

MONARCHY IN ISRAEL

I & II KINGS (INTRODUCTION)

I. TITLE

Originally it was **one book**. It was written as **one volume** = parallel with Chronicles. In **Hebrew** the title for the unified book is **melakim**, meaning “**Kings**”. The division into **two books** appeared only in the **Greek versions** of the Septuagint. The Greek version called the book **3 & 4 Reigns**. The **English title “Kings”** comes from **Jerome’s Latin version, Vulgate**. The divisions found in the Septuagint and Vulgate are done most likely for the convenience of fitting each book on one scroll. These two divisions are not attested in Hebrew manuscripts until 14th-15th century A.D. Daniel Bomberg’s rabbinic Bible of 1516-17 A.D. had a marginal note explaining that the division was due to non-Jews (literally, those speaking foreign language). The **books of the Kings are the last of the Former Prophets in the Hebrew Bible**

II. CONTENT

- ❖ 4 centuries of history from Solomon to Exile (Babylonian).
- ❖ United kingdom to the divided kingdom (Israel and Judah) and then finally to a solitary Judah.
- ❖ From the death of David (971 BC) to the fall of Jerusalem (587 B.C.) and then to the release of Jechoiachin from the Babylonian prison (561 B.C.)
- ❖ Emergence of the Prophets Elijah & Elisha

III. AUTHORSHIP

- The **author is anonymous.**
- Rabbinic tradition in the Talmud ascribes the authorship to **Jeremiah**

IV. DATE OF COMPOSITION

The last event mentioned in the II Kings is the release of Jehoiachin from the Babylonian prison (II Kings 25:27-30), which took place in the 37th year of the exile (561 B.C.). Martin North suggests that the compiler of this book could have **done the work about 550 B.C.**

Sources are mentioned as “The Book of the Acts of Solomon”, (I Kg 11:41; 15:31) and the court & official records. The **cycles of stories** about the prophets, **Elijah and Elisha**, are also to be counted as the source for the books.

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

- 1. The last days of David (I Kings Chs. 1-2)**
- 2. Reign of Solomon (I Kings Chs. 3-11)**
- 3. Establishment of Northern Kingdom (I Kings Chs. 12-16)**
- 4. Elijah's Ministry (I Kings Ch.17- II Kings Ch.1)**
- 5. Elisha and his Ministry (II Kings Chs.2-13)**
- 6. Final years of the Northern Kingdom (II Kings Chs. 14-17)**
- 7. Final years of Judah (II Kings Chs. 18-25)**

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

1. The Last Days of David (I Kings Chs. 1-2)

- David in Old Age (1 Kg 1:1-10)
- Nathan and Bathsheba (1 Kg 1:11-37)
- Solomon Anointed King (1 Kg 1:38-53)
- David's Command to Solomon (1 Kg 2:1-9)
- Death of David (1 Kg 2:10-18)
- Adonijah Executed (1 Kg 19-27)
- Joab Executed (1 Kg 2:28-35)
- Shimei Executed (1 Kg 2:36-46)

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

2. Reign of Solomon (I Kings Chs. 3-11) Cont.

- Marriage to Pharaoh's Daughter (1 Kg 3:1-2)
- Prayer for Wisdom (1 Kg 3:3-28)
- Solomon's Court, Wealth and Wisdom (1 Kg 4:1-34)
- Solomon's pact with Hiram of Tyre (1 Kg 5:1-18)
- The Building of the Temple and other Buildings (1 Kg 6:1-7:51)
- The Dedication of the Temple (1 Kg 8:1-66)
- Renewal of Davidic Covenant (1 Kg 9:1-9)

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

2. Reign of Solomon (I Kings Chs. 3-11) Cont.

- ❑ Solomon's Fame, Wisdom, Prosperity (1 Kg 9:10-10:29)**
- ❑ Solomon's many Wives, Idolatry, and God's Anger (1 Kg 11:1-13)**
- ❑ Solomon's Enemies aroused by the Lord (1 Kg 11:14-25)**
- ❑ Rise of Jeroboam (1 Kg 11:26-40)**
- ❑ Death of Solomon (1 Kg 11:41-43)**

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

3. Establishment of Northern Kingdom (I Kings Chs. 12-16)

- Rehoboam made King (1 Kg 12:1-15)
- Revolt and Jeroboam made King of North - Israel (1 Kg 12:16-24)
- Jeroboam plunges Israel into Idolatry (1 Kg 12:25-33)
- Jeroboam of Israel (1 Kg 13:1-14:20)
- Rehoboam of Judah (1 Kg 14:21-31)
- Abijam of Judah (1 Kg 15:1-8)
- Asa of Judah (1 Kg 15:9-24)
- Nadab of Israel (1 Kg 15:25-31)
- Baasha of Israel (1 Kg 15:32-16:7)
- Elah, Zimri of Israel (1 Kg 16:8-20)
- Omri of Israel (1 Kg 16:21-27)
- Ahab of Israel (1 Kg 16:28-34)

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

4. Elijah's Ministry (I Kings Ch.17- II Kings Ch.1)

- Drought and Miracles associated therewith (1 Kg 17:1-18:19)
- Prophets of Baal killed (1 Kg 18:20-40)
- Rain (1 Kg 18:41-46)
- Elijah flees to Mount Horeb and meets God there (1 Kg 19:1-18)
- Elisha called to Prophetic Ministry (1 Kg 19:19-21)
- War between Ahab and Ben-hadad of Syria (1 Kg 20:1-43)
- Ahab and the Vineyard of Naboth (1 Kg 21:1-29)
- Death of Ahab in Battle against Syria (1 Kg 22:1-40)
- Jehosphaphat of Judah (1 Kg 22:41-50)
- Ahaziah of Israel (1 Kg 22:51-53)
- Death of Ahaziah of Israel (2 Kg 1:1-18)

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

5. Elisha and his Ministry (II Kings Chs.2-13)

- Elijah and Elisha (2 Kg 2:1-25)
- Jehoram of Israel (2 Kg 3:1-27)
- Miracles and other works of Elisha (2 Kg 4:1-8:15)
- Jehoram of Judah (2 Kg 8:16-24)
- Ahaziah of Judah (2 Kg 8:25-29)
- Jehu of Israel defeats Joram, Ahaziah, Jezebel (2 Kg 9:1-9:37)
- Jehu of Israel defeats sons of Ahab, prophets of Baal (2 Kg 10:1-31)
- Israel oppressed by Hazael of Syria (2 Kg 10:32-36)
- Athaliah and Joash (2 Kg 11:1-21)
- Joash of Judah and his reforms (2 Kg 12:1-21)
- Jehoahaz of Israel (2 Kg 13:1-9)
- Jehoash/Joash of Israel; Elisha's death (2 Kg 13:10-25)

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

6. Final years of the Northern Kingdom (II Kings Chs. 14-17)

- Amaziah of Judah (2 Kg 14:1-22)
- Jeroboam II of Israel (2 Kg 14:23-29)
- Azariah/Uzziah of Judah (2 Kg 15:1-7)
- Zechariah of Israel (2 Kg 15:8-12)
- Shallum of Israel (2 Kg 15:13-16)
- Menahem of Israel (2 Kg 15:17-22)
- Pekahiah of Israel (2 Kg 15:23-26)
- Pekah of Israel (2 Kg 15:27-31)
- Jotham of Judah (2 Kg 15:32-38)
- Ahaz of Judah (2 Kg 16:1-20)
- Hoshea of Israel and Fall of Israel - 722 B.C. (2 Kg 17:1-6; 18:9-12)
- Commentary on Fall of Israel (2 Kg 17:7-23)
- Influx of people to replace deported Israelites (2 Kg 17:24-41)

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

7. Final years of Judah (II Kings Chs. 18-25) Cont.

- Hezekiah's Early Reign (2 Kg 18:1-8)**
- Defeat of Sennacherib; Isaiah's Prophecy (2 Kg 18:13-19:37)**
- Hezekiah's Illness (2 Kg 20:1-21)**
- Manasseh of Judah (2 Kg 21:1-18)**
- Amon of Judah (2 Kg 21:19-26)**

V. OUTLINES OF I KINGS & II KINGS

7. Final years of Judah (II Kings Chs. 18-25) Cont.

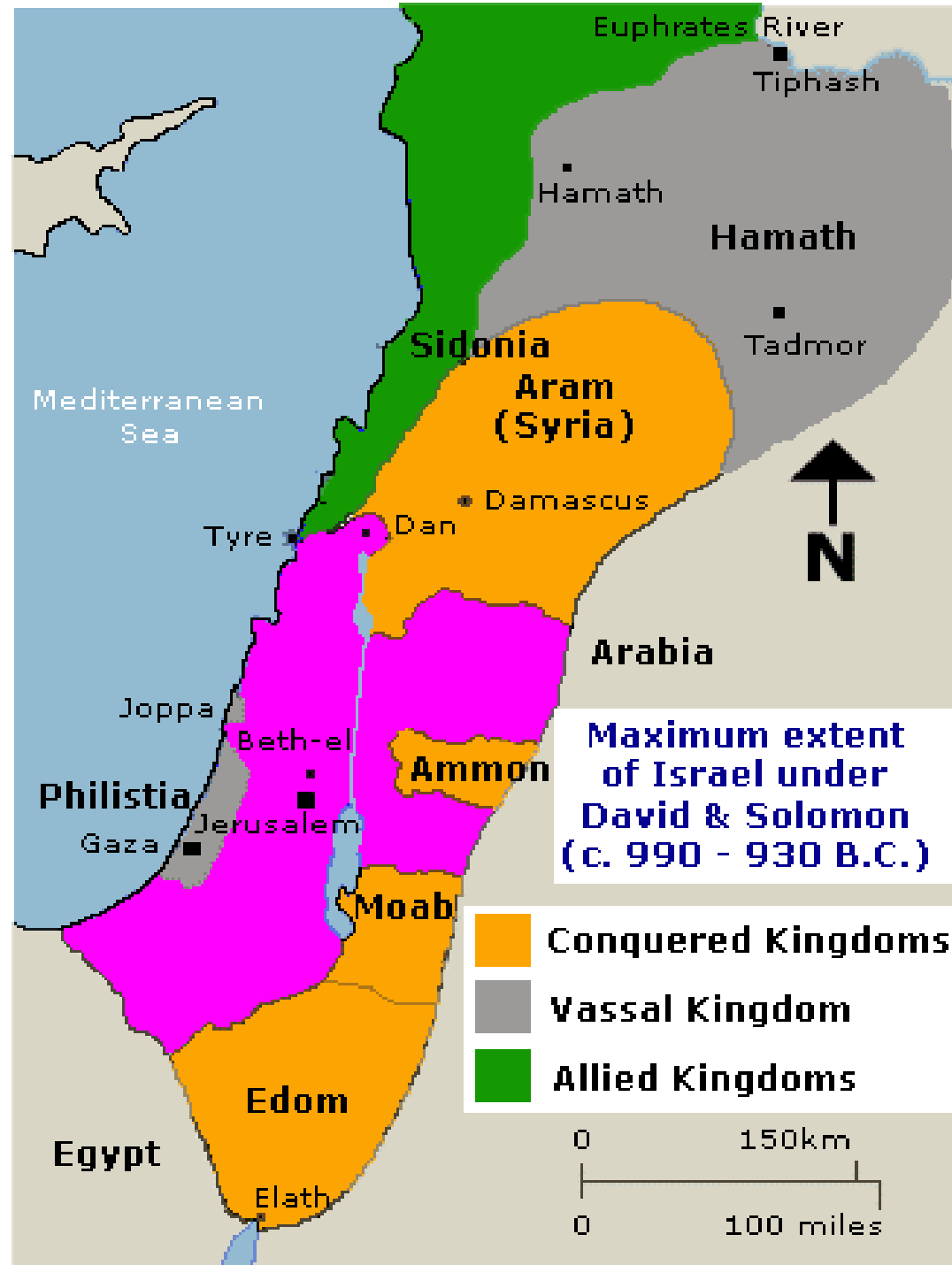
- Josiah's Early Reign (2 Kg 22:1-7)
- Discovery of the Law; Reforms and Death of Josiah (2 Kg 22:8-23:30)
- Jehoahaz of Judah (2 Kg 23:31-33)
- Eliakim/Jehoiakim installed as King in South (2 Kg 23:34-24:6)
- Jehoiachin of Judah (2 Kg 24:7-12)
- Initial incursion of Nebuchadnezzar-605 B.C. & 592 B.C. (2 Kg 24:13-16)
- Zedekiah/Mattaniah of Judah (2 Kg 24:17-20)
- Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kg 25:1-21)
- Gedaliah the governor; Jehoiachin honored in Babylon (2 Kg 25:22-30)

VI. The Message of the Book of Kings

The message of the book of Kings is threefold. 1) If Israel is to avoid severe punishment it should learn a lesson from the mistakes of its forebears and listen to God's mouthpieces, the prophets; 2) God is ready to forgive when people truly repent; 3) He still holds out hope for his people, regardless of how dire their circumstances.



The 12 Tribes of Israel



KINGDOMS OF DAVID, SOLOMON, SAUL

