

A User's Guide to 1 & 2 Kings

Sunday Evening, May 19, 2024 – WOCC – Rich Howell

PROLOGUE: *1 Kings begins with the very end of David's remarkable life. SOLOMON was his heir apparent, but David's passivity (1 Kings 1:5-6) resulted in one of his other sons, Adonijah, attempting to usurp the throne. At Bathsheba's request, David secured Solomon's place as his rightful successor in 971 BC, shortly before his death. Under the wise son of David, Israel flourished as never before. It was Israel's golden age of peace, prosperity, power and far-reaching influence. Solomon's God-given wisdom was without equal (until the future "son of David" would far surpass him – Mat 12:42!). But Solomon, like his father, had a glaring weakness that diminished his greatness and control, resulting in a north-south split of Israel after his death (931 BC).*

The rest of 1 and 2 Kings toggle between accounts of the more faithful kings of Judah (who reigned from JERUSALEM) and the apostate kings of Israel (who reigned mostly from SAMARIA). By the end of 2 Kings, both Israel and Judah had fallen to foreign empires. (See EPILOGUE)

BOOK OUTLINES:

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| 1 Kings 1-10 | Solomon's Early Years – Israel's Zenith! |
| 1-2 | The brief struggle for David's throne |
| 3-4 | Solomon's wisdom and WEALTH/Israel's PEACE and prosperity |
| 5-8 | The CONSTRUCTION and DEDICATION of the Jerusalem temple |
| 9-10 | The Lord makes Solomon greater still |
| 1 Kings 11-12 | Israel DIVIDES in Two |
| 11 | Solomon is unFAITHFUL and his kingdom starts unRAVELING |
| 12 | Division (REHOBAM) and departure (JEROBOAM) |
| 1 Kings 13-16 | Early Divided Kingdom – Judah Holds On; Israel LETS GO |
| 13-14 | Jeroboam confronted, condemned & sentenced |
| 15-16 | The Good (ASA), the Bad (AHAB) and the Ugly (JEZEBEL) |
| 1 Kings 17-22 | Elijah the Prophet Sent to OPPOSE Ahab |
| 17 | Elijah brings a dry spell to Israel (see James 5:17-18) |
| 18 | Elijah defeats and destroys the PROPHETS of Ba'al |
| 19-20 | Elijah flees from Jezebel; gets his FINAL orders |
| 21-22 | Ahab's downfall |
| 2 Kings 1 | Elijah brings bad news to Ahab's son, Ahaziah |
| 2 Kings 2-13 | The Ministry of Elijah's Successor, ELISHA |
| 2 | Elijah passes the torch and makes a GLORIOUS exit! |
| 3-7 | Elisha helps Israel through hard times |
| 8-9 | Elisha sets up new LEADERSHIP in Syria and in Israel |
| 10 | King JEHU rids Israel of Ahab's family and evil legacy |
| 11-12 | Judah's WICKED queen and its BOY king! |
| 13 | Elisha's death-bed assignment; and, post-mortem MIRACLE! |

- 2 Kings 14-17** **Fall of the Northern Kingdom**
 14 Israel's last _____: Victory over Judah and a time of prosperity
 15-16 The Assyrian threat: _____ falls (740 BC); _____ falls (____ BC)
 17 Then, _____ falls (____ BC) and is resettled by foreigners
- 2 Kings 18-20** **Judah Survives under _____ Hezekiah**
 18-19 Hezekiah's great faithfulness and God's great _____!
 20 Hezekiah's illness, recovery and _____ years!
- 2 Kings 21-23** **The Worst King & the Best King**
 21 Manasseh's mess _____ Judah!
 22:1-23:27 A respite under Josiah – re _____, re _____, re _____
 23:28-37 Josiah's untimely death leaves Judah with “ _____ leaders”
- 2 Kings 24-25** **Judah's Fall to Babylonia**
 24 Nebuchadnezzar's first two attacks (____ BC & ____ BC)
 25:1-21 Nebuchadnezzar's third attack (____ BC). His captain, Nabuzaradan, destroys
 Jerusalem and its _____! (See 2 Chron 36; Jer 39 & 52)
 25:22-26 _____ move back to Egypt (see Jer 40-44)
 25:27-30 More than a _____ gesture ... Judah's surviving king, Jehoiachin, released
 from prison and _____ in Babylon! (____ BC)

EPILOGUE: *Instead of these two books ending with a thud, they end with a _____ of hope for the future (2 Kings 25:27-30)! God made sure that the young, dethroned grandson of _____ (Jehoiachin or Jeconiah), was well taken care of in Babylon (560 BC). Why? Because he alone _____ David's royal bloodline that would bring the “real” King to His Eternal Throne. So, about twelve generations later, Israel's _____, God's _____, and the world's _____ came, “descended from _____,” descended from _____!*