

LITERARY OVERVIEW

Title: 1 Kings, originally one book together with 2 Kings. In the Septuagint, they were titled "3rd and 4th Kingdoms" (together with 1 and 2 Samuel).

Author: According to Talmudic tradition, the prophet Jeremiah. Possibly him or contemporary compiler who was pulling from various other sources.

Date: Covering the period beginning with Solomon's reign (c. 971 B.C.) through Ahaziah's reign (ending c. 851 B.C.). A key date is 931 B.C., the year the kingdom was divided into the northern nation (Israel) and the southern nation (Judah).

Purpose/Plot: A prophetically oriented evaluation of the kingdom, with particular evaluation of the various monarchs and how their morality affected the nation.

Main Characters: Solomon, Rehoboam and Jeroboam, Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah, and other kings.

Form/Genre: Selective historical narrative with emphasis on moral dimension.

UNIT 1 – UNITED KINGDOM (1:1-11:43)**I. Solomon Established as King**

- A. The Attempted Usurpation of Adonijah (1:1-10)
- B. The Anointing of Solomon (1:11-53)
- C. David's Deathbed Instruction (2:1-12)
- D. Solomon Cleans the Royal House (2:13-46)

II. Solomon Reigns as King

- A. He Requests and Receives Wisdom (3:1-28)
- B. He Establishes Administration (4:1-19)
- C. He Prospers in the Kingdom (4:20-34)
- D. He Build God a House (5:1-51)
- E. He Brings the Ark, Gives a Speech and Prays (8:1-66)
- F. The Covenant Confirmed (9:1-9)
- G. The Prosperity Continues, His Fame Spreads (9:10-10:29)

III. Solomon Declines as King

- A. The Covenant Broken (11:1-13)
- B. The Adversaries Begin (11:14-43)

UNIT 2 – DIVIDED KINGDOM (12:1-22:53)**I. The First Division**

- A. Revolt Against Rehoboam (12:1-24)
- B. Jeroboam's Idolatry (12:25-33)
- C. A Prophetic Warning (13:1-34)
- D. Jeroboam's House Judged (14:1-20)
- E. Rehoboam Rules in Judah (14:21-31)

II. The Continued Divisions

- A. Two Kings in Judah (15:1-24)
- B. Five Kings in Israel (15:25-16:28)

III. The Reign of Ahab

- A. Ahab's Wickedness (16:29-34)
- B. The Ministry of Elijah
 - 1. The Drought (17:1-7)
 - 2. The Widow of Zarephath (17:8-24)
 - 3. The Prophetic Message to Ahab (18:1-19)
 - 4. The Victory on Mount Carmel (18:20-46)
 - 5. The Escape and Meeting with God (19:1-18)
 - 6. Elisha Introduced (19:19-21)
- C. Ahab's Wars and Treatise (20:1-43)
- D. The Murder of Naboth (21:1-16)
- E. God's Judgment and Mercy toward Ahab (21:17-29)
- F. The Warning of Micaiah (22:1-28)
- G. Ahab's Death (22:29-40)

IV. Two More Kings

- A. Jehoshaphat in Judah (22:41-50)
- B. Ahaziah in Israel (22:51-53)