



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Scripture: 1 Kings

TITLE: 1 Kings - A Roller Coaster of Kings

What goes up must come down. That's how roller coasters work, and a lot of times that's how life works too. So how do we keep going? Maybe we should ask the question of how do roller coasters keep going? I'm no scientist, but the simple answer is momentum or inertia. There has to be some force that keeps the roller coaster rolling down the tracks. This requires many ups and downs.

Roller coasters are what come to mind when I think about the book of 1 Kings. This book picks up with the story of Israel where 1-2 Samuel left off. Israel is now ruled by a monarchy of Kings and this book traces that line of Kings from King David forward. In the line of David, we find many good Kings and many bad kings. Many ups and many downs in the story of the nation of Israel.

Timewise, it takes place between 560 and 536 B.C. Some notable people mentioned in this book include David, Solomon, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, and the Prophet Elijah.

Where do we see Jesus in the Book of 1 Kings? I believe we can see many shades of Jesus in King Solomon. King Solomon is known for having requested and received unparalleled wisdom which led to a time of unparalleled blessing, wealth, and glory for the nation of Israel under Solomon when the spirit of God could dwell with His people.

For a time, he served the Lord, but even Solomon was taken down by a heart that ran after idols. So, we needed a king with even more wisdom who could overcome the desires of sin. And that is Jesus, as Jesus told the Pharisees, [“something greater than Solomon is here.”](#) (Matthew 12:42, ESV). The perfect, wise King who would forever allow God's people to dwell in his presence.

One big thing we should take away from the book of 1 Kings is that sin divides. We were created to worship God with our whole hearts, yet continuously humanity follows the pattern of pursuing idols and sinful desires above God. This tears us apart. This is seen in 1 Kings as kings with divided hearts ultimately divided the nation of Israel into two. This is summarized well by the Prophet Elijah who spoke to God's people on his behalf when he said in 1 Kings 18:21

[“Elijah went before the people and said, ‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’”](#)

The people of God had been divided between idols and faithfulness.

The ups and downs of good things and bad kings bring the nation of Israel to its knees as far too many kings failed to keep God's covenant and follow his lead.

So for us, we must be careful not to divide our affections. We must serve God with our whole hearts. May we learn from the examples of those who come before us and not settle for the worship of false gods. For in idols, there is only death, but in God there is life.

So in this roller coaster of life, there are many ups and downs. But what is the momentum that will keep us going? It is the spirit of God. As we see from 2 Kings that sin divides and destroys. But still, the line of kings from David is not completely defeated, the spirit of God continues to move the story forward ultimately leading to Jesus, who although He was brought low to death, also rose up to life.