

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #17

1 KINGS

04-23-23

Monday - 1 Kings 1-5

Wednesday - 1 Kings 9-13

Friday - 1 Kings 19-22

Tuesday - 1 Kings 6-8

Thursday - 1 Kings 14-18

First and Second Kings were originally one book in the Hebrew Scriptures. Like First and Second Samuel, they were divided into two books when the Septuagint was written. The history of God's people is continued in First and Second Kings with an emphasis on the kings that ruled and the consequences of their leadership, most of which was bad. Toward the end of his life Solomon became involved in idolatry through his many wives. Because of this, God told him that after his death his son's would no longer rule over the entire kingdom as he had done. Rehoboam, a son of Solomon, was made king after his father, but a rebellion took place and ten of the twelve tribes formed a nation to the north and were referred to as Israel. The first king of the newly formed nation of Israel was Jeroboam. The southern kingdom that Rehoboam reigned over consisted of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and became known by the name of the larger tribe, Judah.

The author is unknown. In the past Jeremiah was considered by some to be the author because of the similarity of 2 Kings 24:18-25:30 and Jeremiah 52:1-34. That does not seem to be a popular theory today. Instead, it is suggested that the things recorded in the end of Second Kings were written by someone in Babylon, a contemporary of Jeremiah. As far as we know Jeremiah was not in Babylon at the time that the final events of Second Kings took place, since he had been taken to Egypt after the fall of Judah (Jeremiah 43:1-7).

The date of the writing of First and Second Kings was probably between 560 and 536 B.C. The last event recorded in Second Kings deals with the release of Jehoiachin from prison in Babylon in 2 Kings 25:27. That would have been around 560 B.C. Since no mention is made of the Jews returning to Jerusalem, as they were allowed to do by Cyrus in 536 B.C., it would appear the return had not yet occurred when the books of First and Second Kings were written. That gives us the period of time from 560 to 536 B.C. within which these books could have been authored.

The purpose of both First and Second Kings is to show how God dealt with Israel and their leaders as they functioned as His people in a physical kingdom. By looking at this history we can see how God blessed those who listened and obeyed Him and how both individuals and nations were punished when they ignored His warnings.

An outline for First Kings: 1.) Success and failure of Solomon 1-11
2.) The kingdom divided 12
3.) Various kings of Judah and Israel 13-22

Questions for First Kings 1-22:

- 1.) Who was the priest that anointed Solomon king in chapter one?
- 2.) How did Solomon determine which of the two women claiming to be the mother of a child was the real one in chapter three?
- 3.) In the latter part of chapter twelve, what was Jeroboam afraid his people would do if he did not provide them places to worship in Dan and Bethel?
- 4.) When Asa became king of Judah in chapter fifteen, what were two things he did because his mother had made an idol?
- 5.) In chapter twenty-one, why was Ahab unhappy with Naboth?

Answers to questions for Week #16 – John 1-21:

- 1.) Grace and truth.
- 2.) The Christ.
- 3.) Blasphemy.
- 4.) He washed their feet.
- 5.) Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.