

KINGS

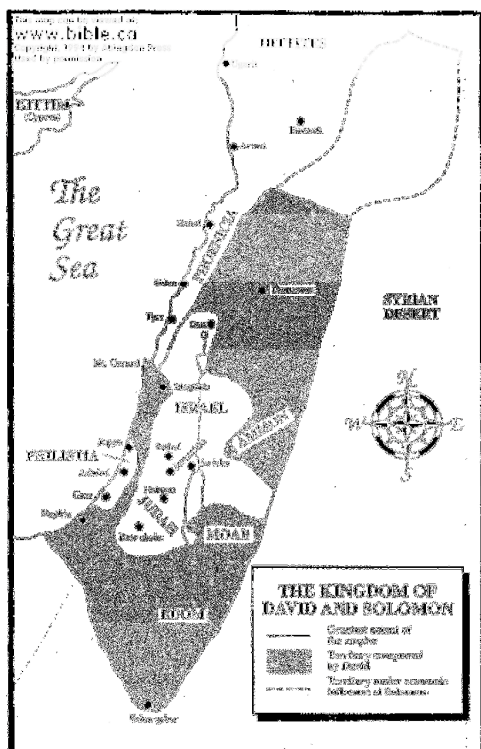
Theme: *From Glory To Exile!*

Outline:	The United Kingdom under Solomon	1 Kings 1-11
	The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-16
	The Rise and Work of Elijah	1 Kings 17-22
	The Rise and Work of Elisha	2 Kings 1-13
	Israel Disintegrates	2 Kings 14-17
	Judah Disintegrates	2 Kings 18-25

The book of Kings is a direct continuation of the book of Samuel. It spans about 400 years and it is basically a story of failure – from a kingdom in a state of affluence and influence to one of poverty and paralysis.

The book of Kings begins with the glory that attends the reign of Solomon, but after his death, the kingdom split into Israel (north) and Judah (south). Both kingdoms continue their downward trend, ending with Israel going into exile in 722 BC (Assyrian) and Judah in 586 BC (Babylonian).

The movement in Kings cannot be more dramatic and tragic: *from a great empire to being exiled, from having a beautiful temple to seeing it goes up in smoke*. The two map below vividly portray the tragic downward spiral:



King Solomon

- **1 Kings 3:28** ~ *And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*
- **1 Kings 4:24-25** ~ *For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphshah even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him. And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.*
- **1 Kings 10:21, 23** ~ *All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon . . . So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.*
- **1 Kings 3:1** ~ *Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall all around Jerusalem.*
- **1 Kings 7:1** ~ *But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.*
- **1 Kings 11:1-2** ~ *But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites-- from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.*

As we close the chapter on Solomon's reign, we see the man who asked for wisdom and who built the Temple at Jerusalem bowing down to idols for business reasons and marital peace! It reflected the same decline in God's people, called to be a witness to the other nations but ended up as an imitator of the other nations!

As God acted in Solomon's case, He most certainly will act in Israel's case ... The kingdom will split and both nations will go into exile!!

Read: **1 Kings 9:4-9**

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