

# Old Testament Survey

## 1 and 2 Kings

### ***General Outline of 1 and 2 Kings***

- I. The Reign of Solomon - 1 Kings 1:1-11:43
  - A. David's final arrangements and the suppression of Adonijah - 1 Kings 1:1-2:11
  - B. The beginning of Solomon's reign - 1 Kings 2:12-46
  - C. Solomon's prayer for wisdom - 1 Kings 3:1-28
  - D. Solomon's administration of the kingdom - 1 Kings 4:1-34
  - E. Solomon's building of the temple - 1 Kings 5:1-7:51
  - F. Dedication of the temple - 1 Kings 8:1-66
  - G. Solomon's wealth and glory - 1 Kings 9:1-10:29
  - H. Solomon's apostasy, decline, and death - 1 Kings 11:1-43
- II. Early Kings of the Divided Monarchy - 1 Kings 12:1-16:28
  - A. Rehoboam's folly, the revolt of Jeroboam - 1 Kings 12:1-14:31
  - B. Abijah and Asa of Judah - 1 Kings 15:1-24
  - C. Nadab, Baashah, and Elah of Israel - 1 Kings 15:25-16:14
  - D. Zimri and Omri of Israel - 1 Kings 16:15-28
- III. Period of the Alliance Between Israel and Judah - 1 Kings 16:29-2 Kings 9:37
  - A. Ahab and Elijah; the test on Carmel - 1 Kings 16:29-18:46
  - B. Ahab and Elijah until Ahab's death - 1 Kings 19:1-22:53
  - C. Ahaziah of Israel - 2 Kings 1:1-18
  - D. The anointing of Elisha; Elijah goes up in a whirlwind - 2 Kings 2:1-25
  - E. Jehoram and Jehosaphat against the Moabites - 2 Kings 3:1-27
  - F. Miracles of Elisha - 2 Kings 4:1-5:27
  - G. Wars with Ben-Hadad and the deliverance of Samaria - 2 Kings 6:1-7:20
  - H. Edom revolts against Joram of Judah who is defeated by Hazael of Damascus - 2 Kings 8:20-29
  - I. Elisha's mission to Hazael and Jehu; the death of Jezebel - 2 Kings 9:1-37
- IV. Decline and Fall of Israel - 2 Kings 10:1-17:41
  - A. Jehu's extermination of the house of Omri and the worshippers of Baal - 2 Kings 10:1-36
  - B. Athaliah succeeded by Joash - 2 Kings 11:1-12:21
  - C. Jehoahaz and Jehoash of Israel - 2 Kings 13:1-25
  - D. Amaziah and Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah - 2 Kings 14:1-22; 15:1-7
  - E. Jeroboam II of Israel - 2 Kings 14:23-29
  - F. Last Kings of Israel: Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea - 2 Kings 15:8-31
  - G. Jotham and Ahaz of Judah - 2 Kings 15:32-16:20
  - H. Fall of Samaria - 2 Kings 17:1-41
- V. The Jewish Monarchy After the Fall of Samaria - 2 Kings 18:1-25:30
  - A. Hezekiah and Sennacherib - 2 Kings 18:1-19:37
  - B. Hezekiah's illness and the visit of the Chaldeans - 2 Kings 20:1-21
  - C. Wicked king Manasseh, his son Amon - 2 Kings 21:1-26
  - D. Reforms of Josiah - 2 Kings 22:1-23:30
  - E. Final kings and the fall of Jerusalem - 2 Kings 23:31-25:21
  - F. Assassination of Gedaliah; favor shown to Jehoiachin - 2 Kings 25:22-30

***Date of Composition*****Additional Sources**

1. Three documents are named as providing information for the author of 1 and 2 Kings: The Book of the Acts of Solomon (1 Kings 11:41), the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, and the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel. These works were most likely the products of the official court recorder.
2. Isaiah 36-39 apparently was used as well. In fact, large sections appear to have been taken almost verbatim. Note 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 37.

**Date and Author**

1. Talmudic tradition points to Jeremiah as the author.
  - a. The author speaks from a prophetic viewpoint.
  - b. There is no mention of Jeremiah, one of the most prominent prophets in the last days of Judah, in the chapters dealing with Josiah and his successors. This is unlikely unless Jeremiah was the author.
  - c. The final chapter does appear to have been written by someone in Babylon as opposed to Egypt where Jeremiah died.
2. Internal evidence points to a time of the writing of 1 and 2 Kings as occurring after the fall of Jerusalem, most likely in the early exile.

**Critical Objections**

1. Liberal critics see two sources. The first is pre-exilic and knows nothing of the fall of Jerusalem. The other is the product of the Deuteronomistic school.

***Problems of Chronology***

In the early days of Old Testament studies, the problem of chronology was a thorny one for those who believed in an inerrant Bible. When the reigns of the various kings are added up throughout the books of 1 and 2 Kings, the years do not match. Additionally, when the reigns of the kings were matched against secular histories and dates, either the Biblical record or the historical record appeared false. However, the problems of chronology have been solved by later research as follows.

1. In many cases the crown prince or immediate successor to a throne had their reign dated from the time of their crowning as opposed to the time they actually became sole monarch. A prime example of this is the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham and Ahaz whose reigns overlapped between the years of 743 and 739 B.C.
2. According to 2 Kings 18:13, Sennacherib's invasion took place in the fourteenth year of the reign of Hezekiah. This would place Hezekiah's reign as beginning in 715 as opposed to other references that place the beginning of his reign in 728. This problem is resolved by observing that the numerical representation for 14 is very much like that of 24. Correcting this scribal error puts the beginning of Hezekiah's reign in 725 B.C. Another example of this is 2 Chronicles 36:9 and 2 Kings 24:8 in which the number 8 is in Chronicles should be 18 as found in 2 Kings.
3. Comparing the records of the kings of Assyria with those of the Israelite and Judah kings confirm the coregency data as pointed out in (1) above.

4. The Northern and Southern kingdoms used a different calendar in many cases to indicate the start of the reign of kings. These two calendars are called the “accession-year” (AY) and “non-accession-year” (NAY) formats. In the AY calendar, a king's reign was not counted until the year after his coronation whereas in the NAY his reign was counted from the day of his crowning.

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

930-800 Non-accession-year  
799-722 Accession-year

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

930-850 Accession-year  
850-796 Non-accession-year  
796-587 Accession-year

5. The Northern Kingdom began its new year in Nisan or Abib whereas the Southern Kingdom began its new year in Tishri.
6. The apparent discrepancy between 2 Kings 24:12 and Jeremiah 52:28 regarding the capture of Jerusalem is cleared up by noting that Jeremiah used the accession-year method of dating, which would put the capture of Jerusalem during Nebuchadnezzar's seventh year, as opposed to the non-accession-year dating of 2 Kings 24:12 which put it during his eighth year.

***The Kings of Assyria***

<b>King</b>	<b>Date</b>
Shalmanesar III	858-824
Adad-nirari V	810-758
Assur-dan III	772-754
Assur-nirari V	754-745
Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul)	745-727
Shalmanesar V	727-722
Sargon II	722-705
Sennachrib	705-681
Esarhaddon	680-669
Ashurbanipal	669-626