

# Long Story Short: Kings(1 and 2)



## The Big Picture:

### 1 Kings 1-11: Solomon's Reign

- ◆ 1-5 Solomon's rise to power
- ◆ 6-8 Solomon builds the Jerusalem temple
- ◆ 9-11 Solomon's rise and fall

### 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 Israel and Judah are a divided kingdom

- ◆ 12-16 Northern Israel's apostasy
- ◆ 17-20 Elijah confronts Israel's idolatry
- ◆ 2 Kings 1-8 Elisha confronts Israel's kings

- ◆ 10-12 Jehu's coup, Joash restores temple
- ◆ 13-16 Israel and Judah's apostasy
- ◆ 17 N. Israel carried into exile by Assyria

### 12 Kings 18-25: Judah's Rise and Fall and Exile

- ◆ 18-20 Hezekiah and Assyrian threat
- ◆ 21 Manasseh's apostasy
- ◆ 22-23 Josiah restores true worship in Judah
- ◆ 24-25 Apostasy again > Babylon exile

## Key Themes in 1-2 Kings:

- Solomon rises to fame and builds the Jerusalem temple (remember 2Samuel 7:12-13: "When your [David's] days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you . . . He is the one who will build a house for my Name.").
  - o Temple Constructed in 1Kgs 6-7 > Dedicated in 1Kgs 8
- But Solomon is not THE messiah, nor is he THE temple builder.
  - o See 1Kings 10:23-11:6: He fails to measure up to the requirement of Deut. 17:14-20
- Israel splits into Northern Israel and Southern Judah because of greed and lust for power:  
1Kings 11:26-12:33
- None of the kings live up to hopes of the Davidic covenant: Every king is introduced by the narrator with either praise or criticism in comparison to David: everything hinges on whether they tried to stop idolatry in Israel or whether they sponsored it (see 1Kings 15:1-5; 15:9-14)
  - o Northern Israel has no good kings 0 for 19
  - o Southern Judah has some good kings 8 for 20
- Prophets are sent by Yahweh to challenge the kings for covenant violation:  
The 'man of God' (1Kings 13) → Elijah and Elisha (1Kings 17—2Kings 13) → Isaiah (2Kings 18-20)  
→ the Prophets (2Kings 17).
- The reasons for Israel and Judah's exile is spelled out in detail: 2Kings 17 is the author's "sermon" on the exile of Northern Israel; 2Kings 24-25 recounts the exile of Southern Judah
- The exile means a collapse of everything important to Israelite faith = a "crisis of faith" The kingdom of Judah | The kingdom of Israel | Jerusalem | The temple  
The sacrificial system | The pilgrimages | The Levitical priesthood | The monarchy

## Key Questions at the end of Kings:

- "What about God's promises to Abraham?"
- "Is Yahweh's covenant with Israel cancelled?"
- "What about Yahweh's plan to redeem all creation?"

8. The promise of a future messianic king is kept alive: Even in exile, the royal lineage is preserved: 2Kgs 25:27-3 (the final sentences of the book)