

“THROUGH THE BIBLE”

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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“THE BOOK OF THE KINGS”

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INTRODUCTION

The study of the Old Testament is so very valuable for Christians because, The Lord treated it as *divinely inspired Scripture*. The stories that are told give us examples of people relating to the “same God we worship, and how prophecies and hints of Christ run through all the Old Testament.” An amazing fact, the people and the *KINGS* of Israel, were *all imperfect, had their own failures and disappointments*. Originally (**Hebrew Bible**), 1 and 2 Kings were one unbroken book. The story line begins in the Books of Samuel. The content of the *KINGS* center around the rule and reign of Solomon (King David’s son) and the succeeding kings of Israel and Judah. The books will cover 400 years of history, division, growth, weakness, and decay of the kingdom of Israel. Eventually, Israel’s fate would be captivity, exile, and imprisonment!

NOTE: The Hebrew Bible (Scriptures) or, Tanakh, was authoritative in Judaism, and originally kept on scrolls.

A BRIEF OUTLINE OF 1 KINGS

- I. THE RISE, REIGN, AND FALL OF SOLOMON (chaps. 1-11)**
- II. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM (chapters 12-22)**

BASIC FACTS AND GUIDING CONCEPTS

1. The “single” book of Kings begins in Jerusalem and ends in Babylon. This movement involves (civil war) the “split of God’s people and His rule into two nations, north and south.”
2. The *Books* must be studied with the book of Deuteronomy for historical, and prophetic purposes of encouragement, showing God’s relationship with His people. He would still be with them in their failure and discipline for their sins, continuously reminding them of the fulfillment of His warnings, as well as His blessings.
3. The *Books* stand as a description of “God’s verdict of judgement on Israel’s history” and the Monarchy (Kings). The *prophets* who speak for God, will play a very important role for Him! They are going to be His “Covenant watchdogs,” calling Israel to repent.

BASIC LESSONS TO CONSIDER AND REMEMBER

1. *Wisdom can turn to foolishness (as you get older- 1 Kings 11:4-6, 11).*

We act and behave foolishly when we ignore our Covenant “vows” and relationship with God, and His specific “revelations” to us. We must cultivate a “*listening heart.*” The nation of Israel and Judah learned the hard way, as God was warning them through the prophets. ***SINFUL ACTIONS HAVE UNAVOIDABLE CONSEQUENCES!*** (1 Kings 11:14-40).

2. In some cases, God reveals a lot to us beforehand. However, we choose to do otherwise. *SHOCKING!!!* Because of sin, He will allow His people to face the consequences of their choices.

3. Satan will exploit every crack and opening in your “armor” (Eph. 6:14-16).

4. The Christian believer must consistently live and choose righteousness. It’s about *Covenant faithfulness* to God (Proverbs 21:21; 15:9; Psalm 23:6).

5. The certainty and confidence of God’s spoken word being fulfilled, remains in “full force forever,” no matter how long ago He spoke it (1 Kings 11:30-39).

NOTES: