

1 & 2 Kings

Breakdown

- 1 & 2 Kings gets its name from the focus of the books which is the record of all the kings who reigned over Judah and Israel before the collapse and captivity of both kingdoms.
- The books cover a period of about 400 years from the beginning of Solomon's reign in about 972 B.C. to shortly after Judah was taken into 70 years of captivity by Babylon around 587 B.C.
- The author of Kings is unknown, although tradition says the prophet, Jeremiah, wrote the books during the Babylonian exile.

Main Points

- 1 & 2 Kings records the rise and fall of the nation of Israel under the leadership of the kings. The books begin with the construction of the temple and the prosperity of the reign of Solomon and end with civil war and the worship of false gods. Evil kings lead Judah and Israel away from God while the prophets call them back to the truth of God's Word.
- God's plan of bringing Jesus to the world through David's family seems hopeless because Israel was all but destroyed by the end of the book. The people have been forced out of their land and are living in bondage, but they are not without hope. They have failed and fallen so much that their survival is a miracle – and that is the point. God kept them alive and together in such a way that the King of Kings would still come to rule and reign forever.

Did you know?

- Before he died, David anointed his son, Solomon, as king and basically gave him a hit-list of people who had wronged him during his reign as king. Who was on the list and why?
- Solomon becomes the wisest and most successful king in Israel's history until he starts collecting wives. How many wives does he end up with and how do they influence him?
- Jeroboam becomes king over the northern kingdom of Israel. For fear of being overthrown, he decides to make worship more "convenient" for the people. What does he do?
- Elijah defeats the priests of the false god, Baal, in a spectacular display of God's power. What happens, and how does Elijah respond?
- Naaman is a successful commander of the Syrian army, but he is a leper. He visits the prophet Elisha to seek healing, and Elisha sends instructions for him to perform a very unusual series of tasks. What does Elisha tell him to do, and does it work?
- Jezebel terrorized Israel for years during the reign of her husband, King Ahab, but she is "overthrown" quite easily once Jehu becomes king. What happened to her?

Further Thought

- Each king of Judah and Israel was evaluated to be either good or evil based on whether they worshipped the Lord God or false gods. How can we apply that lesson to our lives?
- Solomon allowed his wives to turn him away from God and toward worshipping false gods. Compromise comes with great cost. What can we learn from Solomon's example?
- The prophets proclaimed messages directly from God to the people. What is the message God wants you to proclaim to the people in your area of influence?