

# The Books of the Kings

1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings, compared with 1 & 2 Chronicles

1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings	1 & 2 Chronicles
<p>Known sometimes simply as “Kings”, “The Books of Kings” or 1, 2, 3, 4 Kings.</p>	<p>Known sometimes simply as “Chronicles” or “The Chronicles”.</p>
<p><u>Purpose:</u> To tell the continuing history of the descendants of Israel during the period of the kings.</p>	<p><u>Purpose 1:</u> To provide those Jews (i.e. people from the tribe/nation of Judah) who had returned from exile with a link to their past. These books “chronicle” their history all the way back to Adam. Emphasis is given to Judah and the royal lineage of David (i.e. the kings of Judah).</p> <p><u>Purpose 2:</u> A kind of “guide book” about governance and worship practice, aimed at those returning from exile. Chronicles is full of godly and ungodly anecdotes relating to Judah’s kings and the temple.</p>
<p>Originally known as “The Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel”, as referenced in 2 Chronicles 16:11; 25:26; 28:26; 32:32; etc. Some portions may have been later added to the main work.</p>	<p>Originally known as “The Book of the Kings of Judah”, as referenced in 1 Kings 14:29; 15:7; 2 Kings 8:23; 12:19; etc. Some portions may have been later added to the main work.</p>
<p>The Hebrew Scriptures place these books in the “Prophets” section, along with Joshua and Judges.</p>	<p>The Hebrew Scriptures place these books in the “Histories” portion of the “Writings” section, along with such books as Daniel, Ezra and Nehemiah.</p>
<p>Reads largely as a narrative of historical events.</p>	<p>Sets out (or “chronicles”) many historical events, but reads more like a reference book in some sections.</p>

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<p>Some commentators suggest these books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are more earthly in their content</li> <li>- focus on kings and prophets</li> </ul>	<p>Some commentators suggest these books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are more spiritual in their content</li> <li>- focus on the temple and priests</li> </ul>
<p>Commences the historical narrative during the last days of the Judges.</p>	<p>Picks up the historical narrative from the death of King Saul, and the institution of Judah's first king - King David.</p>
<p>These books continue the story directly on from the book of Judges.</p>	<p>These books are a stand alone work, commencing with Adam, but then focussing more directly on the nation of Judah and her kings.</p>
<p>Portrays King David and King Solomon "warts and all".</p>	<p>Portrays King David and King Solomon positively as examples for the returning exiles to emulate.</p>
<p>Narratives of the divided kingdom give equal coverage to the kings of both Israel and Judah.</p>	<p>Narratives of the divided kingdom focus on Judah's kings only. Israel's kings are only mentioned when dealing with Judah. Several of Israel's kings are not mentioned at all.</p>
<p>Events are not set out in strict chronological order. For example, some Israel kings are mentioned in order, but then the narrative goes back in time for a few chapters to cover Judah's monarchs around a similar period.</p>	<p>The Kings of Judah are generally covered in chronological order.</p>