1 Kings

Bible Order: 11 of 66 **Old Testament:** 11 of 39

Single Word Summary: David

Book Outline:

Solomon's Rule Over All Israel 1-11

DIVISION

First Kings of the Divided Kingdom 12-22

Context & Notes:

Like 1 & 2 Samuel, the two books of Kings were originally one book. They contain the account of Israel from Solomon until the destruction of Judah. After Solomon, there are 19 kings of Israel and 20 kings of Judah.

The first 11 chapters include the death of King David, King Solomon building the Temple and his palace. Also included is a promise from God: *So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. 12 Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son.* 1 Kings 11:11-12.

After King Solomon died, Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms. The northern kingdom was called **Israel** (composed of 10 tribes or 10 states) and the southern was called **Judah** (composed of 2 tribes or 2 states).

There were no godly kings in the north; there were a handful in the south.

Elijah appears in chapter 17 and following. The book ends with the death of King Ahab.

Devotional Reading

1 Kings 17; 18:17-39; 19:1-14, 18

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2 Kings

Bible Order: 12 of 66 **Old Testament:** 12 of 39

Single Word Summary: Solomon

Book Outline

Events of the N. Kingdom 1-10

Events of Both Kingdoms 11-17

Events of the Single Kingdom 18-25

Context & Notes:

Like 1 & 2 Samuel, the two books of Kings were originally one book.

They contain the account of Israel from Solomon until the destruction of Judah.

After Solomon, there are 19 kings of Israel and 20 kings of Judah. Judah survived some 140 years longer as a nation than did Israel.

2 Kings 17 is, in our opinion, the saddest chapter in the Old Testament. A detailing of why the northern kingdom was destroyed, never to be seen again, is found in this chapter.

In chapter 24 and 25, the southern kingdom is taken into exile. The difference between the northern and southern kingdoms is simple: God had promised that Messiah would come through The Promise of Genesis 12:1-3. The lineage is through the southern kingdom…so it could not be destroyed.

Prophets who appear during 2 Kings include Hosea and Amos, who prophesied to the Northern Kingdom. Isaiah, Jeremiah (who wrote Lamentations), Joel, Micah, Habakkuk and Zephaniah who prophesied to the Southern Kingdom. There was also Jonah, Obediah and Nahum who were missionary prophets to other kingdoms outside of Israel and Judah, whose ministries were recorded.

Contained within the books are the high and low points of Israel's life, from the height of Solomon's reign to the end of the people as a nation.

Devotional Reading

2 Kings 4:1-7, 6:1-17, and 7:7-23