

Reading 1–2 Kings

1 Kings 1-11 Solomon's Reign

- 1-5 Solomon's rise to power
- 6-8 Solomon builds the Jerusalem temple
- 9-11 Solomon's rise and fall

1 Kings 12–2 Kings 17 Israel and Judah as a Divided Kingdom

- 12-16 Northern Israel's apostasy
- 17-20 Elijah confronts Israel's idolatry
- 2 Kings 1-8 Elisha confronts Israel's kings

- 10-12 Jehu's coup, Joash restores the temple
- 13-16 Israel and Judah's apostasy
- 17 N. Israel carried into exile by Assyria

2 Kings 18–25 Judah's Rise and Fall and Exile

- 18-20 Hezekiah and the Assyrian threat
- 21 Manasseh's apostasy
- 22-23 Josiah restores true worship in Judah
- 24-25 Apostasy again > Babylonian exile

Key Themes in 1–2 Kings

- Solomon rises to fame and builds the Jerusalem temple (remember 2 Samuel 7:12-13: "When your [David's] days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you . . . He is the one who will build a house for my Name.").
 - Temple Constructed in 1 Kgs 6-7 > Dedicated in 1 Kgs 8
- But Solomon is not THE messiah, nor is he THE temple builder.
 - See 1 Kings 10:23-11:6: He fails to measure up to the requirement of Deut. 17:14-20
- Israel splits into Northern Israel and Southern Judah because of greed and lust for power: 1 Kings 11:26-12:33
- None of the kings live up to hopes of the Davidic covenant: Every king is introduced by the narrator with either praise or criticism in comparison to David: everything hinges on whether they tried to stop idolatry in Israel or whether they sponsored it (see 1 Kings 15:1-5; 15:9-14)
 - Northern Israel has **no** good kings 0 for 19
 - Southern Judah has **some** good kings 8 for 20
- Prophets are sent by Yahweh to challenge the kings for covenant violation:
The 'man of God' (1 Kings 13) → Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17–2 Kings 13) → Isaiah (2 Kings 18-20) → the Prophets (2 Kings 17).
- The reasons for Israel and Judah's exile is spelled out in detail: 2 Kings 17 is the author's "sermon" on the exile of Northern Israel; 2 Kings 24-25 recounts the exile of Southern Judah
- The exile means a collapse of everything important to Israelite faith = a "crisis of faith"
The kingdom of Judah | The kingdom of Israel | Jerusalem | The temple
The sacrificial system | The pilgrimages | The Levitical priesthood | The monarchy

Key Questions at the end of Kings:

- "What about God's promises to Abraham?"
- "Is Yahweh's covenant with Israel cancelled?"
- "What about Yahweh's plan to redeem all creation?"

- The promise of a future messianic king is kept alive: Even in exile, the royal lineage is preserved: 2 Kgs 25:27-3 (the final sentences of the book)

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