

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

1 Kings: Redemptive History is a Royal Mess—Part 1 (15)

BACKGROUND

1. Authorship: No one is mentioned. Perhaps Jeremiah?
2. Date:
 - a. Final draft must be written after the final deportation in 586 BC
 - b. **2 Ki 25:27-30** is set in 561 BC
3. Purpose:
 - a. To explain how and why Israel & Judah had been exiled from the Land
 - b. To demonstrate and defend YHWH's justice and mercy
4. Style:
 - a. Honest History: God's Word doesn't protect Israel; it indicts them
 - b. Theological History: Selective, Sequenced
 - c. Deuteronomist History: Kings judged by (dis)obedience to God's covenant law

OUTLINE

The Reign of King Solomon (**1 Kings 1:1-11:43**)

The Divided Kingdom (**1 Kings 12:1-14:31**)

Elijah (**1 Kings 17:1- 2 Kings 2:25**)

Elisha (**2 Kings 3:1-10:36**)

The End of Israel (**2 Kings 11:1 – 25:30**)

Hezekiah (**18:1-20:21**)

Josiah (**22:1-23:30**)

SOLOMON (1:1-11:43)

1. Kingdom

Solomon becomes king (**1:1–2:46**)

Solomon requests wisdom (**3:1–28**; cf. Matt 12:42) – Prototypical Wise Man (cf. Prov 1:1; 10:1; 25:1)

Solomon's rule over Israel and the Nations (**4:1-34; 10:1-29**) – Prototypical Kingdom (cf. Ps 72)

2. Temple – ANE Pattern: **GOD → KING/SHEPHERD/WARRIOR → WARFARE → TEMPLE → KINGDOM**¹

Preparation: Temple built after rest (**5:4-5**); Davidic Covenant (**5:7**); Major Undertaking (**5:13-18; 6:38**)

Construction: Solomon builds the temple (**6-7**)

- Hiram: Skilled Temple Builder (**7:13-14**)

- Description: Gold (**6:21-22**); Cherubim, Palms, Flowers (**6:29-35**); 2 Pillars = 2 Trees? (**7:15-22**)

Worship: Ark brought to the temple (**8:1–21**); Prayer & Benediction (**8:22–53**); Sacrifices (**8:62–66**)

3. The Fall – Solomon turns from YHWH; God raises adversaries (Hadad, Rezon, Jeroboam) (**11:1–43**)

¹Jeffrey Niehaus, *Ancient Near Eastern Themes in Biblical Theology* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2008).

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM (12:1–14:31)

The kingdom torn away (12:1–33)

- **Manmade Rule:** Judgment comes thru ‘natural’ means: the harshness of a king (12:11-15)
- **Manmade Religion:** Jeroboam leads the 10 Northern tribes to worship false gods (12:16-33)

The man of God from Judah (13:1–34)

- First of the prophets
- Demonstrates how disobedience to God’s word results in tragedy and death

The Kingdom divides

- **A Tale of Two Kings**
 - o Jeroboam (14:1–20) – First of 18 kings of Israel – whoever had the most power
 - o Rehoboam (14:21–31) – First of 20 kings of Judah – line of David
- **Apostasy and Renewal:** Judah’s Kingly Pattern (15:1–24; cf. Asa’s rise/fall in 2 Chron 14-16)
- **Powerplays and Violence:** Israel’s Kingly Pattern (15:25–16:34)

ELIJAH VS AHAB (1 Kings 17:1-22:53)

Elijah’s Miracles

- Elijah and the drought (17:1–24; cf. Luke 4:25-30) – *God’s love is particular & multi-ethnic*
- Elijah and the prophets of Baal (18:1–46) – *God demands exclusive worship*
- Elijah and the Lord (19:1–21; cf. Rom 11:2ff) – *God leaves a remnant*
- All according to the word of the Lord (17:2, 5, 8, 16, 24; 18:1, 36; 19:9, 13; 21:17, 28)

Elijah in the NT

- Jesus was compared with Elijah (Matt 16:14) – miracles & preacher of righteousness
- John took on the appearance of Elijah (Matt 3:4), prepared the way for the Lord (Mal 4:5-6)
- Appeared on Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:4) – representative of the prophets
- Remnant remembered (Rom 11:2ff); Model of prayer (James 5:17)

Pervasive Wickedness in Israel (20:1-22:53)

- Ahab's war against Syria (20:1–43); Naboth's vineyard (21:1–29); Ahab killed (22:1–40)
- Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah (22:41–53) – *Though poorly, they listened to God’s Word* (22:5)

FOUR THEMES

1. True Worship
 - YHWH demands exclusive worship (1 Kings 8:41-43)
 - The place matters (1 Kings 3:2; 5:1-9:9; 15:14; 22:43) – *It still does, only Jesus is the place!*
 - False worship results in judgment (1 Kings 12:16ff; cf. kings whose hearts turn from God)
2. The Word of the Lord
 - God’s Word was active during this time (Over 47x in 1-2 Kings)
 - God’s Word is accompanied by miracles (Elisha & Elijah, cf. Heb 2:4)
3. God’s Sovereignty in the World
 - Concentrated power necessarily corrupts – the kings testify to the wickedness of our hearts
 - God diffuses power thru the rise and fall of different leaders (cf. 1 Kings 15-16)
4. The Office of the Prophet
 - **The first prophets:** Do not write, but call the kings and God’s people back to the covenant
 - **The latter prophets:** Record the word of God, calling Israel to look forward