

Old Testament Survey

1 & 2 Kings

1 & 2 Kings - Introduction

- 1 & 2 Kings were originally a single book in the Hebrew canon (known as Kings)
 - separated into 2 books in the Septuagint
 - Similarly in English Bible, with slightly different division point

1 & 2 Kings - Introduction

- In the Hebrew canon, Kings is the last book of the "Former Prophets"
 - Hebrew Bible divided into the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings
 - the Prophets further subdivided into
 - the Former Prophets - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings
 - the Latter Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Twelve

1 & 2 Kings - Introduction

- Covers ~400-year period of Israelite history (971-561 B.C.)
 - From Solomon through fall & exile of Judah to Babylon
- Authorship uncertain
 - Jewish tradition attributes authorship to Jeremiah
 - considered unlikely by most scholars today
 - likely written by one or more writers in period of Judah's exile to Babylon (~560-540 B.C.)

1 & 2 Kings - Introduction

- written to explain the fall and exile of Israel & Judah, in relation to God's covenants with Israel
 - Speaks to God's sovereignty and His faithfulness to His Covenant people through the history of Israel, in face of the hard reality of the Exile

1 & 2 Kings - Introduction

- written to explain the fall and exile of Israel & Judah, in relation to God's covenants with Israel
 - Less interested in political/worldly exploits of the kings, than in their spiritual impact
 - e.g. Omri's reign described in only 6 verses (1 Kings 16:23-28), despite him being recognized as one of Israel's greatest kings by other nations

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- Summary
 - 1 Kings 1-11 – King Solomon (971-931 B.C.)
 - 1 Kings 12 to 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom (931-722 B.C.)
 - 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13 - the ministries of Elijah and Elisha (~860s to ~780s B.C.)
 - 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of the kingdom of Judah (~729-561 B.C.)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 1-11 - King Solomon
 - 1 Kings 1-2
 - Solomon chosen by David to succeed him as king
 - overcomes opposition from Adonijah (his older half-brother)
 - 3-4, 9-10 - Solomon's wisdom and greatness
 - Israel tremendously prosperous during his reign
 - Borders expanded to include all the land promised to Abraham
 - Other nations sought out Solomon

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 1-11 - King Solomon
 - 1 Kings 5-8 - building and dedication of the Temple
 - a permanent 'dwelling place' for God
 - Solomon's prayer of dedication - a call for God to keep His covenant and to continue to show His steadfast love towards Israel and towards the house of David
 - asking the LORD to forgive His people when they repent and turn to Him

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 1-11 - King Solomon
 - 1 Kings 11 - Solomon's decline
 - 700 wives & 300 concubines - led his heart astray, after other gods
 - led Israel into worshiping gods of the surrounding nations
 - prophet Ahijah foretells division of kingdom
 - 10 tribes to be ruled by Jeroboam, one of Solomon's servants (11:29-40)
 - "Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes" (1 Kings 11:34)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 12 - Israel divides into 2 kingdoms after Solomon's death
 - immediate cause: Rehoboam's refusal lighten the forced labor that Solomon had imposed
 - “My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs (!)” (12:10)
 - underlying cause: Solomon's unfaithfulness in worshiping other gods (1 Kings 11)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - Southern kingdom (Judah)
 - 2 tribes (Judah & Benjamin)
 - ruled by the House of David
 - 19 kings over ~345 years (930-586 B.C.), starting with Rehoboam
 - David - the standard by which subsequent kings of Judah were measured
 - some kings "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as [their] father David did"
 - others "did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God, as his father David had done" (e.g. 2 Kings 16:2)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - Northern Kingdom (Israel)
 - 10 tribes
 - Characterized by ungodly kings and political instability
 - ruled by 20 kings over ~210 years
 - 9 different dynasties – longest lasted ~100 years
 - all did evil in God's eyes

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 12-14: Israel's 1st king - Jeroboam
 - reigned 22 years
 - formerly in charge of Solomon's labor force
 - led rebellion against Rehoboam following Solomon's death
 - led Israel into idolatry

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 12-14: Israel's 1st king - Jeroboam
 - set up golden calves at Dan & Bethel (12:25-33)
 - became the standard (of evil) to which all the kings of Israel following him were compared
 - recurring description: "He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin..." (e.g. 2 Kings 13:2)
 - e.g. Ahab "did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he... served Baal and worshiped him..." (1 Kings 16:31-33)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 12-14: Israel's 1st king - Jeroboam
 - set in process the sins that would seal Israel's fate
 - the prophet Ahijah's prophecy against Jeroboam:

"Moreover, the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut off the house of Jeroboam today... and root up Israel out of this good land that He gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking the LORD to anger. And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin." (1 Kings 14:14-16)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 14-16 - succession of kings of Judah & Israel
 - Judah:
 - Rehoboam (14:21-31) , Abijah (15:1-8) , Asa (15:9-24)
 - Israel:
 - Dynasty of Jeroboam: Nadab (15:25-32)
 - Dynasty of Baasha: Baasha (15:33-16:7) , Elah (16:8-14)
 - Zimri (16:15-20) - 7 days; died when besieged by Omri
 - Tibni (16:21-22) – also lost out to Omri, and died
 - Dynasty of Omri : Omri (16:23-28); Ahab (16:29-34)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13 - the ministries of Elijah and Elisha
 - Elijah & Elisha - 2 of many prophets in the times of the Kings
 - role of prophets in Kings (and the OT)
 - mouthpieces for God → remind kings & people of God's commands
 - » keep the kings in check, in accordance with the Word of the LORD
 - in some cases, foretelling what the LORD would do in the future (generally in relation to coming judgments)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13 - Elijah & Elisha
 - Elijah (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2)
 - prophet to the Northern kingdom during the reigns of Ahab and his sons Ahaziah and Joram (aka Jehoram)
 - Jehoshaphat was king in Judah (1 Kings 20:41-50)
 - Confronted Ahab and his wife Jezebel regarding their idolatry and immoral lives
 - » Prophesied the complete destruction of Ahab's house
 - Appointed Elisha as his successor, before being taken up into heaven

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13 - Elijah & Elisha
 - Elisha (1 Kings 2-2 Kings 9; 2 Kings 13)
 - prophet to the Northern kingdom in the last days of the dynasty of Omri (Ahab, Ahaziah, and Joram), and into the Dynasty of Jehu
 - Performs roughly 2x as many miracles as Elijah
 - » In contrast to Elijah, whose ministry was typically characterized by judgment, Elisha's was characterized more by blessing/restoration
 - Dies during reign of King Jehoash (Joash) of Israel (2 Kings 13:14-25)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13 - Elijah & Elisha
 - Kings of Judah & Israel during time of Elisha
 - Judah:
 - » Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16-24), Ahaziah (8:26-29)
 - » Queen Athaliah (11:1-20) - daughter of Ahab, wife of Jehoram; seized power by killing the royal family
 - » Joash (11:4-12:21)
 - Israel:
 - » Joram (2 Kings 1:17) – killed by Jehu
 - » Dynasty of Jehu: Jehu (2 Kings 9:1-10:36); Jehoahaz (13:1-9); Jehoash (13:10-25)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 2 Kings 13-17 – Last days of Israel
 - Kings of Judah:
 - Amaziah (14:1-22); Azariah (aka Uzziah; 15:1-7); Jotham (15:32-38); Ahaz (16:1-20)
 - Kings of Israel:
 - Dynasty of Jehu: Jehoahaz (13:1-9); Jehoash (13:10-13); Jeroboam II (14:23-29); Zechariah (15:8-12)
 - Shallum (15:13-16)
 - Dynasty of Menahem: Menahem (15:17-22); Pekahiah (15:23-26)
 - Pekah (15:27-31)
 - Hoshea (17:1-6) - last king of Israel

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 - Divided Kingdom
 - 2 Kings 17 - the fall of Samaria & Israel

- Israel exiled to Assyria for her sins

"And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced... So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day." (17:7-23)

- Samaria resettled with foreigners by the King of Assyria
 - Intermarriage with remaining Israelites → "Samaritans"

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 18-20 - Hezekiah
 - One of the best kings in the history of Judah
 - "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done... He trusted in the LORD the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him." (18:3,5)
 - trusted God to deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrians
 - angel of the LORD killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 21 – Manasseh and Amon
 - Manasseh (21:1-18) - one of the most evil kings in the history of Judah
 - "He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel." (21:2ff)
 - sealed Judah's fate, as God promised to bring disaster on Judah for the sins he committed and led them to commit
 - Amon (21:19-26)
 - "He abandoned the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD" (21:22)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 22:1-23:30 – Josiah
 - became king at age 8
 - repaired the Temple (22:1-20)
 - In the process, found Book of the Law (possibly Deuteronomy)
 - implemented spiritual reforms and restored observance of the Passover (23:1-27)
 - One of the best kings in the history of Judah
 - "Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him." (23:25)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 23:31-24:20 – Last kings of Judah
 - All did evil in the LORD's sight
 - Jehoahaz (23:31-35) - deposed and carried into exile by King Neco of Egypt
 - Jehoiakim (23:36-24:7)
 - Jehoiachin (24:8-17) – taken into exile to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, with many others (including Daniel)
 - Zedekiah (24:18-20) - uncle of Jehoiachin
 - made king by Nebuchadnezzar
 - rebelled against Babylon, resulting in the fall of Jerusalem

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 25 – Fall of Jerusalem and Exile to Babylon
 - Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and the Temple (586 B.C.)
 - Judah taken into exile in Babylon
 - "Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove them out of His sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, and also for the innocent blood that he had shed... and the LORD would not pardon." (24:3-4)
 - Gedaliah appointed governor over those remaining in the land, but is assassinated (25:22-26)

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 25 – Fall of Jerusalem and Exile to Babylon
 - Jehoiachin is released from prison in the 37th year of his exile (~561 B.C.) (25:27-30)
 - shown special favor by Evil-merodach, king of Babylon
 - 2 Kings ends with a ray of hope for the future, through the rise of a son of David

1 & 2 Kings - Overview

- 2 Kings 18-25 - last days of Judah
 - 2 Kings 25 – Fall of Jerusalem and Exile to Babylon
 - Jehoiachin is released from prison in the 37th year of his exile (~561 B.C.) (25:27-30)
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1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- God
 - His sovereignty over the nations and over history
 - His control over the events of history – even the kings & armies of other nations
 - often demonstrated through His prophets
 - their power over kings and even the forces of nature
 - fulfillment of prophecies made by His prophets

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- God

- His holiness, righteousness, justice

- His righteous judgments on Israel & Judah for their sins

- His love, forbearance, and mercy towards His people

- e.g. saving them in spite of themselves

"For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel. But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash." (2 Kings 14:26-27)

- His faithfulness to preserve a faithful remnant

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- God
 - His faithfulness to His Word and to His promises
 - faithfulness to keep His covenants with Abraham & David, despite Israel's repeated violations
 - "But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, ***because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob***, and would not destroy them" (2 Kings 13:23)
 - "Nevertheless, ***for David's sake*** the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem" (1 Kings 15:4)
 - "Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah, ***for the sake of David his servant***, since he promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever." (2 Kings 8:19)

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- God

- His faithfulness to His Word and to His promises

- faithfulness to judge, in accordance to the warnings He gave in the Law (e.g. Lev. 26; Deut. 28) and repeatedly through the prophets

- “And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish...” (Deut. 8:19-20)

- “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes... then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deuteronomy 28:15)

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- the people of God
 - the priority of worshiping and obeying God
 - worshiping as He has commanded
 - Not with images or false representations of God - the golden calves of Jeroboam
 - Not worshiping other gods
 - a central place of worship at the Temple
 - » continual mention of "high places" not being removed by the kings – places of corrupted and/or idol worship

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- the people of God
 - the consequences of sin, both personal and corporate
 - the disastrous consequences of idolatry
 - All the curses threatened in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 play out on Israel & Judah
 - if the Israelites become like the Canaanites, God would judge them like he did the Canaanites (Deut. 8:19-20)

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- the people of God
 - the importance and impact of leadership
 - Kings
 - significant impact in leading the nation to or away from God
 - their obedience or sins had dramatic consequences not only on themselves, but on the nation as a whole
 - their impacts sometimes extended for generations to come
 - » For good – e.g. David
 - » For ill – e.g. Jeroboam; Manasseh

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- the people of God
 - the importance and impact of leadership
 - Prophets
 - true prophets called on kings and people to repentance
 - false prophets – affirmed kings and people in their sins, resulting ultimately in judgment and destruction
 - » 2 categories:
 - prophets of false gods
 - those prophesying falsely in the name of the true God

1 & 2 Kings – Major Themes

- the people of God
 - the importance and impact of leadership
 - Priests
 - could be a force for good, bringing benefit to the nation
 - » e.g. Zadok helping Solomon rise to the throne (1 Kings 1)
 - » Jehoiada raising King Joash and standing against Athaliah (2 Kings 11)
 - could be a force for evil, leading people astray
 - » e.g. Uriah, who helped King Ahaz set up a pagan altar in the Temple (2 Kings 16:15-16)

1 & 2 Kings – Glimpses of Christ

- Elijah
 - epitome of the prophets
 - yet, points to one who would come, who would be greater than himself
 - Malachi - 4:5 - God would send Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great Day of the Lord
 - fulfilled in the coming of John the Baptist, who would go before Christ (Luke 1:17; Matthew 11:14; Mark 9:11-13)

1 & 2 Kings – Glimpses of Christ

- “Great David’s greater Son”
 - the need for a greater Son of David through whom God's covenant with David (and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) would be fulfilled
 - even the best kings of Judah all had their flaws
 - one of the 'best' kings, Josiah, was unable to save Judah from destruction in spite of his righteous deeds
 - the earthly line of Davidic kings failed and came to an end
 - yet God had promised David "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:16)

1 & 2 Kings – Glimpses of Christ

- “Great David’s greater Son”
 - God's covenant with David fulfilled ultimately in Jesus Christ, the Son of David; the true Prophet, the great High Priest, the King of Kings

Next class

- Isaiah

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