

Eric Swanson / General

Kings

Author: Authorship is Unknown

Date: Mid 500's BCE and during exile in Babylon

Audience: To those who were in the Babylonian exile that needed to remember who they were.

Reason: This was something of a 35,000 ft view of the history of Israel and why they found themselves in exile.

Theme: If you don't live for God then you are going to be judged by God.

Key Verse:

2 Kings 17:7-8 CEB

⁷ All this happened because the Israelites sinned against the LORD their God, who brought them up from the land of Egypt, out from under the power of Pharaoh, Egypt's king. They worshipped other gods. ⁸ They followed the practices of the nations that the LORD had removed before the Israelites, as well as the practices that the Israelite kings had done.

Sections: **1Kings:** Reign of Solomon (ch 1-11), Division of the Kingdoms and their successors (Ch 12-22) **2 Kings:** Fall of the kingdoms (Ch 1-17), Exile of Judah (Ch 18-25)

Key Words: Right and Evil, Covenant, Sin, Obedience and Disobedience.

Basic Intro: The previous book gave us the great king David. In Kings we begin

with Solomon, a person of great wealth, wisdom and character but someone who struggled through equally stunning lows in his life. We see the Kings go from Bad, to Good, then so-so and then into mostly a train-wreck. The kings who were to lead would still need great prophetic voices to correct and lead them.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who were the Good kings and who were the Bad ones? What made them good or bad?
2. Of the Prophetic leaders we see, Elijah and Elisha stand out. What did Elisha ask of Elijah before he was taken into heaven?
3. What is it with humanity that we don't hear the words of the prophets when they give us a way out of our own disasters? Does this make God lesser to you that he doesn't solve our continual failed state?