

1 & 2 Kings

Five Main Sections



Section 1: 1 Kings 1 to 11

The reign of King Solomon.



Section 2: 1 Kings 12 to 16a

Covers the events of the two newly formed kingdoms.

The narrative focusses on both kingdoms, back and forth, more or less chronologically.



Section 3: 1 Kings 16b to 22; 2 Kings 1 to 9

The longest section, focussing largely on the Omride dynasty of the northern kingdom, especially Ahab, though all four kings of that dynasty are covered.

Features the ministries of the prophets Elijah and his protégé, Elisha.



Section 4: 2 Kings 10 to 17

Back to a more straightforward narrative about the two kingdoms, ending in the eventual exile and dispersion of Israel at the hands of the Assyrian Empire.



Section 5: 2 Kings 18 to 25

Judah only, until its exile to Babylon.

Hints for reading the books of the Kings:

1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles.

Keep at least two reference charts alongside your Bible.

- (1) **a list of the kings** of the divided kingdom
- (2) **a basic map** of Palestine and the surrounding nations

You'll find it much easier to keep up with who is who, and what action is taking place, when you have some simple reference guides close by as you read the Bible text. Most Study Bibles include such maps and lists.

Take note of any king's son's names and/or commanders of the army as you read. They usually play prominent roles in the story at some point. E.g. 1 Kings 16:8-10 & 16:15,16, etc.

Look for the lessons. These books can seem like dry history only, filled with people and place names you've never heard of, and having no relevance to us. However, these books contain many studies in human character and behaviour - from kings to paupers - displaying traits just like the people of today. Remember that "All Scripture ... is profitable" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Kings + Chronicles – Main Maps

Map 1 – The Surrounding Nations



Map 2 – The 3 Superpowers

