

# The Lord Desires Committed Hearts – [1 Kings 11:4](#)

## A STUDY OF I & II KINGS

In the Hebrew Old Testament, we have two books which in reality are one. It was divided by the Septuagint (\*[Definition](#)) translators. In the original Hebrew, these two books formed one book. The two books of I and II Samuel and I and II Chronicles were one but when translated into the Greek language, the translators translated them into two books because the Greek required more space than the Hebrew and the scrolls on which they were written were limited in length.

I and II Kings are actually a continuation of I and II Samuel and record the events of the reign of Solomon and then the succeeding kings of Judah and Israel, covering a period of 400 years (1000 – 600BC) and tell the story of the growth and then decay of the kingdoms. We see the divided kingdom; both Israel and Judah led into captivity. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) had 20 kings, and the Northern Kingdom (Israel) had 19 kings.

These books are very important, not dry at all, because they present history revealing that the Hebrew nation in I Kings begins in Glory and closes in II Kings in ruin.

- This book begins with King David and ends with the King of Babylon.
- This book opens with the building of the temple and ends with the burning of the temple.
- Kings opens with David's first successor to the throne of his kingdom, Solomon, and ends with David's last successor, Jehoiachin, released from captivity by the king of Babylon.
- These books cover practically the whole rule of the kings over God's chosen people.
- During Solomon's reign the kingdom reached the height of grandeur and with his death the kingdom really ceased to be the medium through which God governed His people.
- The period of the prophets is introduced at this time with Elijah and when the book comes to conclusion in II Kings, Elisha is in focus.

## The Lord Desires Committed Hearts – 1 Kings 11:4 (Continued)

- In these books we see the decline of both Israel and Judah being led into captivity.
- Moving into the first 10 chapters of I Kings we find King David, now old and stricken in years, prematurely aged, only in his 70's and his son Solomon now 19. A rebellion had begun against David, in that his oldest son, Adonijah, (the oldest surviving son) was attempting to get his father's throne (II Sam.3:4). Nathan, the prophet, saw that Solomon was most fit to succeed him, took immediate action and Adonijah, realizing things were hopeless for him, gave in. (I Chronicles 22:9; I Kings 2:15). Solomon was crowned before the death of David (I Kings 1:30, 39, 53). Solomon received his training from Nathan the prophet. Nathan loved Solomon and gave him the name Jedidiah, "God's Darling" (II Samuel 12:25).
- Solomon's life began in a blaze of glory but did not remain that way because I Kings 11:4 reveals "*His heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.*"
- THE LORD DESIRES THE COMMITTED HEARTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS!

\* Definition: The *Septuagint* is a translation of the Hebrew Bible and some related texts into Koine Greek. As the primary Greek translation of the Old Testament, it is also called the Greek Old Testament. This translation is quoted a number of times in the New Testament, particularly in Pauline epistles.