marrying the Pharaoh's daughter who seems to have accepted the worship of the living God. Egypt welcomed that. But some people would say that Solomon sinned, because he didn't hear the commandment against marriage to non-believers (Deuteronomy 7: 3-4)

Paul asked: What is the divine gift that he has chosen?

The father answered: (God told him: ask what I give you?) Solomon was asking God for wisdom, before giving, Here God asks him before He grants him what he asked for ,to reassure him of his free will.

He gets what his heart desires. God gave him mental and practical wisdom. As it was said there was no such a wise man as Solomon. (Matthew 12:42)

Paul asked: How was Solomon's wisdom clearly seen in the first case presented to him? (1 kings 3)

The father answered: Two adulteresses came to the king, living in the same house, they had two sons. One of them said: My colleague's son died last night because she slept on him. So

she got up in the middle of the night and took my living son sleeping next to me and put her dead son in his place. The two-adulteresses said: my son is the living one and her son is the dead one. Solomon asked for a sword, and said: Split the living son and give half for each one. The attendees were impressed; how could he kill a child? And one of the two adulteresses said: listen to me master, give her the living son and don't kill him.



While the other said: not to me, not to you, Split him! As a result, the king has given the first woman the living son because he's her son, she preferred to let him go with the other woman than see him killed. When all Israel heard what happened, they were astonished for his wisdom .

Paul asked: How did Solomon manage his country?
(1 kings 4)

The father answered: He didn't give priority to the military action, and he divided Israel to twelve governorates, and resided a governor for each division. The main work of the governor was to provide the royal palace with food supplements [27], and collect the taxes for Solomon's projects [22-23], and to finance the huge army [26-28] and building the sacred temple.

He was humble, and he assigned a high percentage of the chosen men from his father David 's men. He also assigned a reasonable number from the sons of the priests and the prophets. As he has inherited from his father his trust in the men of God, and his belief in God's grace in managing all affairs.

Solomon was a king, a fair and wise judge , a poet ,a musician, a philosopher and a writer. He is considered the first natural scientist in the world.

Paul asked: How did Solomon benefit from his relationship with the kings of nations? (1 kings 5)

The father answered: Solomon used to treat others with great love, appreciation and wisdom even those less than him. He didn't underestimate Hiram the king of Tyre, but he asked for his help as someone who needs him and needs the experience of his people in cutting rice trees and shipping them in seas, as owners of a marine fleet.

His deal with Hiram: It's obvious from Hiram's behaviour that he was worshipping the true God. Though some may see that Hiram's glorification to the God of Israel didn't mean he didn't worship fetishes, but it is a confession that Jesus is a true God like all his Gods. In 2 Chronicles 2:11, he confessed that Jehovah is the creator of heaven and earth, but that doesn't mean that he entered in a personal relationship with him.

The Israeli needed the skill of the Zidonians, and the Zidonians needed Israeli's grains and oil (Ezekiel 27:17, 2Chronicles 2:3).

Hiram loved Solomon, so the two encouraged keeping their mutual amiable relationship.

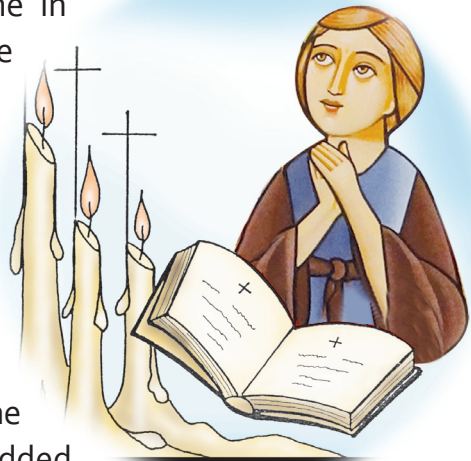
Solomon had to use a forced labor system to build the sacred temple.

Paul asked: How do we benefit spiritually from the building of the sacred temple? (1 kings 6)

The father answered: We don't forget that our Christ talked about the temple of His body that its structure gives resurrection. So, he said: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, It has taken forty - six years to build this temple , and will you raise it up in three days? But He spoke of the temple of His body." (John 2:19-21). Also, Christ built **his church a sacred temple for Him** (Ephesians 2:20-22). And made from every believer a **Holy Temple as a habitation of God through the Spirit** (1Corinthians 3:16). That's why we should be ready to be formed as real rocks in our heavenly temple.

The Sanctum in the Holy temple was huge if compared to the one in the meeting tent. And the Arc of the covenant was so small in the middle of that space, that's why two huge Cherubim were built from one wall to the other.

Humans knew the Cherub, that's why the nations knew it especially the Chaldees, even if they have added



on him their own looks from . So, when we see the Cherub, we remember our human nature that was deprived from paradise with our elders Adam and Eve and now enjoys salvation.

Paul asked: What are Solomon's constructional works? (1 kings 7)

The father answered: After the first book of kings finished the talk about the building of the Holy temple in seven years, it talked about the building of Solomon's own home in thirteen years. Anyway, the dimensions of the Holy temple were 60x20x25 arms, while the palace was more spacious from God's house as the dimensions were 100x50x30.

Moreover, Solomon had built a throne, and separate wings for his home and the Pharaoh's daughter. He also built a hall for his palace similar to the Holy temple's hall.

Paul asked: How was the Holy temple inaugurated? (1 kings 8)

The father answered: The eighth chapter reveals God's love towards man. That who heaven and earth can't contain Him ,finds His pleasure in living among His people. He listens to their wishes, and blesses them, and transforms their lives into eternal happiness. The heart of king Solomon was flamed with joy in these moments that he always waited for, and even his father David desired to see. He didn't celebrate alone, but shared his joy with the Elders, tribesmen, priests, and Levites and the whole nation. Solomon prayed: **"That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place**

of which thou hast said, my name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place" [29].

When he says "my name shall be there" he means God's presence in his house among his people, where he gives them his power, and his glory inner glory for their souls, lightens their eyes so they understand his divine secrets. He grants them growth and sanctification and forgiveness for their sins. That is the meaning of the presence of God's name in his house!



Paul asked: What's the secret of the elevation of the kingdom of Solomon son of David? (1 kings 9)

The father answered: The era of king David and his son Solomon is considered the Golden era in the Hebrew history. David was a fighter and Solomon was a lover of reconstruction. David established the kingdom with military effort and spirit of piety, and Solomon built the Holy temple and made commercial projects and a marine fleet.

Paul asked: What did queen Sheba see in king Solomon?
(1 kings 10)

The father answered: The queen of Sheba admitted that what she saw in king Solomon was much greater than what she had heard about him.

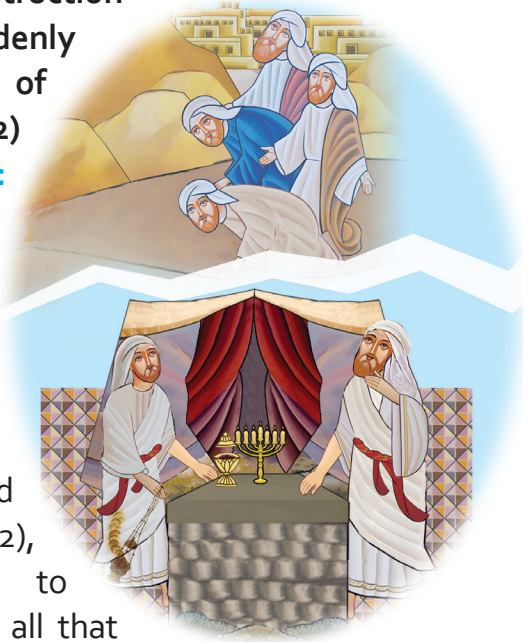
- **His richness:** She gave him lots of gold... As other kings of surrounding countries gave abundantly.
- **His generosity:** He used to receive a lot and offer a lot as well.
- **The greatness of his appearance:** gold shields, gold glasses, and a unique throne in greatness.
- **The greatness of his power:** Lots of vehicles and horses. [26]
- **His commercial potential:** Commercial exchange with Egypt. [28-29]
- **The richness of his people** [27].

Paul asked: what's the reason for the deterioration of Solomon's character? (1 kings 11)

The father answered: He turned away from true pure worship due to his foreign women's temptation. Solomon started to look after his people with love then got busy with his own palace and huge constructions, so he exhausted his people with taxes and forced labor.

Paul asked: Did the destruction of the kingdom come suddenly in Rehoboam the son of Solomon's days? (1 kings 12)

The father answered: God has warned Solomon from the kingdom's division because of corruption (1 kings 11:11-13), as the prophet Ahijah has predicted to Jeroboam about the building of a corrupted kingdom (1 kings 11:29-32), and Shemaiah predicted to Rehoboam [23-24], despite all that his heart didn't move to repentance.



Paul asked: What's the story of Jeroboam the dissident with God's man? (1 kings 13)

The father answered: Jeroboam ran away to Egypt, as Solomon ordered his death, and Solomon thought that he got rid of him, and didn't realize that he will re-establish the separated kingdom in his son Rehoboam's days. God sent a prophet to Jeroboam to warn him, and God asked the prophet not to eat or drink in that place. The prophet obeyed and God made miracles with him, but after that he didn't obey God because of another prophet's seduction so a lion devoured him. God has no favoritism, he disciplines\chastens who made

mistakes, whether he's a king or a prophet.

Paul asked: Were all the kings of Judah righteous? (1 kings 15)

The father answered: Some were righteous and others were evil, Abijam was evil, and Asa was righteous. But they weren't as evil as Israeli's kings at the beginning.

Paul asked: Did the Israeli dissident kingdom succeeded (the Northern)? (1 kings 16)

The father answered: There were continuous revolutions in Israel's kingdom in a short period of time. Assassinations were committed among evil royal families, one to take the place of the other. So, after king Baasha exterminated Jeroboam's home, king Zimri exterminated Baasha's home. And king Omri tried killing Zimri. Some thought that time is capable of covering the wrong or the evil, but surely man drinks out of the same cup he filled for his brothers.

Paul asked: Did God ignore the dissident kingdom? (1 kings 17)

The father answered: A chain of evil kings came in the northern kingdom, and there wasn't one righteous king among them. And evil reached its peak when king Ahab married the evil Jezebel the daughter of Tyre the priest of Baal. Despite all that, God sent a wondrous prophet who testifies for Him and works



for the salvation of his brothers and he is Elijah the Tishbite. His works stayed a living testimony to the divine right, his prediction of drought is one of them [1], and the ravens support for him [2-7], and the widow of Zarephath which belonged in Sidon sustained him [8-16], and resurrecting the son of the widow woman [17-24].

Paul asked: Why was Elijah called the fiery prophet? (1Kings 18)

The father answered: Because his jealousy for the divine right was fiery. Although God gave Ahab a chance for repentance with the drought for three years and a half [1-2], yet he grew more violent and accused Elijah that he troubles Israel. That's why God showed his presence in front of the people with a fire Devouring the carcass.



Paul asked: What is the role of the prophet Elijah in his meetings? (1Kings 18)

The father answered: There are several meetings of Elijah, we mention the following:

1. The meeting of Elijah with Obadiah: the one responsible of the king's animals [3-16]:What concerned the king was his

animals ; horses and mules, and so he asked Obadiah to look for water for the animals. What concerned the Queen was to exterminate the prophets of God [13], As for Elijah ,he was concerned about meeting God for the salvation of souls.

2. The meeting of Elijah with Ahab [17-18]: Ahab accused him of being the joyless of Israel. The prophet Elijah returned courageously the charge against him, the king and his paternal house [18]

3. The meeting of Elijah with the people [19-24]: The people wanted to worship both God and the Baal. They experienced God's power and love and heard what he had done with their fathers, and found in the Baal pleasures and abominations. They thought Baal had power over rain and fire. That's why the prophet Elijah wanted to present a real relationship about the truth through fire and water.

4. The meeting of Elijah with the Baal priests [25-26]: He asked them to begin by offering the sacrifice, so they used every way to make the Baal move, they were even cutting their bodies with swords and spears .

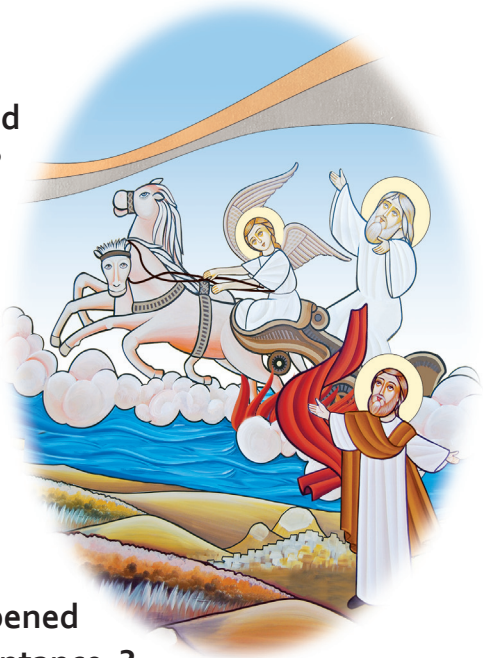
5. The meeting with fiery God: Elijah felt that he was preserved by the fiery providence of God, so he harnessed 850 priests for the Baal supported by the king and the queen and followed by the people [30-39]

6. Killing Baal priests [40]: When the people admitted that the Lord is God, he told them to refuse to worship the Baal by obeying the law: by killing idolaters and their protagonists (Deuteronomy 13: 1-11,2-3, 13: 3). He asked them to kill the Baal priests so that would no longer deceive the simple ones

7. Elijah's rain prayer [41-46]: The king spent the whole day watching what is happening, he didn't eat or drink, maybe because he was asking God to interfere , or because he was so confused and couldn't eat so he could see what was happening. Elijah saw no signs of rain, but he confidently told Ahab: "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain" [41] Dry time has passed!

Paul asked: why did God appoint a disciple for Elijah? (1Kings 19)

The Father answered: God wanted to support him; so he sends his angel and appears to him, chooses the prophet Elisha as his disciple to follow him and complete his mission.



Paul asked: Has God opened for Ahab the door of repentance ? (1Kings 20)

The Father answered: Yes, God allowed Ben-Hadad, king of Syria ,to ask for his silver, gold, women, and his children from Ahab and he accepted. He returned and demanded to send him a mission taking all what pleases Ben-Hadad. So the king went to the elders of his land who refused that. God Sent him

a prophet to assure him of his victory over Ben-Hadad. And he really beat him in two battles. when Ben-Hadad fell into his hands instead of thanking God, he made a deal with Ben-Hadad, it was commanded to demand Ahab's soul instead of Ben-Hadad, and Israel people instead of Araam.

Paul asked: Has God asked for the salvation of the wicked Ahab? (1Kings 21)

The Father answered: Yes, Ahab truly desired to take the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreeli which is attached to his winter palace at Jezreel. He was willing to pay Naboth or offer him another vineyard instead. But Naboth refused to sell his fathers' inheritance, and so the wicked Jezebel plotted to kill him.

She accused him of blaspheming the name of God and the king, as though the queen who kills the prophets cares about the name of God. She killed and inherited Naboth's estate, and Elijah came reprimanding Ahab seeing him wearing a sackcloth, fasting and walking in humility.

God in his infinite mercy tells **Elijah:** "See how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring evil on his home." [28]



Paul asked: Did Ahab perish?

(1Kings 22)

The Father answered:

The two kings of Israel and Judah met up to attack the king of Araam (Syria). And Ahab's life has ended with a fatal attack from an Aramaic's hand. The king of Syria insisted that no one be killed except the king of Israel. In this situation, King Ahab didn't dare to hit the Prophet Micah who demanded him not to fight, but Zedekiah as the head



of false prophets beat him as the man of authority. Zedekiah approached Micah angrily and slapped him on the face, either with his hand or shoe. He did that in the presence of the two kings without their permission. Ahab was pleased with that, but Jehoshaphat the king of Judah didn't talk, he thought that it is not in his power, because he is just a guest. Micah didn't avenge himself, but instead, he declares to him that time will reveal and expose what he had done.

Micah predicted to Ahab that he would go from room to room to hide from the face of Jezebel the queen, Ahaziah the son of the king, the old men and Statesmen when he is beaten

in the war. Everyone will find out Zedekiah and his men's lie and everyone will regret not listening to the voice of God. Ahab commanded to bring him back to the jail and feed him with bread of sadness and water of sadness and distress until he comes back from the war victorious. Jehoaphat fled after receiving bitter retribution for his negligence and sharing with Ahab what the prophet Micah has warned him not to do. When he came back to Jerusalem, the prophet Jehu reprimanded him firmly. Ahab was disguised in the army to fight, but he couldn't hide from God. A soldier hit him with his bow accidentally and got a fatal wound. The disguised king was beaten neither with the skill of the Syrian king nor with the abilities of his army, but with an amazing divine permission. The required man was struck in a way that fulfilled Elijah's prophecy and in the right place. God allowed Ahab not to die immediately until he realizes for himself at the last moment that what Micah prophesied is true. The Septuagint (one of the translations) says a wonderful prayer of repentance of the wicked Ahab. We come back to it when we talk about the books that contained in the Septuagint, God willing.





The Historical Books in Kings Era

The Book	The Topic of the Book	The Lord Jesus Christ in the book
1Samuel	Human Choice (Saul)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anointed prophet, Priest, King and Mediator • Sits on the throne of his father David, Reign Forever (Luke 1:32)
2Samuel	The Divine Choice (David)	The pact with David (7) A symbol of the messianic covenant of the whole world
1Kings	Solomon and Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Christ the king of peace and glory and in God's wisdom (1Cor 1:30) The builder of God's home (Eph 2:20-22) • King of Kings (Rev 19:16)
2Kings	The kings of Israel	Christ is the controller of history who declares his plan and purpose toward his people .
1Chronicles	Solomon and the Altar	Christ the king is greater than David
2Chronicles	The kings and the Altar	Who is interested in cleansing his Altar and repairing and healing every weakness



To Our Beloved Sons

What Do You Know About the First Book of Kings?

- It was written while the first Altar was existing (8:8), Likely written by the prophet Jeremiah , inspired by the Holy spirit, based on records of the prophet Nathan and Gad the seer (1Chronicles 29:29) and others. Both the First and second books of kings of Hebrew origin were a single book.
- It contains the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah from the time of Solomon the king until Ahab and Jeshaphat, which is a period between 115,125 years
- It declares that the kingdom is strong once it's fixed in the true king, who provides it with mercy, help and glory, but if it deviates, it collapses and falls under chastisement\discipline.
- David died, but he remains the example God gives to His children (9:4 ; 11:4 ,33,38 ; 14:8 ; 15:3 ; 15:11)

The sections of the book

The wise Solomon (Page 1 to 11).

The division of the Kingdom (Page 12 to 22).

2 Pounds (Supported for the service)