

Survey of the Old Testament Kings

Introduction

Originally one book

Author unknown; Jewish tradition = Jeremiah

“The author’s primary concern is covenant faithfulness and loyalty to God, not political prowess” (Arnold & Beyer).

The books cover the time between the end of David’s reign to the Babylonian captivity of Judah, a little over 400 years.

I Kings

I Kings covers about 120 years of history: from the death of David to the death of Ahab.

The division of the kingdom is described.

The book can be divided into two sections:

- Solomon’s united kingdom (1-11)
- The divided kingdom (12-22)
 - Northern kingdom = “Israel”
 - Southern kingdom – “Judah”

I Kings

Adonijah tried to take the throne, but David gave it to Solomon (1:5-53)

Solomon asked for wisdom (3:5-14)

Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem (5-6)

Solomon became unfaithful (11:1-8)

I Kings

Division of the kingdom (12:16-24)

Jeroboam’s system of worship (12:26-33)

Elijah and prophets of Baal (18:20-40)

Wicked reign of Ahab (16:29-22:40)

2 Kings

2 Kings covers a period of almost 300 years: from Ahab's death to the Babylonian captivity of Judah.

It continues the description of the growing wickedness of the people.

Important note: the kings of Israel were never completely faithful; some of the kings of Judah were faithful.

2 Kings

Elijah ascends and Elisha replaces him (2)

Death of Jezebel (9:27-37)

Israel was taken captive by Shalmaneser of Assyria in 722 BC (17)

2 Kings

Sennacherib of Assyria attacked Judah and besieged Jerusalem c. 705 BC (18-19)

Contrast between Manasseh and Josiah (21-22)

Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah 606 BC (24)

Jerusalem destroyed about 586 BC