

# THE BOOK OF KINGS

**Author or Compiler of Records:** Largely unknown (possibilities: Ezra, Ezekiel or Jeremiah); likely an exile in Babylon, drawing from historical sources.

**Possible date:** 550 BC

**Subject Matter:** from King Solomon in Jerusalem to the release of King Jehoiachin, the last Davidic King, in Babylon. Spans almost 400 years, from c.970 BC to 586 BC (Babylonian conquest of Judah). It recounts Jewish history through the lenses of those in exile. Helps future generation understand what went wrong.

**Structure:** One book, two parts (scrolls/codex)

<u>1:1-11:43</u>	<u>The United Kingdom: Obedience</u>	
	The Rise of Solomon	(1:1-3:1)
	Solomon's Wisdom	(3:2-4:34)
	Solomon's Temple	(5-8:66)
	Solomon's Fame	(9-10:29)
	The Fall of Solomon	(Ch. 11)
<u>12:1-2<sup>nd</sup> Kg. 17:41</u>	<u>The Divided Kingdom: Chastisement</u>	
	The Rise and Fall of Jeroboam	(12:1-14:20)
	The Lamp of David Remains	(14:21-15:24)
	God's Word Against Unfaithfulness Confirmed	(15:25- <b>2 Kg.</b> 10:36)
	Blessing for Covenant Obedience Confirmed	(11:1-14:29)
	Chastisement Confirmed and Explained	(15:1-17:41)
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Kg 18:1-25:30</u>	<u>The Surviving Kingdom: Preservation</u>	
	Reform in Judah and The Rise of Babylon	(18:1-20:21)
	Irrevocable Punishment Pronounced	(21:1-26)
	Reform in the Shadow of Judgment	(22:1-23:30)
	God's Punishment Confirmed	(23:31-25:26)
	The Davidic King Resurrected: Jehoiachin	(25:27:30)

## Themes in Kings 1:1-11:43

1.) David's longed-for temple is built by Solomon

<sup>12</sup> *"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom."* <sup>13</sup>  
*"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."*  
 (2Sam 7:12-13 NAU)

➤ Who is God talking about in this verse, Solomon or the Messiah?

## 2.) Solomon is NOT the expected Messiah.

- He fails the requirements of a King, set out in Deut. 17.
- Compare Deut 17 with 1st Kings 10:23-11:6

**Themes in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 12 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings**

## 1.) The Kingdom is Divided

1 Kings 11:26-12:33

## 2.) Prophets continue to stand in judgment over the kings

- Elijah and Elisha are especially prominent—paving the way for the prophets to follow.

## 3.) The reason for Israel's &amp; Judah's captivity is given

- They refused to follow Yahweh & his Torah—they broke the covenant  
2 Kings 17; 2 Kings 24:18-25:30

*Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away into exile to Assyria... because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed His covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded; they would neither listen nor do it.*  
(2 Kings 18:11-12 NAU)

*The LORD said, "I will remove Judah also from My sight, as I have removed Israel. And I will cast off Jerusalem, this city which I have chosen, and the temple of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"*  
(2 Kings 23:27 NAU)

## 4.) None of the kings live up to the hopes of the Davidic Covenant

- Israel had no good kings: 0/19
- Judah had few good kings, though none measured up to David: 8/20

## 5.) The exile means a collapse of everything important to Israelite faith

- ✓ The kingdom of Israel
- ✓ The kingdom of Judah
- ✓ Jerusalem
- ✓ The temple (cf. Ez. 10:18-19; 11:22-25 – the departing glory of Yahweh)
- ✓ The sacrificial system
- ✓ The pilgrimages
- ✓ The Levitical priesthood
- ✓ The royal king

## 6.) A future hope remains: the coming of the messianic king

- The royal line is preserved, even in captivity. 2 Kings 25:27-30

## 7.) Introduction of the remnant

*"Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."*  
(1<sup>st</sup> Kings 19:18 NAU)

