

## **BBOM (Bible Book of the Month)** **1 and 2 Kings**

One writer labeled these books, “Israel Faces the Sunset;” another “The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom.”

Both titles reflect the sad history of these days.

Overall, these books compose

- Two histories, of
- Two nations, with
- Two sets of Kings,

Both of which are disobedient and grow more and more indifferent to the things of God.

For 120 years, the 12 tribes of Israel were united and were ruled from one throne. Three kings, Saul, David, and Solomon each reigned 40 years.

When Solomon died, 10 tribes broke away and formed an independent kingdom to the north—known as Israel, with Samaria as a capital city. In the South, the tribes of Benjamin and Judah formed the southern kingdom, known as Judah, with Jerusalem as capital.

All of the kings in the north were bad, although some were worse than others. Some of Judah’s kings were good, but most of them were bad.

## **An Outline:**

Remember that the books of Kings pick up where 1 and 2 Samuel ends. Actually, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles could be viewed as one book.

I. 1 Kings 1-12—The Rise and Fall of Solomon (*Chapter 12 is a pivotal chapter, because it records the kingdom-splitting after Solomon’s death.*)

II. 1 Kings 13-2 Kings 17—The Divided Kingdom, and the end of the Northern Kingdom

III. 2 Kings 18-25—The Fall of the Southern Kingdom

## **Extra Study—The Temple:**

Since 1 Kings records the building of Solomon’s Temple, you might want to research the earthly temples mentioned in the Bible. There are three:

- The first is Solomon’s which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C. (2 Kings 25:8-9)
- The second was Zerubbabel’s (Ezra 5:2; 6:15-18)
- The third was Herod’s. It was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 64. A mosque now stands on this site.

## Other Bible References:

**Psalms 72 and 127** are attributed to *Solomon*, along with the **Song of Solomon**. You might want to do some extra reading here.

Note in **Proverbs 25:1** that King Hezekiah collected some of Solomon's proverbs.

*Jesus* made reference to two individuals whose stories are in the books of Kings: Naaman, and the widow from Zerepath (**Luke 4**).

The prophet *Elijah* is a major Old Testament prophet. He is quite influential in the Bible.

Remember in the New Testament (**Matthew 16, Mark 8**), some people thought Jesus might be Elijah (or Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets). Jesus called John the Baptist Elijah (**Matthew 11 and 17**), and Elijah appeared with Moses during the Transfiguration of Jesus (**Mark 9**).

His story, and his continued influence, is worth researching.

*Elisha* is also a great study. Some of his miracles are very much like those of Jesus. For example:

- He raised a widow's son (**2 Ki. 4**)
- He was involved in the healing of a leper (**2 Ki. 5**)
- He multiplied loaves of bread to feed a crowd (**2 Ki. 4**)

It is also worth studying the emphasis here on prophecy being fulfilled. Check these references:

- 1 Ki. 8:20**
- 1 Ki. 11:29-39**
- 1 Ki. 12:15**
- 2 Ki. 23: 16-18**
- 1 Ki. 8:56**
- 2 Ki. 10:10**

## A Good Memory Verse:

This one is not found in Kings, but it is a good description of what happens in these sad stories.

### **Proverbs 14:34 (KJV)**

**34** Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

## Reading Plan:

1 Kings has 22 chapters, 2 Kings, 25.

If you read two chapters a day, you will easily read both books in a month. If you choose to go slower, averaging one chapter a day will enable you to finish each book in a month, with leftover days (in case you miss a day here or there).