

1 KINGS

- 1) – Both books of Kings reached their final form 400 years after the events described. 1 Kings begins in 973, the 40th year of David's reign.
- 2) 1:5-10 – Adonijah was the 4th son, born in Hebron when David was king only of Judah. Abiathar was the last priest of the house of Levi – 2:27. Solomon was the 11th son, born in Jerusalem.
- 3) 3:1 – Ramses II, who ruled only Lower Egypt, and that shakily.
- 4) 3:13 – What happened to the work of the Lord in Deut 17:17?
- 5) 6:1 – This cannot be right. 480 years earlier would have been in 1449 BC, in the reign of Thutmose III. To have the Exodus take place then is unthinkable. The figure was probably arrived at by multiplying 40 (one generation) by 12 (a mythical number representing the 12 tribes), meaning only a dozen generations after the Exodus. Calculating from the death of Pharaoh Merneptak in the Red Sea, the temple was begun 242 years after the Exodus, c 979 BC. See Ex 14:28.
- 6) 6:14 – The temple described here has never been found by archaeologists.
- 7) 7:15, 23 – Karen Armstrong: The two pillars, Jachin and Boaz, represented the fertility cult of Asherah. The “sea” (bronze basin) represented Yam, the primeval sea of Canaanite myth. They figured π to be 3, not bad for 3,000 years ago. (Circumference = diameter x π [3.1416]).
- 8) 10:1-13 – Muslims say that the Queen of Sheba was Balkis and came from Ethiopia, across the Red Sea from Yemen. They claim she had a child by Solomon named Menelik, ancestor of the ruling line until the dissolution of the monarchy in 1974. One Ethiopian saga relates that the Queen asked Solomon not to take her by force because she was a virgin. He agrees, but only if she doesn't take anything from his house. She goes to bed across the bedchamber from Solomon. He asks the maid servant to put a pitcher of water in the middle of the room. The Queen awakens in the night very thirsty from a highly spiced meal, starts to drink from the pitcher, is stopped by Solomon and accused of taking something from his house. He then rapes her and nine months later Menelik is born. /// One of the titles of the emperor of Ethiopia was "Lion of Judah," a reference to his supposed Judean ancestry. The last ruler, Haile Selassie, however, was the *grand-nephew* of the previous ruler, Menelik. His birth name was Ras (Prince) Tafari Mekonnen. In 1930 in Jamaica a semi-religious movement, its believers called Rastafarians, started claiming Haile was actually Jesus come to earth (parousia), called rastafarians.
- 9) 11:40 – Shishak was a weak ruler of Lower Egypt, who was not even called Pharaoh. The 21st dynasty came to an end with the death of Solomon's father-in-law in 940 BC.
- 10) 12:25 – Shechem was destroyed by Abimilech, Gideon's son (Judges 9:45) /// So begins the two century "Kingdom of Israel" -- but with only eight tribes left: Reuben and Simeon had disappeared by the time of the schism, and now Judah and Benjamin were cut off and would endure for 3 1/2 centuries.
- 11) 15:18 – Ben-hadad was ruler of the now strong Arameaan Kingdom of Syria, which had once paid tribute to David only 50 years before, and was now of equal strength.
- 12) 16:24 – This became the capital for the remaining history of the Kingdom. Soon the entire kingdom became known as Samaria.
- 13) 17:21 – The first mouth-to-mouth resuscitation??? See 2 Kings 4:34 (similar story, but Elisha in one, Elijah in the other)

- 14) 20:34 – Not mentioned in the Bible is the fact that in 854 BC Ahab and Ben-hadad joined forces to fight the Assyrians at Qarqar, 100 miles **north** of Damascus. Shalmaneser III was spreading his domination across the Fertile Crescent. This stand gained both Syria and Israel another century of additional life and vindicated Ahab's policy of not fighting Syria to exhaustion, which would have delivered both countries to Assyria.
- 15) 21:29 – K. Armstrong: The story of Elijah is the last mythical account of the past in the Jewish scriptures.
- 16) 22:6 – Apostates, wanting only to serve Ahab's wishes!