

The Books of Kings

I. Overview of the Books of Kings

II. The Reign of Solomon (1 Kings 1—11)

A. Solomon's Story in 1 Kings 1—11

1. Solomon is Made King (1:1—2:12)
2. Solomon Eliminates his Political Enemies (2:13—46)
3. Solomon's Wisdom (3—4)
4. Preparations for Building the Temple (5)
5. Building of the Temple (6)
6. Solomon's Palace and Other Buildings (7:1—12)
7. Hiram of Tyre, the Bronzeworker and his Productions (7:13—51)
8. Dedication of the Temple (8)
9. Other Events During Solomon's Reign (9—10)
10. Solomon's Downfall (11)

D. Assessment of the “Wisest” of Israel’s Kings

1. Solomon’s “Wisdom”
2. Solomon’s Accomplishments and Problems
3. The Deuteronomistic Historian’s Perspective on Solomon’s Downfall

III. The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12—2 Kings 17)

A. Brief Overview of the *Prophetic Literature*: First Kings 12—Second Kings 17

1. Use of Introductory and Concluding Formulae
2. Evaluations of the Kings
3. Stories of Prophets

B. An Overview of the *Historical Context*

1. Overview of the History of *Israel* (The Northern Kingdom)

2. Overview of the History of *Judah* (The Southern Kingdom)
in the Period of the Divided Kingdom

C. A More Detailed Look at the Period of the Divided
Kingdom

1. **From the Split to the Arrival of Elijah** (1 Kings 12
through 2 Kings 2)

a) **Rehoboam** (c. 930—913), **Jeroboam** (c. 930—908)
and the Division of the Kingdom (1 Kings 12:1—19)

b) **Shishak's Campaign** (c. 926 BCE; 1 Kings
14:25—26; 2 Chronicles 12:1—12)

c) The **Religious Reforms of Jeroboam**, son of Nabat
(c. 930—908) (1 Kings 12:25—33)

d) **Asa** of Judah (c. 911—870 BCE) against **Baasha** of
Israel (907 BCE—884 BCE): Judah's Alliance with
Ben Hadad I of Aram/Damascus (1 Kings
15:9—16:7)

e) **Omri** (c. 883—872 BCE; 1 Kings 16:15—28)

f) **Ahab** (c. 872—851 BCE), Jezebel, and the Worship
of Baal (1 Kings 16:29—34)

2. **The Elijah Cycle** (1 Kings 17:1 through 2 Kings 2:18)

- a) Elijah works Miracles (1 Kings 17)
- b) Elijah Confronts Ahab (1 Kings 18:1—19)
- c) Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20—40)
- d) Elijah's Flight to Horeb (1 Kings 19)
- e) The Aramean Wars: Ahab's Deliverance from Ben-hadad I of Aram/Damascus (1 Kings 20)
- f) Excursus: **The First Anti-Assyrian Coalition** (c. 853 BCE) (**Irhulena of Hamath** and 12 kings including **Ahab of Israel** and **Hadadezer of Damascus** oppose **Shalmaneser III of Assyria**)
- g) Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21)
- h) Ahab's Defeat and Death (c. 851 BCE; 1 Kings 22:1—40)
- i) Jehoshaphat (c. 870—846 BCE), son of Asa of Judah (1 Kings 22:41—46; see also 22:1—40)
- j) Elijah's Departure (2 Kings 2:1—18)

3. **The Elisha Cycle** (2 Kings 2:19—chapter 10 plus 13:14—21)

- a) Ten Miracles (2:19—6:23)
 - b) **Ben-hadad** of Aram's Siege of Samaria (2 Kings 6:24—chapter 7)
 - c) Death of Ben-hadad and the Rise of **Hazael** (2 Kings 7:7—15)
 - d) **Jehu's Purge** (2 Kings 9—10): the Violent Victory of Exclusive Yahwism over Inclusive Yahwism
4. Eighth-century Prosperity (after the death of Hazael)
- a) Jeroboam II of Israel (787—748 BCE)
 - b) Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah (783—732 BCE)
 - c) The Samaria Ivories
 - d) The Samaria Ostraca
5. **The Assyrian Crisis** (2 Kings 11—17)
- a) **Tiglath-pileser III** (745—727 BCE; 2 Kings 16:5—9)
 - b) **Another Anti-Assyrian Coalition**
 - (1) **Pekah** of Israel (737—732 BCE)

(2) **Rezin** of Damascus

c) Ahaz of Judah (735—727 BCE)

d) Hoshea of Israel (732—724 BCE)

e) **Shalmaneser V** (727—722 BCE) and the Fall of Samaria

f) **Sargon II** (722—705 BCE) and the Exile of Israel

6. **Hezekiah's Reform**

III. The Judean Period (721—587 BCE)

C. Overview of the *Prophetic Literature* (2 Kings 18—25)

D. The *Historical Context*

1. From Hezekiah to Josiah's Reform (2 Kings 22:1—23:30)

2. The Fall of Assyria to the Medes and Babylonians (Chaldeans)

3. Nebuchadnezzar, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah: The Last Days of Judah

IV. Summary and Conclusions

Terms and Concepts to Remember

<p>Solomon's Reign-----</p> <p>Adonijah Abishag the Shunammite Joab Horned altar An incident illustrating Solomon's wisdom Hiram of Tyre Diplomatic Marriage Solomon's military strategy (contrast David) and his building projects</p>	<p>The Divided Kingdom-----</p> <p>Judah Israel Romulae of Introduction (Compare your notes to p. 284 of Bandstra.) Hezekiah Josiah Rehoboam Jeroboam, son of Nabat Dan Bethel "The sin of Jeroboam"</p>
--	---

Cities and Regions Mentioned in this Lecture

Cities	Regions
Jerusalem	Judah
Shechem	Israel
Tirzah	Aram
Samaria	Ammon
Bethel	Moab
Dan	Assyria
Tyre	Babylonia

Nineveh	
Babylon	