Kings #1

Reading King Solomon Forward and Backward

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1. <u>I Kings 2:12, 46</u>

¹²And Solomon sat upon the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

⁴⁶The king gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada and he went out and struck Shimei down; and so he died. Thus the kingdom was secured in Solomon's hands.

מלכים אי ב:יב; מו

(יב) וּשָׁלֹמה יַשֶּׁב עַל כָּסֶא דָּוָד אַבִיו וַתְּכֹּן מלכתו מאד:

(מו) וַיְצו הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת בְּנָיָהוּ בֶּן יְהוֹיָדָע וַיִּצֵא וַיִּפְגַּע בּוֹ וַיָּמת וְהַמַּמְלָכָה נָכוֹנָה בִּיַד שְׁלֹמה:

2. <u>I Kings 3:1-3</u>

¹Solomon allied himself by marriage with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He married Pharaoh's daughter and brought her to the City of David [to live there] until he had finished building his palace, and the House of the LORD, and the walls around Jerusalem. ²The people, however, continued to offer sacrifices at the open shrines, because up to that time no house had been built for the name of the LORD. ³And Solomon, though he loved the LORD and followed the practices of his father David, also sacrificed and offered at the shrines. ⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the largest shrine; on that altar Solomon presented a thousand burnt offerings.

מלכים אי ג:א-ג

(א) וַיִּתְחַתֵּן שְׁלֹמֹה אֶת פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ מִצְרָיִם וַיִּקַח אֶת בַּת פַּרְעֹה וַיְבִיאֶהָ אֶל עִיר דָּוִד עַד כַּלֹתוֹ לִבְנוֹת אֶת בִּיתוֹ וְאֶת בֵּית ה׳ וְאֶת חוֹמַת יְרוּשָׁלַם סָבִיב: (ב) רַק הָעָם מְזַבְּחִים בַּבָּמוֹת כִּי לֹא נִבְנָה בַיִת לְשֵׁם ה׳ עַד הַיָּמִים הָהֵם: (ג) וַיָּאֱהַב שְׁלֹמֹה אֶת ה׳ לָלֶכֶת בְּחֻקּוֹת דָּוִד אָבִיוֹ רַק בַּבָּמוֹת הוּא מְזַבֵּח וּמַקְטִיר: (ד) וַיֵּלֶךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ גִּבְעֹנָה לִוְבֹּח שָׁם כִּי הִיא הַבָּמָה הַגְּדוֹלָה אֶלֶף עֹלוֹת יַצְלֶה שְׁלֹמֹה עַל הַמִּזְבֵּח הַהוּא:

3. I Kings 11:1-4

¹King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh's daughter—Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Phoenician, and Hittite women...such Solomon clung to and loved. ³He had seven hundred royal wives and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned his heart away. ⁴In his old age, his wives turned away Solomon's heart after other gods, and he was not as wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God as his father David had been.

מלכים אי יא:א-ד

(א) וְהַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה אָהַב נָשִׁים נָכְרִיּוֹת רַבּוֹת וְאֶת בַּת פַּרְעֹה מוֹאֲבִיּוֹת עַמְּנִיּוֹת אֲדֹמִיּת צֵדְנִיּת חָתִּיּת : (ב) מְן הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר אָמֵר הי אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל לֹא תָבֹאוּ בָהֶם וְהֵם לֹא יָבֹאוּ בָכֶם אָכֵן יַטוּ אֶת לְבַבְּכֶם אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהֵיהֶם בָּהֶם דָּבַק שְׁלֹמֹה לְאַהֲבָה : (ג) וַיְהִי לוֹ נָשִׁים שְׁרוֹת שְׁבַע מֵאוֹת וּפִלַגְשִׁים שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת וַיַּטוּ נָשִׁיו אֶת לִבּוֹ : (ד) וַיְהִי לְעֵת זִקְנַת שְׁלֹמֹה נָשִׁיו הִטוּ אֶת לְבָבוֹ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וְלֹא הָיָה לְבָבוֹ שְׁלֵם עִם ה׳ אֵ-לֹקִיו כָּלָבַב דָּוִיד אָבִיו :

4. I Kings 3:11-13

¹¹And God said to him, "Because you asked for this—you did not ask for long life, you did not ask for riches, you did not ask for the life of your enemies, but you asked for discernment in dispensing justice—¹²I now do as you have spoken. I grant you a wise and discerning mind; there has never been anyone like you before, nor will anyone like you arise again. ¹³And I also grant you what you did not ask for—both riches and glory all your life—the like of which no king has ever had.

מלכים אי ג:יא-יג

(יא) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱ-לֹקִים אֵלָיו יַעַן אֲשֶׁר שָׁאַלְתָּ אֶת הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְלֹא שָׁאַלְתָּ לְּךְּ יָמִים רַבִּים וְלֹא שָׁאַלְתָּ לְּךְּ עֹשֶׁר וְלֹא שָׁאַלְתָּ נֶפֶשׁ אֹיָבֶיךְ וְשָׁאַלְתָּ לְךְּ הָבִין לִשְׁמֹעַ מִשְׁפָּט : (יב) הָנֵּה עָשִּיתִי כִּדְבָרֶיךְּ הַנֵּה לְשָׁאַלְתָּ נְתַתִּי לְךְּ לֵב חָכָם וְנָבוֹן אֲשֶׁר כָּמוֹךְ לֹא הָיָה לְפָנֶיךְ וְאַחֲרֶיךְ לֹא יָקוּם כָּמוֹךְ : (יג) וְגַם אֲשֶׁר לֹא שָׁאַלְתָּ נָתַתִּי לְךְּ גַּם עֹשֶׁר גַּם כַּבוֹד אֲשֵׁר לֹא הַיָּה כַמוֹךְ אִישׁ בַּמִּלְכִים כַּל יָמֵיךְ:

5. I Kings 5:6

Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariotry and 12,000 horsemen.

<u>מלכים אי ה:ו</u>

יַנְיָהִי לָשָׁלֹמֹה אַרְבַּעִים אֶלֶף אָרְוֹת סוּסִים לְמֵרְכַּבוֹ וּשְׁנֵים עַשַּׁר אֶלֶף פַּרְשִׁים:

6. <u>I Kings 10:23-29</u>

²³King Solomon excelled all the kings on earth in wealth and in wisdom. ²⁴All the world came to pay homage to Solomon and to listen to the wisdom with which God had endowed him; ²⁵and each one would bring his tribute—silver and gold objects, robes, weapons and spices, horses and mules—in the amount due each year. ²⁶Solomon assembled chariots and horses. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses, which he stationed in the chariot towns and with the king in Jerusalem. ²⁷The king made silver as plentiful in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars as plentiful as sycamores in the Shephelah. ²⁸Solomon's horses were procured from Mizraim and Kue. The king's dealers would buy them from Kue at a fixed price. ²⁹A chariot imported from Mizraim cost 600 shekels of silver, and a horse 150; these in turn were exported by them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Arameans.

מלכים אי י:כג-כט

(כג) וַיִּגְדַּל הַפֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה מִכֹּל מֵלְכֵי הָאָרֶץ לְעֹשֶׁר וּלְחָכְמָה: (כד) וְכָל הָאָרֶץ מְבַקְשִׁים אֶת פְּנֵי שְׁלֹמֹה לִשְׁמֹעַ בְּלָמֹה לִשְׁמֹעַ בְּלָמֹה לִשְׁמֹעַ בְּלָמִה בְּשָׁלְמוֹת וְנֵשֶׁק אֶת חָכְמָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר נְתַן אֱ-לֹקִים בְּלָבּוֹ: (כה) וְהַפֶּה מְבָּאִים אִישׁ מִנְחָתוֹ כְּלֵי כֶסֶף וּכְלֵי זָהָב וּשְׁלָמוֹת וְנֵשֶׁק וּבְּשָׁמִים וּפְּרָדִים דְּבַר שָׁנָה בְּשָׁנָה : (כו) וַיָּאֶסף שְׁלֹמֹה רֶכֶב וּפָרְשִׁים וַיְּיְהִי לוֹ אֶלֶף וְאַרְבָּע מֵאוֹת רֶכֶב וְעִם הַפֶּלֶךְ בִּירוּשָׁלָם: (כז) וַיִּתְּלָךְ הַפֶּלְדְ בִּירוּשְׁלַם בְּיִרְם וְאָבֶרְיִם בְּשָׁלְ מִּלְכִי הָחָבִי אֲשֶׁר בְּשְׁרִיר: (כט) וַתַּצֵא מֶרְכָּבָה מִמִּצְרַיִם בְּשֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת כֶּסֶף וְסוּס בְּעָבְי הַמְשְׁרִים וְמָאֵה וְכֵן לְכַל מַלְכֵי הַחָתִּים וּלְמַלְכֵי אָרָם בְּיַדֵם יִצְאוֹ:

7. <u>Deuteronomy 17:16-17</u>

¹⁶Moreover, he shall not keep many horses or send people back to Egypt to add to his horses, since the LORD has warned you, "You must not go back that way again." ¹⁷And he shall not have many wives, lest his heart go astray; nor shall he amass silver and gold to excess.

דברים יז:טז-יז

(טז) רַק לא יַרְבֶּה לוֹ סוּסִים וְלֹא יָשִׁיב אֶת הָעָם מִצְרַיְמָה לְמַעַן הַרְבּוֹת סוּס וַיקֹנָק אָמַר לָכֶם לֹא תֹסְפוּן לַשׁוּב בַּדַּרָדְ הַגַּה עוֹד: (יז) וָלא יַרְבָּה לוֹ נַשִּׁים וְלֹא יַסוּר לְבַבוֹ וְכֵסֶף וְזַהַב לֹא יַרְבָּה לוֹ מָאֹד:

8. Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 2:3

R. Aha said in the name of Samuel: Three acts [connected with Solomon] the Attribute of Justice allowed to succeed for a time but in the end confounded and confused. It is written, Neither shall he multiply wives to himself (Deut. 17:17), yet He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines (I Kings 11:3). It is written, He shall not multiply horses to himself (Deut. 17:16), yet Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses (I Kings 5:6). It is written, Neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold (Deut. 17:17), yet The king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones (I Kings 10:27).

קהלת רבה ב:ג

אייר אחא אמר שמואל שלשה הן הדברים ששיחקה עליהם מדת הדין ולבסוף הוללתם ועירבבתם, כתיב (דברים יייז) ולא ירבה לו נשים וכתיב (מלכים אי יייא) ויהי לשלמה שבע מאות שרות ושלש מאות פלגשים, כתיב (דברים יייז) לא ירבה לו סוסים, וכתיב (מלכים אי הי וי) ויהי לשלמה ארבעים אלף ארות סוסים, כתיב וכסף וזהב לא ירבה לו מאד וכתיב ויתן המלך את הכסף ואת הזהב בירושלם כאבנים.

9. Niddah 70b

One verse says, For the Lord has chosen Zion, but another verse says, For this city has been to me a provocation of My anger and of My fury from the day that they built it even unto this day (Jer. 32:31)? The former applied to the time before Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh while the latter applied to the time after Solomon married the daughter of Pharaoh.

<u>:נדה ע</u>

כתוב אחד אומר (תהלים קלב) כי בחר ה' בציון. וכתוב אחד אומר (ירמיהו לב) כי על אפי ועל חמתי היתה העיר הזאת למן היום אשר בנו אותה עד היום הזה! כאן קודם שנשא שלמה את בת פרעה, כאן לאחר שנשא שלמה את בת פרעה.

10. Shabbat 56b

Rab Judah said in Samuel's name: When Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter, Gabriel descended and planted a reed in the sea, and it gathered a bank around it, on which the great city of Rome was built.

: שבת נו

אמר רב יהודה אמר שמואל: בשעה שנשא שלמה את בת פרעה ירד גבריאל ונעץ קנה בים, ועלה בו שירטון, ועליו נבנה כרך גדול [של רומי].

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF KINGS

SOLOMON (I Kings Chapters 1-11)

Chapter 1: Adonijah tries to take throne, David appoints Solomon Chapter 2: David's last words, dies; Solomon eliminates opposition

Chapter 3: Dream gets wisdom; judgment with harlots

Chapter 4: List of tax districts and officers

Chapter 5: Great wisdom, wealth, and power of Solomon
Chapters 6-9: Solomon builds Temple and his palace, dedication.
Chapter 10: Queen of Sheba; More on wealth and power of Solomon

Chapter 11: Solomon's foreign wives lead him to idolatry; decree that

monarchy will be divided as result, country begins to unravel

DIVIDED MONARCHY (I Kings Chapter 12-II Kings 17)

Chapter 12: Jeroboam and north secede from Rehoboam and south; Golden

Calves

Chapter 13: Prophet from south condemns Jeroboam for cult

Chapter 14: Prophetic decree against Jeroboam's household; Rehoboam

Chapter 15: Abijam and Asa in Judah; Baasha exterminates Jeroboam's

household and assumes northern throne

Chapters 16-22: Zimri exterminates Baasha's family; Omri defeats him. Ahab

takes over, worst king ever, married to Jezebel. Elijah and Ahab

showdown; Jehoshaphat in Judah

Chapters 1-2: Miraculous stories of Elijah, who then is taken to heaven in

chariot, succeeded by his disciple Elisha

Chapter 3: Jehoram of north and Jehoshaphat of Judah ally against Moab

Chapters 4-8: Miraculous stories of Elisha

Chapters 9-10: Jehu of north anointed by a student of Elisha; he exterminates

Ahab's family and Baal cult; but retains Jeroboam's Calves

Chapter 11: Athaliah succeeds her killed son Ahaziah and massacres rest of

Davidic household; Jehoash spared. Athaliah assassinated

Chapter 12: Jehoash rededicates Temple

Chapters 13-16: Alternating accounts of north-south. Elisha dies

Chapter 17: Northern tribes exiled by Assyrians

KINGDOM OF JUDAH UNTIL DESTRUCTION (II Kings 18-25)

Chapters 18-20: Hezekiah; miraculous salvation of Jerusalem from Assyrians

Chapter 21: Manasseh most wicked ever; decree against Jerusalem Chapters 22-23: Josiah's reformation, but not enough to reverse decree

Chapters 24-25: Final kings of Judah, culminating with destruction of Temple