

1 KINGS WEEK ONE – September 2, 2021

Background – Like the Books of Samuel, the Books of Kings are divided into two parts. We will be dealing with 1 Kings which covers the last days of King David through the Division of the United Kingdom of Israel and ending with the work and ministry of the prophet Elijah.

Date, Theology, and Authorship – Like the books of Samuel, the books of Kings are considered “Deuteronomic History” in English Bibles, but in Jewish traditions it fits under prophetic works. Either way, the books of Kings continue to warn readers of what happens when a nation fails to be faithful to Yahweh. The book starts out with some hope that Solomon may be able to continue King David’s legacy of keeping Israel united, but it doesn’t take long to see that the nation is doomed to be divided. Most of the rest of the books chronicle the exploits of the various kings of Judah and Israel (some good, some bad) along with prophetic warnings about where their division will lead.

The books of Kings was compiled around 550 BCE during the Babylonian Exile. The books have some serious chronological discrepancies with other books that chronicle the history of Israel such as 1 and 2 Chronicles and other prophetic works.

Schedule -

September 2 – Chapters 1-3 "The Rise of King Solomon"

September 9 - Chapters 4-6 "Bigger and Better: Solomon’s Ambition"

September 16 - Chapters 7-9 "Temple Worship Under Solomon"

September 23 - Chapters 10-11 "And Then There Was Sheba"

October 7 - Chapters 12-14 "A Family and a Nation Divided"

October 14 - Chapters 15-17 "The Second Dynasty and the Rise of Elijah"

October 21 - Chapters 18-20 "The Adventures of Elijah the Prophet"

October 28 - Chapters 21-22 - “King Ahab’s Fall”

Questions for 1 Kings 1-3

1. Who was Abishag and what was her purpose?
2. How was David's response (or lack thereof) determine whether he was fit to be king?
3. Who was Adonijah and what led him to believe he could succeed David to be king?
4. Why did Nathan approach Bathsheba to warn her about Adonijah's claim to the throne?
5. How did Solomon become king and how was this problematic in the big picture?
6. What kind of expectations did Solomon have to live up to if he became king?
7. What was Adonijah's response to Solomon's coronation as king? What was the significance of his response?
8. What were the three charges that David gave to Solomon and why do you think David gave them?
9. How did the 12 tribes respond to Solomon's kingship? Was everybody on board with him being king? Why or why not?
10. What tasks seemed to be at the top of Solomon's agenda as the new king? How did this help him or not help him?
11. Why did King Solomon make a "marriage alliance" with the Egyptian Pharaoh's daughter? What was the Pharaoh's name? What was Pharaoh's daughter's name?
12. What was behind Solomon's prayer for wisdom and how did it play out in his relationship to God? What kind of wisdom do you suppose Solomon prayed for?
13. What did the practical application of Solomon's wisdom look like? How was this helpful to Solomon and Israel in general?