

Introduction

Three theological themes are stressed in Kings. First, the Lord judged Israel and Judah because of their disobedience to his law. Second, the word of the true prophets came to pass. Third, the Lord remembered His promise to David. Even though the kings of the Davidic line proved themselves to be disobedient to the Lord, He did not bring David's family to an end...even as the book closes, the line of David still exists (2 Kings 25:27-30), so there is hope for the coming "seed" of David. The Lord is thus seen as faithful, and His Word is trustworthy.

John MacArthur

The MacArthur Study Bible, p. 460

This semester we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week's verse is Isaiah 40:20...
"He who is too impoverished for such an offering selects a tree that does not rot;
He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman to prepare an idol that will not totter."

Day One

1 Kings 1-11 and Selected Scriptures; The Golden Era of Israel

1. From your study of 1-2 Samuel, summarize the Davidic Covenant and its importance.
2. According to 1 Kings 1:8 and 17 and 1 Chronicles 22:1-10, who opposed Adonijah's claim to the throne, and why?
3. In 1 Chronicles 22:11-13, what counsel did David give Solomon about the covenants?
4. According to 1 Kings 3:3-9, what did Solomon ask of the LORD, and why?
 - a. From verses 10-14, how did the LORD respond to Solomon's request?
5. How did 1 Kings 4:20-21 reflect the progression of God's redemptive plan given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-9?

Day Two

Read Selected Scriptures from 1 Kings 11-16; A Divided Kingdom

1. According to 1 Kings 11:1-8, why was Solomon not the one to bring about the ultimate fulfillment of the promises of redemption, though he did much that was right before the Lord and was richly blessed?
 - a. Previous occasions of idolatry in Israel's history caused God to act swiftly and decisively. In this instance, why did God allow Solomon and his descendants to continue to reign? (See 11:12-13 and 2 Samuel 7:12-17.)
2. In 11:14-40, what did God do in response to Solomon's idolatry? How did this punishment of sin highlight God's justice?
3. According to 11:32 and 34-36, what evidence is given that God's redemptive plan was intact and consistent with His earlier promises?

4. Just as with the downward spiral of sin in the time of the Judges, Solomon's idolatry gave rise to further idolatry in the divided kingdom. From 1 Kings 12:25–33, who was the new king of the Northern Kingdom and what did he do?
 - a. According to 1 Kings 13:1–10, how did God warn the king?
 - b. This narrative marks the beginning of an increased presence and ministry of prophets, used by God to communicate with His people. How does God warn His people today? Cite Scripture to support your answer.
5. Skim 1 Kings 15–16 and note specific instances of idolatry that became the pattern for future kings in Israel.
 - a. Examine your own life to identify idols that may prevent you from giving God His rightful place and inhibit your worship of Him. Ask God to help you practically fight against these idols, and share that with your group.

Day Three

*Read Selected Scriptures from 1 Kings 16–18; **The Ministry of the Prophets***

1. God sent Ahijah (chapter 14), Jehu (chapter 16), Elijah (chapters 17–19), Elisha (chapters 19–20), Isaiah, and other prophets to repeatedly warn the people to repent. What characteristics of God does this theme of Kings highlight?
2. From 1 Kings 16:31–32, what made Ahab worse than all previous kings?
3. From 1 Kings 17:1, what did God's prophet Elijah predict? How does that connect with Deuteronomy 28:15–24?
4. In 1 Kings 18:20–46, contrast the prophets' worship of Baal with Elijah's worship of Yahweh on Mount Carmel, and list some of the differences.
 - a. What are some evidences of God's grace in this narrative that demonstrate a commitment to His people?
5. In 1 Kings 18:21, Elijah confronted the people about their divided affections. Can you identify areas where you are not giving your full devotion to Christ? Take time to pray that God would remove the distractions that are dividing your attention and preventing you from worshiping Him fully.

Day Four

*Read 2 Kings 17:6–23; **Divided Kingdoms into Exile***

1. According to this text, what were the reasons for God's exile of Israel?
2. In 2 Kings 17:7, why do you think the narrator begins by referring to the Exodus? What relevance should this milestone in Israel's history have represented during the period of the kings?

- a. Throughout this study, Scripture repeatedly points back to God's previous dealings with His people so that they would remember His character, His promises, and His provision. How has this study caused you to think about the importance of remembering both what God has done in redemptive history, and in your own life? Share with your group some examples of God's faithfulness in your life this year.
3. Consider how Israel's exile was triggered by more than just one isolated instance of sin. How does this emphasis on the Lord's patience encourage you personally?
4. What indications are given, from Genesis to Kings, that Israel's exile would not be God's final dealing with His people?

Day Five

Read Selected Scriptures; The Redemptive Hope in Kings

1. Though Kings was written to the exilic community to demonstrate the fairness of their punishment, how do the following verses display God's mercy and grace, and His plan of redemption?
 - a. 1 Kings 8:46-53
 - b. 1 Kings 11:12-13, 36; 2 Kings 8:19
2. Do you think the people of Israel had sufficient knowledge to understand the reason for their exile? What could they have done to avoid it?
3. What do 1-2 Kings teach about God's character and man's sin?
 - a. What lessons can you learn from 1-2 Kings to apply to your life today?
4. How has this study increased your understanding and love for God and His redemptive plan?

The purpose of 1-2 Kings is to explain why God sent Israel, His own people, into exile.

I. 1 Kings 1-10	The Kingdom Flourished: Solomon Builds Temple
II. 1 Kings 11	Solomon Led Israel to Abandon True Worship
III. 1 Kings 12:1-24	The Kingdom Divided
IV. 1 Kings 12:25-2 Kings 16	Kings of Israel and Judah Led into Idolatry
V. 1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13	God Sent His Prophets: Elijah and Elisha
VI. 2 Kings 17	The Assyrian Captivity of Israel
VII. 2 Kings 24-25	The Babylonian Captivity of Judah