

# The Story of God

## 1 & 2 Kings

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- Are one book in the Hebrew Bible
- Span about 400 years of history
- Are brief—about 50,000 words to describe 400 years of history.  
Imagine how much is not included
- Have a “Current Events” perspective
- Tell only the story of kings—the fate of the people is in the hands of the king

- Are oriented along 3 planes. I Kings 15.1-3
  - Time and lineage
  - Relationship of northern to southern kingdom.
  - Relationship to God
- Begin with David, and end with Josiah
- There are 4 kings after him, over the span of 22 years, but they mark the end of Judah. II Kings 23.30-37

- Have as their theme the sovereignty and superiority of Jehovah.
- He is the only True God
- His word (through the prophets, to the kings) always comes true, sometimes in dramatic fashion

- “History and theology are inseparable in Kings, not because of any special pleading on the author’s part, but because the writer was convinced that historical effects were caused by theological principles that were heeded or ignored.”

–Paul House, *Old Testament Theology*

# I Kings 1-10: Solomon in his glory

- 1-2: Solomon acquires and secures the crown
- 3-4 Solomon is given great wisdom and rules a mighty kingdom
- 5-8 Solomon builds the Temple
- 9-10 If Solomon will be faithful to God, God will exalt his kingdom around the world

# I Kings 11-16 Solomon in his folly

- 11-12: Solomon isn't faithful to God, and the kingdom is divided. I Kings 11.9-13
- 13-16: Solomon may have acted foolishly, but Jehovah is no fool

I Kings 17-II Kings 17: the death of one nation and the decline of the second

- I Kings 17- 2 Kings 13: the kings contend with God and Baal
  - This section focuses upon the northern tribes
  - it chronicles God's intervention into the Baal worship of Israel (16.30-32)
- 2 Kings 14-17 Israel conquered

# II Kings 18-25: The Decline and Fall of Judah

- 18-20: Hezekiah
- 21: Manasseh and the proclamation of doom. 21.9-15
- 22-23: Josiah a great king, but to no avail. 23.25-27
- 24-25 The Babylonian conquest