



I Kings: The Wisdom and the Folly

Dale Ralph Davis

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1 Kings is a continuation of a narrative of the history of Israel which begins in 1 Samuel and continues through into 1 & 2 Kings.

While we so often struggle with the events and issues of the book of 1st Kings, Ralph Davis helps us to see how it we can apply to the contemporary settings of the 21st century. As usual Ralph Davis uses pastoral application and laces it with his own sense of humour. He is noted for tackling scholarship head on.

I Kings: The Wisdom and the Folly Details

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From Reader Review I Kings: The Wisdom and the Folly for online ebook

Mike says

This is my third reading of this book, and it remains as sharp-edged, wise, witty and thought-provoking as ever. I've read Davis' whole series on Judges through to 2 Chronicles more than once, and never found better expository commentaries.

Davis never minces matters, continually reminding us that the actions of the men who were Kings in this book aren't remote from our actions. We need the lessons their lives teach, and we need to be careful not to fall into the traps they fell into.

Davis can also deal with the scholars, the ones who write erudite commentaries but get things - from his viewpoint - quite wrong. This is one series where the footnotes are as interesting as the text, often because he's bringing some other writer to heel for not presenting the truth of the matter, or for including his own interpretations based on faulty premises.

And then there are the anecdotes and stories that show how 1 Kings isn't about remote people, but about us and our contemporaries. Humankind makes the same mistakes over and over, and, hopefully, gets some things right in equal proportion.

Alan Johnson says

All of Ralph Davis's commentaries are excellent and a great help to preachers of Old Testament books. This one is no exception.

Gabriel says

I've come to expect nothing but clear, insightful and convicting teaching from Davis, and this volume did not disappoint. I especially enjoyed his exposition of the Elijah/Ahab saga. If only we could have a commentary like this for every book of the Bible.

Wade says

This is a great commentary on 1 Kings. Each chapter basically reads like a solid, exegetical sermon (filled with illustrations). Davis is intent to remain focused on the text as opposed to running off on topical rabbit-trails. Highly recommended.

Ray says

I have now read every one of D. Ralph Davis' commentaries (Judges, Joshua, I Sam., II Sam., I Kgs) -- all consistently excellent. In fact, if I had just one commentary on each of those books I'd select Davis.

Davis is a former Old Testament seminary professor, with a PhD., but has also been a pastor (Presbyterian -- PCA) for many years. These are all non-technical, unfootnoted, homiletical treatments. They are theologically rich, always Christocentric (or at least Christo-telic), well-illustrated, and relentlessly practical. Davis can turn a clever phrase like no other commentator, often tweaking a cliché to turn it on its head. Indispensable.

I was shocked that fellow PCAer Tremper Longman did not even include any Ralph Davis books in his survey of commentaries (though Longman analyzes lots and lots of inferior works).

I have two copies of each of Davis' commentaries (one for home, one for the office).

I have not really found other works on I Kings nearly as helpful. Ray Dillard's short work on the Elijah and Elisha narratives was the closest. Wiseman in the Tyndale set was perfectly competent and sound, but nowhere near as convicting as Davis.

Kofi Opoku says

This is the first commentary that I've read by the author, Dale Ralph Davis. He is excellent in his exposition of the text, delving deep into the technical details where necessary and being careful to follow the author's intent throughout the passage. I also enjoyed his applications of the text to both historical and current events.

Stanley Jebb says

Brilliant. All Dale Ralph Davis's Old Testament commentaries that I have read are excellent.

Stephen says

This is my first Dr. Davis commentary that I have ever read. My only problem is that I waited till last year to read it.

K.M. Weiland says

This is another solid and thought-provoking commentary from an author who have quickly come to respect for both his wit and wisdom and his honesty.

J.G. Cully says

Well thought out, expertly written and calling on many, many sources both biblical and historical. The writer draws on his own experience as well as that of many Christian and none Christian experts. A worthy read for anyone interested in what is very much the bible's 'Game of Thrones' history of the israelite kings.

Jeff Noble says

Without a doubt, the best commentary on Kings I have read. I thoroughly enjoyed his theological analyses, his writing style (sprinkled with good humor and insightful illustrations) and his ability to bring application from the text to modern life.

David says

I love all the Dale Ralph Davis commentaries, so I love this (OK an occasional "corny; story). Brings great insights for the serious scholar as well as the layperson. A conservative stance.

Danielw says

I have read reviews for other books that contain the line, "I was sad to see this book end". I always thought it was hyperbole, a persons way of emphasizing just how much they like a book. Until now, that is. Dale Ralph Davis' work on 1 Kings is wonderful, informative, entertaining , convicting and edifying. I have not read a ton of commentaries, but I fear Mr. Davis is spoiling me (this is his 3rd commentary I have read of his, including Joshua and Judges) Its not very technical and doesnt dive into the original language thing too much, as a matter of fact I think he avoids it for the most part. In all of the books I have read by him, he has opened up my eyes to details glossed over that have impacted the scriptures in huge ways. Let me say I will never look at chapter 19 of 1 Kings the same way ever again. In ending I can not praise this book enough or recommend it any more enthusiastically. And yes, as I noted the pages on the right thinning down to the last few , I did indeed feel a twinge of sadness. But all I need to do is get his commentary on 2 Kings to remedy that! Read this and be blessed!

Rev Reads says

This is my first Davis commentary and it surpassed all my expectations. Davis provides sounds exegesis and insightful applications. It was so good that I had to go out and get his commentaries on II Kings, I and I Samuel, and Judges. I highly recommend this book for any serious student of the Bible.
