

Lesson 1: Context, Structure, Plot:

Context: Original Audience

Critical Background Texts

Critical Questions

Structure and Plot

Lovell's Sandwich Structure: "The Unstoppable Word of YHWH"

Outer Kings A: 1 Kgs 1:1–16:28

(including a transition section 14:21–16:28)

Inner Kings: 1 Kgs 16:29–2 Kgs 15:38

(including a transition section 2 Kgs 14:1–15:38)

Outer Kings B: 2 Kgs 16:1–25:30¹

Aucker's Concentric Structure

- (A) Solomon in a single kingdom // rest in the land // Temple built (1 Kgs 1.1-11.43)
- (B) Jeroboam's sin and the formation of the northern kingdom (1 Kgs 12.1-14.31)
- (C) Kings of Judah and Israel in Conflict (1 Kgs 15.1-16.28)
- (D) Elijah & Elisha (1 Kgs 16.29-2 Kgs 13.24)
- (C') Kings of Judah and Israel in Conflict (2 Kgs 14.1-16.20)
- (B') Jeroboam's sin and the exile of the northern kingdom (2 Kgs 17.1-41)
- (A') Single kingdom // removal from land // Temple destroyed (2 Kgs 18.1-25.30)²

The following two tables come from Lovell, *Kings*, 52, 258–61.

¹ Nathan Lovell, *The Book of Kings and Exilic Identity*, LHBOTS 708 (London: T&T Clark, 2022), 52; title is mine.

² W. Brian Aucker, "Lecture Kings Overview Student Notes," lecture for OT715 (ThM seminar), Covenant Theological Seminary, Fall 2021.

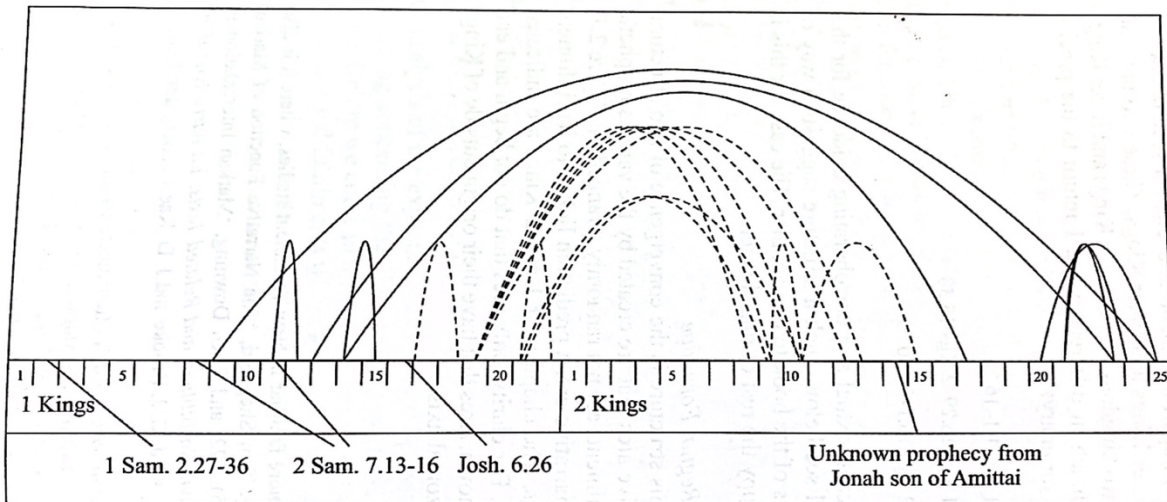


Figure 2.1. *The Narrative Arcs in Kings*

The arcs are generated by the prophecy and fulfilment in Kings are not randomly arranged. There are a series of narratives in the middle section of the book (dashed) that do not intersect with those in the outer sections of the book (solid).

Prophecy (pg. 1)	Fulfillment (pg. 1)	Prophecy (pg. 2)	Fulfillment (pg. 2)
Josh 6.26	I.16.34	I.19.17	I.21.27-29; II.10.17
1 Sam 2.27-36	I.2.27	I.21.24	I.22.38
2 Sam 7.13	I.8.20	I.21.23	II.9.26, 36-37
2 Sam 7.14-15	I.11.39	I.22.17	I.22.35
2 Sam 7.16	Foreshadowed at end	II.1.6	II.1.17
I.9.6-8	II.25.9-11	II.2.21	II.2.22
I.11.29-36	II.12.15	II.4.43	II.4.44
I.13.2	II.23.15-20	II.5.10	II.5.14
I.13.3	I.13.5	II.7.1-2	II.7.16
I.13.21	I.13.24-26	II.8.11	II.8.15
I.14.6-11, 14	I.15.29	II.9.7	II.9.24-26; 10.1-11
I.14.12-13	I.14.17-18	II.10.30	II.15.10-12
I.14.15-16	II.17.21-23	II.14.25	II.14.25
I.16.1-4	I.16.12	II.19.6-7	II.19.9, 37
I.17.1	I.18.45	II.20.5, 9-10	II.20.11-12
I.17.14	I.17.16	II.20.16-18	II.25:8-21
I.19.17	Hazeal: II.8.28-29; 9:14-15; 10.32; 12.17; 13:3, 22. Jehu: II.9.24- 26; 10.1-11	II.21.10-15	II.24.2-3
		II.21.15-17	II.24.2-3
		II.21.18-20	II.23.30

"Homework"

See if you can find where this pattern plays out in Kings (hint: there's more than one ☺):

Idolatry → Prophecy → Judgment → Savior → Restoration