

I and II KINGS

Written around 570

Possibly by Jeremiah or other prophets

These books are the sequel to I and II Samuel

Continuation of the history of the Hebrew nation

Originally one book,

Relates the history of Israel from the last days of David to the destruction of the northern kingdom, Israel, in 721 B.C., and to the fall of the southern kingdom, Judah, in 586 B.C. This is the period of Israel's glory, division, decline, and fall.

1st Kings

David's Death

- King David is old

 - he had a very full life

 - killed lions and bears bare handed

 - killed a giant

 - was a warrior (lead thousands of men into countless battles)

 - a poet (wrote over 70 of the psalms)

 - a lover (at least 8 wives)

 - a King defeated his enemies and built a kingdom

 - a sinner (adultery and murder)

-Regardless of his successes and failures, he is most remembered for his heart for the Lord

Paul says in acts:

Act 13:22 "...(God) raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'

-that doesn't seem to make sense

-Even though David did a lot of good, he also did some wicked things that God was not pleased with

- numbered his army

- had an affair

- had an innocent man killed

-how is it that God says David would do all His will?

Listen to this conversation Jesus had:

Joh 6:28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**"

-we see this again and again in the Old Testament

-people whose lives are filled with sinful behavior that still find great favor in the sight of the Lord

-Jacob the deceiver

-Abraham the liar

-Moses the murderer

-Jonah the coward

-king Solomon the womanizer

We need to get past the idea that we need to be perfect in order to be usable for God

-God is not as interested in what we do as He is interested in why we do it

-it is all about the condition of the heart

Solomon's Reign

Shortly after becoming king, Solomon prays his famous prayer

-God comes to Solomon in a dream and poses a question that would test the character of the most noble man on earth...

1Ki 3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what *you wish* me to give you."

-put yourself in Solomon's sandals for a moment

-this is no genie in a bottle

-this is the God of the universe saying "if you can dream it up, just ask and I'll give it to you"!

-what do you wish for?

-dominion over your enemies?

-to rule the entire world?

-to live forever?

-to have perfect kids?

-to be the richest man on earth?

-here's Solomon's wish:

1Ki 3:9 "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

-that's it?

- we know that David wasn't the perfect parent, but he sure did something right
- wouldn't you be proud to hear your child answer like that when all the chips were on the table?

Jesus said:

Mat 12:34 "..... For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

-this is what separated people like Solomon, David, Abraham, Job, Paul, Jacob from all the others

-not the good things they did, but what was in their heart

1Ki 3:10 It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.

1Ki 3:11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice,

1Ki 3:12 behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

1Ki 3:13 "I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days.

Solomon's wisdom and riches

-dividing the baby

-wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs

-40,000 horse stalls, 12,000 horsemen

-just the gold he received in one year was today's equivalent to \$575 million dollars

-plus silver, stones, other metals, livestock...

-Highest income today is current CEO of Apple (\$378 Million per year)

Solomon's Temple built

-originally David wanted to build the temple for the Lord

-God wouldn't allow it because David was a man of war and bloodshed

-the Temple replaces the mobile Tabernacle the Israelites used for so long

Solomon's downfall

-700 wives plus 300 concubines (foreign women)

-Listen to what God told the Israelites back in Deuteronomy:

Deu 17:14 "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,'

Deu 17:15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, *one* from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.

Deu 17:16 "Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.'

Deu 17:17 "He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

-The king shall not multiply wives or horses

-Solomon has 40,000 horse stables and 1,000 women

-and the foreign women turned his heart away from God

-Solomon gives himself completely over to the lust of the flesh

-much of it is not discussed until we get to Ecclesiastes

-but in the end, he does realize that a life apart from God is in vane, regardless of material possessions

-Solomon Dies

Kingdom Divided

-Under the rule of Rehoboam, Israel becomes divided

-10 northern tribes (Israel)

-2 southern tribes (Judah)

-Over the next 130 years, Israel and Judah had 28 kings

-only two were called "good"

-God sends prophets to begin to call the people back to God

Elijah's Ministry and Miracles

1. stopping the rain for three years. (1 Kings 17:1)

2. Oil multiplied, the grain increased daily, the widow woman. (1 Kings 17:2)

3. Widow's son raised from the dead. (1 Kings 17:22, 23)

4. Fire from heaven on the soaked altar (prophets of Baal). (1 Kings 18:38)
5. Rain returns. (1 Kings 18:45)
6. Fire brought down on the 51 soldiers. (2 Kings 1:10)
7. Fire brought down on the second 51 soldiers. (2 Kings 1:12)
8. The parting of the river Jordan. (2 Kings 2:8)

God tells Elijah to anoint Elisha as prophet in his place

1st Kings closes with one of the 2 good kings (Jehoshaphat) dying and another wicked king coming to power

2nd Kings

- picks up towards the end of Elijah's ministry
 - most of the focus in 2nd Kings is on the ministry of Elisha
- in ch. 2 God takes Elijah to heaven in a flaming chariot
 - Before he goes, he grants Elisha one wish if he happens to see him get taken to heaven
 - Elisha asks for a double portion of his spirit

Elisha takes over for Elijah

- interesting side note:
 - In Rev. ch. 11 God sends back 2 of His witnesses to Earth
 - they are to prophesy continuously for 1260 days and then be killed

[Heb 9:27](#) And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

- there are only two people in the bible that never died
 - Enoch (before the Flood)
 - Elijah
 - just something to think about

Elijah seems to be better known than Elisha

- but Elisha performed many more miracles

Elisha's miracles:

1. Jordan river divided. (2:14)
2. Waters at the spring of Jericho healed. (2:21)
3. Bears from the woods, destroying the mockers. (2:24)
4. Water for kings. (3:20)
5. Oil for widow. (4:1-4)
6. Gift of son. (4:16, 17)
7. Raising the child from dead. (4:35)
8. Healing of the pootage (4:41)
9. Bread multiplied. (4:43)
- 10 Naaman healed. (5:10)
- 11 Gehazi smitten. (5:27)
- 12 Caused the iron to swim. (6:6)
- 13 Sight to the blind. (6:17)
- 14 Smiting blindness to these men. (6:18)
- 15 Restoring sight to these men. (6:20)
- 16 Miracle after his death, man comes to life by touching Elisha's bones. (13:21)

Remember that Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit?

- There are a total of 8 miracles recorded from Elijah
- there are 16 recorded from Elisha

In 2nd Kings we are introduce to Isaiah the prophet

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

- Hezekiah (King of Judah) becomes deathly ill
- Isaiah comes to tell him to get ready to die
- Hezekiah cries out to the Lord
- God decides to add 15 years to his life
- sounds good right?
 - Shortly after, the king of Babylon sends him gifts and get-well wishes
 - He comes to Hezekiah and Hezekiah shows him all the treasures his storehouse and all his armory...everything of value
 - Isaiah confronts him and says that the days will come when Babylon will invade and take all that he has
- and so it happens...

2Ki 24:13 He (*Nebuchadnezzar*) carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, just as the LORD had said.

2Ki 24:14 Then he led away into exile all Jerusalem and all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

Judah was invaded by Babylon 3 times in a very short period of time

- they captured the Israelites and took them as prisoners
- one of these groups contained four young men who we will read about later (Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel)

2nd Kings closes with the Jerusalem being besieged by Nebuchadnezzar

- the city is plundered (the temple primarily)
- the temple is burned
- the Israelites are carried off to Babylon

Jesus Types:

Elijah and Elisha (John and Jesus)

- Elijah Precedes Elisha/John Precedes Jesus
- Elisha was greater than Elijah/Jesus was greater than John
- Elisha's ministry starts on the bank of the Jordan/John points out Jesus on the Banks of the Jordan

-Elisha and Jesus both:

- cleanse lepers, heal the sick, restore dead sons to their mothers, dead, miraculously provide food
- Elisha floats an ax head on the water, Jesus walks on water and the causes Peter to come to the surface
- both had a greedy disciple (Gehazi and Judas)

-but mostly, it's what happened after Elisha died

2Ki 13:20 Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.

2Ki 13:21 As they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.

- a dead Moabite (non-believer) comes in contact with Elisha after his death
- the man comes to life

-when spiritually dead people come in contact with Jesus after His death, they come alive again as well!