

KINGS 1 and 2





Key Facts of the Books

- The author(s) is anonymous and traditionally believed to be the prophet Jeremiah.
- The two books are actually one book. (and treated as such by the Jews)
- The date the book(s) were written is placed somewhere between 560 - 540 BC.
- The purpose of writing the book(s):
 - 1 Kings is a sequel to 1 & 2 Samuel and begins by tracing the rise of Solomon .
- In contrast to 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings starts out with a united kingdom and ends with the nation divided into two separate kingdoms.
- 2 Kings is a sequel to 1 Kings. It continues with the story of the kings ruling over both kingdoms. (Israel and Judah.)
- It finishes with the overthrow and deportation of Israel and Judah to Assyria and Babylon respectively

- 1 Kings starts with the final days of King David.
- By 1 Kings 2 v 12, Solomon takes over the throne.
- Solomon's reign starts the book's story proper.
- 1 Kings ends with the ministry of the prophet Elijah.
- There is much to contrast between 1 Kings' two main characters.
- Solomon, like his father, had a serious weakness for woman, amongst others.
- Although he did well at first, his vast accumulation of wives and concubines would lead him into idol worship.
- It is admirable that he took 7 years to build a temple to God but, disappointing when considering the fact, he spent 13 years building himself a palace.



- After Solomon moves out the picture, things don't get any better.
- The kingdom splits under Rehoboam.
- The south sees some good kings but, in the north, the kings only go from bad to worse.
- Despite Elijah's vastly gifted ministry, the people still fall deeper into sin.
- Among the most evil kings were Ahab and his queen Jezebel. They took it to whole new heights.
- It exploded in a showdown between Elijah and Jezebel's priests of Baal on Mount Carmel.
- Elijah fled a vengeful Jezebel and ended up depressed out in the wilderness.
- God comforted him and Elijah went on to appoint his successor, Elisha.

- Three major themes of 2 Kings:

- The Lord will judge His people:

The Israelites' unfaithfulness was reflected in their choice to worship idols – including many of the kings.

This resulted in God punishing the people.

- The word of true prophets always comes to pass:

Because God always keeps his word, it follows that whomever speaks by inspiration of God, their words will be true as well.

- The Lord is faithful:

Despite the people's disobedience, God remembered His promise to David. The Lord did not let David's family end.

Even today we call the Israelites Jews, because the people from the southern kingdom of Judah still survive.

CHRONICLES 1 and 2





Key Facts of the Books

- The author(s) is anonymous and traditionally believed to be the prophet Ezra.
- The two books are actually one book. (and treated as such by the Jews)
- The date the book(s) were written is placed somewhere between 450 - 425 BC.
- The purpose of writing the book(s):
- The book(s) of Chronicles mostly covers the same information as 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings.
- The book of 1 Chronicles was written after the Babylonian exile. It was written to help the returning exiles understand how to worship God.
- Its history is focused on the southern kingdom, the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi. These people tended to be more faithful to God.
- 2 Chronicles tries to evaluate the nation's religious history.

- The first 9 chapters of 1 Chronicles is dedicated to lists and genealogies. And then still scatters a fair amount of both thought out the rest of the book.
- 1 Chronicles also records David's ascension to the throne and the actions he took thereafter.
- The book then concludes with Solomon succeeding him to the throne of Israel.
- 1 Chronicles gives much detail on items such as the Ark of the Covenant, the Tabernacle, the Temple, David's capture of Jerusalem, the transportation of the Ark into Jerusalem, the preparation for the building of the Temple and the dedication of the Temple.
- Together with Samuel and Kings, 1 Chronicles gives us the a pattern of sin, repentance, forgiveness and restoration.

Basically put:

- **Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings Judgement.**



- 2 Chronicles records the history of the southern kingdom of Judah from the reign of Solomon to the conclusion of the Babylonian exile.
- Special emphasis is given to the spiritual reformers who sought to return the people to God.
- Little is said about the bad kings. Only the “goodness” of the “good” kings is stressed.
- The northern kingdom is rarely mentioned because of its idol worship and refusal to acknowledge the temple in Jerusalem.
- Second Chronicles concludes with the final destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
- With all the references to the kings and the temple, we see a reflection/foreshadowing of Jesus.
- A reader can use 2 Chronicles to evaluate each generation recorded and discern why each was blessed or punished.
- This can then be applied to today or other parts of history.

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