

I & II Kings – 22 & 25 Chapters

Title:

Kings- Named after the main topic- the history of the Kings of Israel.

Author:

Anonymous, tradition suggests possibly Jeremiah

Occasion and Purpose:

Probably written at the end of the monarchy. It shows the monarchy at its best and at its worst. The story is told in such a way as to highlight the difference between godly kings (who lead the nation into blessing) and ungodly kings (who lead the nation into punishment). The point is that the monarchy was ended because of the influence of bad kings, when they could have been so much better.

Themes:

1. Deuteronomistic Theology
2. Prophetic Perspective

Summary:

I Kings- Continuation of the history of Israel under the kings. States key people and events, telling whether each king was good or evil. Highlights are the life of King Solomon, one of the greatest kings to ever live, the division of the kingdom into two nations in the time of King Rehoboam, and the life and ministry of Elijah the prophet against the evil king Ahab and his wife Jezebel.

2 Kings- Continuation of 1 Kings. Highlights are the life of Hezekiah and his reforms, the ministry of Isaiah in the time of invasion from Assyria, and the conquest of Judah by Babylon.

Organization:

Solomon	Solomon's ascension and David's death – 1:1-2:46	1Kgs 1:1-11:43
	Solomon's early success – 3:1-4:34	
	Solomon Builds and dedicates the temple (and other buildings) 5:1-9:9	
	Solomon's glory and fame – 9:10-10:29	
	Solomon's decline – 11:1-43	
Divided Nation	Division of the Kingdom and Northern apostasy – 12:1-14:20	1Kgs 12:1-2Kgs 17:41
	Series of early kings – 14:21-16:34	
	Elijah vs. Ahab and Jezebel – 17:1-22:53	
	Ministry of Elisha – 1:1-8:15	
	Series of Later Kings – 8:16-16:20	
	Exile of the Northern Kingdom – 17:1-41	
Judah Alone	Hezekiah – 18:1-19:21	2Kgs 18:1-25:30
	Series of Last Kings of Judah – 21:1-24:17	
	Fall of Jerusalem – 24:18-25:30	

Key Verses:

1 Kgs 3:1-3; 8:22-30; 9:4-7; 18:21 2 Kgs 17:18-20; 23:26-27; 24:1-4