



# 1&2 Kings – Study Guide



| Bible Reading<br>(Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Textbook Reading<br>(Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I Kings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ch. 15                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:28-48<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 3<br><input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-9:9<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:14-11:13<br><input type="checkbox"/> 11:14-40<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 12<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 13<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 17<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 18<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Author and His Method                                                               |
| II Kings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ch. 16                                                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ch. 2<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 17<br><input type="checkbox"/> ch. 22<br><input type="checkbox"/> 23:1-30<br><input type="checkbox"/> 24:8-25:30                                                                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> The Rise of Prophecy (sidebar)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Themes of the Books of Kings |

## Study Guide for First Kings

### Chapter 1:28-48

- What did David promise to Bathsheba? Why? Why did he need to do this?
- How did David ensure that Solomon would be king instead of rivals who claimed the throne? How did David's fellow-leaders respond? How did the people respond?
- Describe the report that was given to Adonijah. What stood out to you from this report? What do you think this indicates about the future of Solomon's reign?

### Chapter 3

- What did Solomon do with Egypt? Do you think this was a good thing? Why or why not?
- How did Solomon demonstrate his love for the Lord? What exception is mentioned? What is the significance of this?
- What did Solomon ask from God at Gibeon? How did God respond? What promise did God give Solomon? What warning was inherent in that promise? How is this related to what you have seen earlier in the Old Testament?
- What is the point of the story of the two women with the one live baby? Why do you think this story was included at this point in the narrative? How did the people respond?

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## **Chapter 8:1-Chapter 9:9**

- Describe the events that happened in this chapter. What is the significance of the ark being brought into the temple? What changed from the tabernacle to the temple?
- What happened after the ark was brought into the temple? How is this similar to another episode that happened earlier in the Old Testament? What did this demonstrate? Why is this important?
- What did Solomon say to the people? How does this connect with the earlier history of the Old Testament? What does this highlight about the character and plans of God?
- What did Solomon pray? What did he say about God? What did he recognize about the limitations of the temple?
- What did Solomon ask God to do related to the temple? What are the various situations that Solomon mentioned and what did he ask God to do in each of these situations? Why? What does each of these tell us about the character of God and what He wants from His people? What does each of these tell us about the character of God and what His people can expect from Him? How do these things apply today?
- What specifically does Solomon mention and predict about when God's people sin against Him? What should God's people do in that situation? What should we ask from God in that situation? What difference does this make?
- What did Solomon say when blessing the people? What did he emphasize about God's promises? Why is that important? What did he emphasize about what he wanted Israel to be like and to do? How should we respond?
- How did Solomon dedicate the temple to the Lord? How was this similar to the covenant ceremony and the dedication ceremony for the tabernacle back in Exodus?
- What did God say to Solomon after the temple ceremony was completed? What did He promise Solomon? What were the conditions of that promise? What warnings did He give to Solomon? What can we learn from this? How does it apply?

## **Chapter 10:14-Chapter 11:13**

- What does this section emphasize about the rule of Solomon? How does this compare to what God had said in Deuteronomy 17:16-17? What is the significance of this?
- What point does the author make about the wives that Solomon had taken? What was the result of this in the life of Solomon? What was the result of this in the health of the entire nation? How did God respond to this? How would this happen?
- What do you think explains how Solomon, who started so well, ended so badly? What lessons should we learn from this? How can we protect ourselves from similar mistakes?

## **Chapter 11:14-40**

- Describe each of Solomon's adversaries and what they did. How are these things connected with the previous section? What difference does this make?

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- What did the prophet promise to Jeroboam? What reasons did he give for this? Why didn't God take all the tribes from Solomon? What does this say about the character and plans of God?
- Describe the promises, warnings, and conditions given to Jeroboam about his rule. How are these similar to the promises and warnings given to earlier kings? What is the significance of this? What do you think will happen in Jeroboam's future?

## Chapter 12

- What request was made to Rehoboam? How did he make the decision how to answer? What advice was he given?
- How did Rehoboam answer the request? Do you think this was a wise answer? Why or why not? What can we learn from this?
- What answer did Rehoboam give to the people? What reason does the author of Kings give to explain why he answered this way? What is the significance of this?
- How did the people respond to Rehoboam's answer? What role did Jeroboam play in this?
- How did God prevent civil war in Israel?
- What did Jeroboam do in the northern kingdom? Why did he do this? Was this a good move? Why or why not? How is this similar to an earlier incident in the Old Testament? What can we learn from this?

## Chapter 13

- What did the man of God predict about Jeroboam's altar? How did Jeroboam respond? What happened as a result? What does all this demonstrate about God's evaluation of what Jeroboam had done? What difference does this make?
- What did the king invite the man of God to do? What reason did he give for refusing this invitation?
- What did the old prophet do and request from the man of God? How did the man of God respond? How did the old prophet respond? Do you think he was telling the truth? Why or why not?
- What did God say after the man of God had eaten? What does this tell us about faithfulness to God's Word? What does this teach us about testing 'prophecy'?
- What happened to the man of God after he left the house? How did the old prophet respond? Why?
- What it say about Jeroboam at the end of this chapter? How is this related to earlier commands in the Old Testament? What difference does this make?

## Chapter 17

- What did Elijah say to Ahab? Why?
- What did Elijah do after this? How was he supplied? What does this demonstrate?
- What did Elijah do for the widow at Zarephath? What did this accomplish for Elijah and for her and her family? What does this demonstrate?
- What happened to the widow's son? How did Elijah respond? What was the result? What does this demonstrate?

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## Chapter 18

- What did Obadiah do during the famine? What did Ahab do? Was does this demonstrate about the character of each of these men?
- What did Elijah tell Obadiah to do? Why was Obadiah hesitant to do this? How did Elijah reassure him?
- What did Ahab say to Elijah when they met? How did Elijah respond? What did he command Ahab to do?
- What did Elijah say to the people on Mount Carmel? Why was this a key question at that point in Israel's history? How did the people respond?
- Describe the test which Elijah set up on Mount Carmel. What was this intended to prove? How?
- How did Elijah respond to the failure of the prophets of the false gods? What was he saying about their gods and their ability? What point was he making?
- What did Elijah do to make the test more difficult for God? What did Elijah pray for? How did God answer that prayer? What did this demonstrate?
- How did the people respond? What did Elijah command them to do? Why?
- What did Elijah do after dismissing Ahab? Why? What happened as a result? What does this entire chapter demonstrate about the character of God and His plans? How should we respond?

## Chapter 19

- What message did Jezebel send to Elijah? How did Elijah respond? Do you think this was a reasonable response? Why or why not?
- What did Elijah request from God in the desert? How did God respond? What can we learn from this?
- What did Elijah experience at the cave at Horeb? What did Elijah complain about? How did God respond?
- Why do you think the author mentioned that the Lord was not in the wind or in the earthquake or in the fire? How did Elijah experience God's presence?
- Why do you think that God repeated the question to Elijah about what he was doing there? What did God command Elijah to do? Why?
- What is the significance of God mentioning the 7000 in Israel that had remained faithful to the Lord? What should we learn from this?
- How did Elisha come to be Elijah's protégé? What do you think this foreshadows about the life and ministry of Elisha?

# Study Guide for Second Kings

## Chapter 2

- How was Elisha prepared for Elijah's departure? How did he respond?
- What did Elijah do at the Jordan river? How was this similar to an earlier incident in the Old Testament? What does this demonstrate?
- What did Elisha ask from Elijah? How did Elijah respond? Was this request fulfilled? What is the significance of this?
- How did Elijah die (trick question)? What does this demonstrate about the character of Elijah? Why does this matter?
- What did Elijah do at the Jordan river? What did he do beforehand? What does this demonstrate? Why does this matter?

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- What did the prophets from Jericho ask Elijah to allow them to do? How did he respond? Why? What was the result?
- What miracles did Elisha do in the remainder of this chapter? What does this demonstrate about the character and ministry of Elisha? What does this demonstrate about the character and purposes of God? What difference does this make?

## Chapter 17

- How does the author evaluate king Hoshea of Israel? What is the significance of this?
- What happened to Hoshea and the northern kingdom? Why?
- What theological explanation does the book of Kings give for the destruction of the northern kingdom? What specific things did they do? How does this compare with what God commanded in the Torah?
- How had God warned the people of the punishment that they experienced? How had they responded? What does this demonstrate about the character of the people? What should we learn from this?
- How does this section describe the Lord's attitude toward the destruction of the northern kingdom? How did this serve as a warning to the southern kingdom? How does this serve as a warning for us today?
- How does this chapter evaluate king Jeroboam and what he did? What is the significance of this?
- What did the Assyrians do with the people who lived in the northern kingdom? Who lived in that land after that time? What happened to those people? How did they respond?
- What was the lasting result of the religion in the land that formerly was the northern kingdom? What evaluation does the author give of these religious practices? What reasons does he give for this evaluation? Why does all this matter?

## Chapter 22

- How does the author evaluate king Josiah of Judah? What is the significance of this?
- What did Josiah do concerning the temple in Jerusalem? How? Why?
- What was found in the temple? How did Josiah respond? Do you think this was a proper response? Why or why not?
- What message did God give to Josiah about the land of Judah? What reasons did He give?
- What message did God give to Josiah about Josiah personally? What reasons did He give? What can we learn from this? How should we respond?

## Chapter 23:1-30

- What did Josiah do in this chapter? How did he involve the leadership of Judah? How did he involve the people?
- What did Josiah do in the temple and in the religious sites around Judah? Why? Was this a good thing to do? Why or why not?
- What did Josiah do to the altar at Bethel? What did Josiah do with the tomb of the man of God? How are these things connected to earlier episodes from First Kings? What does this demonstrate about the character and plans of God?

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- How did Josiah lead the people in celebrating the Passover? Why?
- What other things did Josiah do in response to the Book of the Law? What is the significance of all these things?
- What do all religious reforms of Josiah demonstrate about his character and how seriously he took the things he read in the book? In what ways should you imitate this kind of seriousness and zeal in your own life?
- What does the author point out about God's plans for Judah, even in spite of Josiah's reforms? Why?
- How did Josiah die?

### **Chapter 24:8-Chapter 25:30**

- How does the author evaluate king Jehoiachin of Judah? What is the significance of this?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon do? What was the state of the nation after this? Why do you think this happened?
- How does the author evaluate king Zedekiah of Judah? What is the significance of this? How is the language of this section similar to what was said about the destruction of the northern kingdom in chapter 17? What difference does this make?
- How was Jerusalem captured? What happened to king Zedekiah? What happened to the temple? What happened to the city? What happened to the priests? Why do you think all these things happened, based on what the author has written previously in the books of Kings? What is the significance of this?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Judah after the destruction of Jerusalem? How did the people respond?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Jehoiachin? How does this give a bright spot of hope at the end of this book? What do you think will happen next in the history? Why?

## **Study Guide for Textbook chapter 15**

### **The Author and His Method**

- According to the textbook, how is this book more than just history? What other things are communicated as well as history? How does this help us read and understand these books?

### **Retribution Theology**

- What does the textbook mean by "theology of retribution"? How is this demonstrated in the books of Kings? What lessons should we learn from this?
- How does the author evaluate each of Israel's kings? What does this prove? How should we respond?

### **Regnal Formula and Sources**

- What kind of information is contained in the introductory statements and conclusions about each king? What can we learn from this?
- According to the textbook, what does the Biblical author concentrate on when describing the kings? What does he ignore? Why is that important?
- What sources does the textbook describe for the books of Kings? What type of information was contained in each?

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### **Historical Perspective from the Exile**

- When does the textbook state the books of Kings were written? What does this tell us about their perspective and content and how we can best read them?
- What does the textbook mean by explaining events theologically? How is this seen in the books of kings? What should we learn from this? How should we respond?

**Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter**

## **Study Guide for Textbook chapter 16**

### **The Rise of Prophecy (sidebar)**

- How did Moses exemplify the role and task of the prophet?
- How did the role and task of the prophet change with the start of the monarchy? Why?
- How did Elijah exemplify the prophetic office?
- How were Israel's prophets different from the 'prophets' of the surrounding nations? What does this tell us about how the God of Israel is different from the 'gods' of the surrounding nations?

### **Themes of the Book of Kings**

- Describe the two themes of Kings, according to the textbook, in your own words. What difference does each of these ideas make today?
- How does the theology of retribution explain what happened in Israel's history? What lesson should we learn from this?
- What does the textbook mean when it describes the books of Kings as "prophetic history"? What does this tell us about these books? How does this help us understand them better? How should we respond?

**Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter**