

The background of the slide is a close-up of the Iron Throne from the TV series Game of Thrones. The throne is constructed from numerous swords and spears, with their blades and points forming the structure. It is set against a dark, smoky, and atmospheric background.

GAME OF THRONES

SOLOMON
1 KINGS 1-11

GAME OF THRONES

Solomon | 1 Kings 1-11

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Note: At the end of each study, you will see the following box:

Faith • Hope • Love

This is to remind us that as we pray for each other to grow in spiritual maturity, we should pray that we will grow in these ways:

- **Faith:** That we will learn to trust God in every situation and in all things
- **Hope:** That we will grow to set our hearts on the treasure that we have in Jesus
- **Love:** That we will grow in self-giving love—that puts others before ourselves

Study One

1 Kings 1

A successor to David

How would you ensure a good succession plan for a ruler?

1. A quick recap about David: what can people remember about King David? What is significant about his successor? (cf. 2 Samuel 7)

Read 1 Kings 1

2. When we come across David in 1 Kings, what state is he in? What is the writer trying to get us to see about David as ruler?
3. Are Adonijah's plans to set himself up as king good or bad? (Why do you think the writer mentions Absalom in verse 6?)
4. Fill in the table of the people mentioned in verses 7-10.

Break up the group to look at the following passages:

2 Sam 7:1-4, 2 Samuel 20:23-26, 2 Sam 23:8-39 (skim this passage), 2 Sam 23:20-23, 1 Kings 2:8, and 1 Kings 4:18.

Name	Comment
Joab	
Abiathar	
Zadok	
Benaiah	

Nathan	
Shimei	
Rei	
David's special guard	

5. Why does Nathan favour Solomon over Adonijah? (see Deut 17:14-20, 1 Sam 12:24-25, and 1 Chr 22:5-13)

6. What is different about Solomon's coronation (1 Kings 1:32-40) to Adonijah's coronation (1 Kings 1:24-25)?

7. What do we learn about the succession plan for David's anointed heir?

⇒ *How does this passage foreshadow Jesus?*

⇒ *Are there times where we have sought to act in line with our best interests rather than in line with God's plans for his king?*

⇒ *Where are the areas that we can act presumptively rather than patiently trusting God's will?*

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Study Two

1 Kings 2

Solomon's rule established

How do new leaders/bosses/rulers go about establishing their rule?

Read 1 Kings 2

1. What are David's instructions about being king to Solomon? How do they compare with Deut 17:14-20?

2. Who are the people David speaks to Solomon about? Fill in the table with the background of each person.

Name	Biblical references	Background
Joab son of Zeruiah	2 Sam 2:18-24, 3:22-27, 17:24-26, 18:4-17, 20:4-10	
Barzillai of Gilead	2 Sam 17:24-29, 19:31-39	
Shimei son of Gera	2 Sam 16:5-14, 19:18b-23	

3. What does Adonijah ask for from Solomon?

- a. How does he go about it?

- b. Why does Solomon take it so badly?

4. How could Adonijah and Shimei have avoided their deaths? What does their failure to take those steps suggest about them?
5. What do you notice about those left standing at the end of this chapter (cf. 1 Kings 2:35)?
6. How does Solomon go about establishing his kingdom?
7. How should people respond to God's anointed king?

- ⇒ What is different and the same about the way that Jesus establishes his kingdom and how people should respond to him?

⇒ How can we underplay the seriousness of Jesus' rule and the danger of being on the wrong side of his rule?

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Study Three

1 Kings 3

The wisdom of Solomon

Why is wisdom an important part of leadership?

Read 1 Kings 3

1. How do you rate the start of Solomon's reign (v1-4)?
2. What does Solomon identify as needed for a king when describing David?
3. Why does he ask for wisdom?
4. How does his interaction with the two prostitutes demonstrate his wisdom?
5. What is the nature of Solomon's wisdom? How is it different to how we often think about wisdom?
6. What do we learn about how God's anointed king is to rule?
7. What would you want in a ruling judge?
8. Who has God appointed as ultimate ruler and judge (cf. John 5:16-30)?

⇒ What is something we can look forward to in Jesus' governing of his kingdom?

⇒ What will it look like for us to live wisely in Jesus' kingdom?

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Study Four

1 K i n g s 4

Solomon's wisdom to govern

What do you think the people of Israel are expecting from Solomon's rule (considering God's promise to David in 2 Sam 7)?

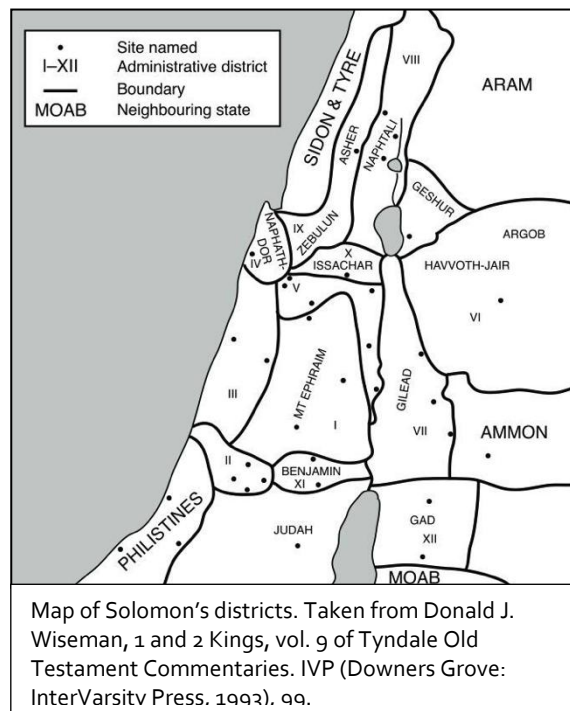
1. Before we look at the state of things in 1 Kings 4, let's do a little bit of background reading to understand what is going on.

Break up the group to read the following passages and note what sorts of things they suggest about the fulfilment of God's promises.

Passage	What it says about God's promises
Gen 12:1-3	
Gen 13:14-17	
Gen 17:1-8	
Deut 17:13-20	
Deut 28:1-14	
2 Sam 7:8-16	

Read 1 Kings 4

- Notice the way that Solomon sets up the governance of the kingdom (v2-19). Compare the structure of his arrangement to the current arrangement of Israel by tribes (see map



below). What surprises you about this?

- What are the positives and negatives of the description of Solomon's rule from v20-34?
- What kind of moment does the writer think that this is in Israel's history?
- What hints or warnings are there in the passage that this is not the moment the Israelites think it is?

6. What does the ultimate fulfilment of God's promises in Jesus look like? Is it the same as the OT promises? Why/why not?

⇒ What can we thank for about the blessing we have in Christ?

⇒ Where might we be tempted to look for more material blessing rather than what God has promised?

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Study Five

1 Kings 5 - 7

Building the temple and a palace

What does it look like to do things for your glory compared with God's glory?

Read 1 Kings 5

1. Why does Solomon choose to build the temple at this point (1 Kings 5:1-6)?

2. Draw a rough diagram of the temple (from 1 Kings 6).

a. You can also watch this video of the temple:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiF-wObznds>

3. In the midst of the building, what is God most concerned about (1 Kings 6:11-13)?

Read 1 Kings 7:1-12

4. What are we to make of the description of the building of Solomon's palace?

Read 1 Kings 7:13-51

5. What strikes you about the description of the contents of the temple?

6. What does this teach us about God?

7. Do you think Solomon was seeking God's glory or his own? Why/why not?
8. Jesus tells his disciples that he will rebuild the temple of God (John 2:19-22), what does he mean by this? (see also Acts 7:47-50).
9. What makes the new temple of God glorious (Phil 2:5-11)?

⇒ What does that mean for those who are part of God's new temple (Phil 3:17-21)?

⇒ What is the difference in living for our own glory rather than God's glory?

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Study Six

1 Kings 8:1-21

Consecrating the Temple

How can we be sure that God dwells with us?

1. What periods of Israel's history does the writer want the readers to have in mind? (see Exodus 40)
2. What is the significance the ark?
3. What did it look like for Israel to have the ark with them?
4. What must the people do in order to prepare the tent/temple for God to dwell in it?

Read 1 Kings 8:1-21

5. Why is the date of Solomon's consecration important? (see Lev 23:23-43)
6. What then is the significance of what has happened in this passage?
7. What do you make of Solomon's comment in v15-21?

8. How does God dwell with his people now? (see John 1:14)

⇒ What does that mean for us as Jesus is with the Father? Read John 14:15-21 – what does this add to our picture?

⇒ How can we be sure that God dwells with us?

⇒ What would you say to someone who trusted Jesus, but thought that God was not with them?

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Study Seven

1 Kings 8:22-66

Solomon's prayer

What sort of things do we often bring to God in prayer?

1. Before looking at Solomon's prayer, what is the significance of the day that this is taking place on? (1 Kings 8:2, Lev 23:23-43)

Read 1 Kings 8:22-66

2. What are the components of Solomon's prayer and blessing in v23-61? (add more rows if you need them)

Verses	Content	Type of prayer/blessing

3. How does Solomon ensure that his prayers for the people will be heard by God?

4. Why do you think the people were 'joyful and glad in heart' (v66)?

5. How do we know that our prayers are heard by God?

6. How should this impact the kind of things we bring to God in prayer?

⇒ What sorts of prayers could we be bringing to God based on Solomon's prayers?

⇒ Spend some time praying in line with these categories for one another.

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Study Eight

1 Kings 9:1-9

God's warning to the king

Can it sometimes feel too difficult to follow God? Why/why not?

Read 1 Kings 9:1-9

1. When was the other time that the Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon?
 - a. What was the nature of God's interaction with him then?
 - b. What did Solomon ask for in that meeting?
2. What is God's concern for Solomon now?
3. How does this fit with God's requirement of the King (Deut 17:14-20), and his promise to David (2 Sam 7:11b-16)?
4. In summary, what is God telling Solomon?
5. Why does God include Solomon's descendants from v6?

6. What would the failure of the descendants look like?

7. What role does the anointed king play in the future of God's people?

⇒ What kind of king is Jesus? Why does he choose to endure the scoffing of people who pass him by? (1 Pet 2:21-25)

⇒ Why should we seek to be obedient and faithful? What does our faithfulness look like? Who are we faithful to?

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Study Nine

1 Kings 9:10-10:29

Solomon's splendour

What does greatness look like in a ruler?

1. Let's remind ourselves of the requirements of God's king before looking at Solomon's actions – read Deut 17:14-20.

Read 1 Kings 9:10-28

2. In 1 Kings 9:10-28 we see Solomon's political actions. How would you describe them?

Read 1 Kings 10

3. Why does the queen of Sheba come to visit Solomon?
4. What is the queen of Sheba impressed by?
5. What does she attribute Solomon's greatness to?
6. Do you think the people would be happy with Solomon (1 Kings 10:8)? Why/why not?
7. What kind of ruler is Solomon?

8. When Jesus speaks with his disciples about what it means to rule, how does he describe it? (Mark 10:35-45)

9. What does greatness look like under Jesus' rule?

⇒ Thank God for his ultimate Anointed ruler Jesus.

⇒ Where are the dangers for us in following Solomon's example?

⇒ How might we imitate Jesus' greatness rather than Solomon's?

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Solomon's fall

What can the damage be when a prominent leader falls?

1. Looking back over Solomon's rule, how would you describe this point in Israel's history (relating to God's promises)?

Read 1 Kings 11

2. What caused Solomon to fall?
3. How does God respond?
 - a. Why does God say that for 'David's sake' he will not act in Solomon's lifetime?
4. Who are the enemies God raises up against Solomon?
5. What is significant about Jeroboam's rebellion? Why does he rebel?
6. Why does God encourage Jeroboam?

7. What will be the new situation for the people of God after Solomon dies?
8. Is this the point of fulfilment of God's promise? Is there any hope left for God's people (v13, 18)?
9. After the fall of Solomon, which Son of David (descendant of David) should the people put their hope in? Why? (Acts 2:22-36)

⇒ How can we ensure that we remain faithful to Jesus as we wait for his kingdom to fully come?

⇒ Thank God for the way that he has set up his faithful King on the throne.

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