

1 Kings to Ezra

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1 Kings

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
561 - 538 BC	I Kings 22 Chapters	United kingdom became the divided kingdom	Life of Solomon, Israel is divided and brief histories of the numerous kings are presented. Israel's history is given from a political perspective.	Everything is judged by God's sight.	Jesus is a Ruler greater than human kings.

			United Kingdom					
			Kings of Israel					
#	Date of Reign	Start/End	Name	Length of Reign	End of Reign	Prophet	Scripture	Notable Events
1	1050-1010 BC	Good/Evil	<u>Saul</u>	40 years	Killed himself and died with his sons in battle with Philistines, succeeded by Ishbosheth	Samuel	1 Sam. 8-31 1 Chron. 9-10	Anointed under protest.
2	1010-1008 BC	Bad/Bad	<u>Ishbosheth</u>	2 years	Killed by conspirators, succeeded by David	Samuel	2 Sam. 2: 8 to 2 Sam. 4: 12	Declared king, but never anointed.
3	1010-970 BC	Good/Good	<u>David</u>	40 years	Succeeded by Solomon	Samuel / Nathan	1 Sam. 16-31 2 Sam. 1-24 1 Kings 1-2 1 Chron. 11-29	Brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem
4	970-930 BC	Good/Evil	<u>Solomon</u>	40 years	Succeeded by Rehoboam who ruled Judah; Jeroboam became king of Israel during Rehoboam's reign.	Nathan	1 Kings 1-11 2 Chron. 1-9	Built the first Temple

Divided Kingdom

	Kings of Judah					Kings of Israel						
Start/End	King	Years of Reign	Total Years	Prophet	Scripture		Start/End	King	Years of Reign	Total Years	Prophet	Scripture
Evil/Evil	Rehoboam	931-915	17	Shemaiah	1 Kings 11:42–14:31 2 Chron. 9: 31-12:16		Evil/Evil	Jeroboam I	931-910 BC	22 years	Ahjah	1 Kings 11: 26-40; 1Kings 12: 1-14; 20 2 Chron. 10
Evil/Evil	Abijah/Abijam	915-912	3	Shemaiah Hanani	1 Kings 14:3-15:8 2 Chron. 13: 1-12:16		Evil/Evil	Nadab	910-909 BC	2 years		1 Kings 15:25-32
Good/Good	Asa	912-871	41	Hanani	1 Kings 15:8-24 2 Chron. 13: 23-16:14		Evil/Evil	Baasha	909-886 BC	24 years	Jehu	1 Kings 15:27-16:7
Good/Good	Jehoshaphat	871-849	25		1 Kings 15: 24:22:41-51 2 Chron. 17:1-21: 1		Evil/Evil	Elah	886-885 BC	2 years		1 Kings 16: 8-14
Evil/Evil	Jehoram/Joram	849/848–842	7 (8)	Obabiah (?)	2 Kings 8:16–24 2 Chron. 21:1-20		Evil/Evil	Zimri	885 BC	7 days	Micaiah Elijah 1 Kings 17-19 1 Kings 21 2 Kings 1-2	1 Kings 16: 9-20
Evil/Evil	Ahaziah	842–841	1 (2)		2 Kings 8:25-29; 9:14–26 2 Chron. 22: 1-12		Evil/Evil	Omri	885-874 BC	12 years	Micaiah Elijah 1 Kings 17-19 1 Kings 21 2 Kings 1-2	1 Kings 16: 16-17. 21-28

Divided Kingdom

	Kings of Judah						Kings of Israel					
Start/End	King	Years of Reign	Total Years	Prophet	Scripture		Start/End	King	Years of Reign	Total Years	Prophet	Scripture
Evil/Evil	Athaliah (Q.)	841–835	6		2 Kings 8:26; 11:1–20; 2 Chron. 21: 6; 22: 2; 9-23:21		Evil/Evil	Ahab	874-853 BC	22 years	Micaiah Elijah 1 Kings 17-19 1 Kings 21 2 Kings 1-2	1 Kings 16: 29-17: 1, 18: 1-19.3, 20: 1-22: 40 2 Kings 1
Good/Evil	Joash/Jehoash	835–796/795	39 (40)	Joel	2 Kings 11; 12:1–21 2 Chron. 22: 10-23; 24: 27		Evil/Evil	Ahaziah	853-852 BC	2 years	Elisha 1 Kings 19 2 Kings 2-9 2 Kings 13	1 Kings 22: 51-53 2 Kings 1: 1-18
Good/Evil	Amaziah	796/795–767	29		2 Kings 14:1–22 2 Chron. 24: 26-25: 28		Evil/Evil	Joram	852-841 BC	12 years	Elisha 1 Kings 19 2 Kings 2-9 2 Kings 13	2 Kings 3: 1-27, 6: 8-7:20, 9: 14-26
Good/Evil	Uzziah/Azariah	767–740/739	52	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 15:1–7 2 Chron. 26: 1-23		Good/Evil	Jehu	841-814 BC	28 years	Elisha 1 Kings 19 2 Kings 2-9 2 Kings 13	2 Kings 9:1-10: 36
Good/Good	Jotham	750–735/730	16 (20)	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 15:32–38 2 Chron. 26:21-23; 26: 23-27: 9		Evil/Evil	Jehoahaz	814-798 BC	17 years		2 Kings 13: 1-9

Divided Kingdom												
	Kings of Judah						Kings of Israel					
Start/End	King	Years of Reign	Total Years	Prophet	Scripture		Start/End	King	Years of Reign	Total Years	Prophet	Scripture
Evil/Evil	Ahaz	735/730–715	16 (20)	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 15:38-16:20 2 Chron. 28: 27-32:33 Is. 7		Evil/Evil	Jehoash	798-782 BC	16 years		2 Kings 13: 10-25: 2 Kings 14: 8-16
Good/Good	Hezekiah	715–687/686	29	Isaiah Micah	2 Kings 16:20; 18:1–20: 21 2 Chron. 27: 9-28:27 Is. 36-39		Evil/Evil	Jeroboam II	782-753 BC	41 years	Amos Hosea 2 Kings 14: 25 Jonah 1: 1	2 Kings 14: 23-29
Evil/Good	Manasseh	687/686–642	55		2 Kings 21:1–18 2 Chron. 32:33-33:20		Evil/Evil	Zachariah	753-752 BC	6 months	Amos Hosea 2 Kings 14: 25 Jonah 1: 1	2 Kings 15: 8-12
Evil/Evil	Amon	642–640	2		2 Kings 21:18–26 2 Chron. 33:20-25		Evil/Evil	Shallum	752 BC	1 month	Amos Hosea 2 Kings 14: 25 Jonah 1: 1	2 Kings 15: 10, 13-16
Good/Good	Josiah	640–609	31	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamermtations)	2 Kings 21:26-23:30 2 Chron. 33: 25-35:27		Evil/Evil	Menahem	752-742 BC	10 years	Amos Hosea 2 Kings 14: 25 Jonah 1: 1	2 Kings 15: 14-22

Divided Kingdom												
Kings of Judah				Kings of Israel								
			Total									
Evil/Evil	Jehoahaz	609	3 months	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Kings 23:30-34 2 Chron. 36:1-4		Evil/Evil	Pekahiah	742-740 BC	2 years	Amos Hosea 2 Kings 14: 25 Jonah 1: 1	2 Kings 15: 23-26
Evil/Evil	Jehoiakim	609-598	11	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Kings 23:34-24:6 2 Chron. 36:5-8		Evil/Evil	Pekah	752-732 BC	20 years	Amos Hosea 2 Kings 14: 25 Jonah 1: 1	2 Kings 15: 25, 27-31
Evil/Evil	Jehoiachin/Jeconiah	598-597	3 months	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Kings 24:6-17; 2 Chron. 36:8-10		Evil/Evil	Hoshea	732-722 BC	9 years		2 Kings 15: 30: 17: 1-6
Evil/Evil	Zedekiah	597-586	11	Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Kings 24:17-25: 30 2 Chron. 36:10-13 Jer. 52:1-3, 37-39 Ezekiel 17: 13-16			Israel in Assyrian captivity	722 BC		Nahum Daniel	
	Judah into Babylonian captivity	586-450		Jerermiah Haggai Zechariah Malachi								

1 Kings

1 Kings continues the stories that began in 1 & 2 Samuel.

1 Kings covers the reign of Solomon.

Solomon decides which woman was the real mother of a baby.

Solomon builds the Temple.

Elijah confronts the prophets of the false god Baal and gets hundreds of them killed.

1 Kings

1. Solomon becomes king (1: 1—2: 46)

2. Israel under King Solomon (3: 1—11: 43)

Solomon's wisdom and administration (3: 1—4: 34)

Solomon builds and dedicates the temple (5: 1—8: 66)

Solomon's wealth and wisdom (9: 1—10: 29)

Solomon's failings (11: 1-43)

3. The kingdom divides (12: 1—22: 53)

The northern tribes rebel (12: 1—14: 31)

Early kings of Judah and Israel (15: 1—16: 34)

Elijah the prophet (17: 1—19: 21)

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel (20: 1—22: 40)

King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahaziah of Israel (22: 41-53)

1 Kings

David had a heart for the Lord.

His son, Solomon, allowed his heart to be influenced by ungodly people. He started disobeying the word of the Lord. As a king, he should have read and meditated on God's Word. He got off track and greatly compromised the kingdom.

This led to the downfall of the entire nation!

1 Kings

Israel's monarchy failed miserably and led to a divided kingdom (1 Kings 12) and eventual exile (2 Kings 17: 5; 2 Kings 25).

They sinned (2 Kings 17: 7) and rejected the word of the Lord (2 Kings 17: 16) in spite of repeated warnings given by God's prophets (1 Kings 18-19).

1 Kings

As King David approaches death, he anoints his son, Solomon, to reign as king (1 Kings 1:30).

Solomon starts off well, asking the Lord for wisdom (1 Kings 3: 7-8), but soon disobeys God by marrying foreign women (1 Kings 11:3), worshiping foreign gods (1 Kings 11: 7-8), accumulating massive amounts of possessions (1 Kings 10: 14-29), and conscripting his fellow Israelites into slavery (1 Kings 9: 15), all in direct defiance of the written word of God.

Because of this, after his death, the Lord tore the kingdom out of his son's hand (1 Kings 11: 11-13) and the people of Israel divide into two nations, the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah) (1 Kings 12).

1 Kings

Both kingdoms degenerate into idolatry (1 Kings 12: 25-33; 1 Kings 14: 22-24), however Judah occasionally is led by a (somewhat) good king, like Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22: 43), Joash (2 Kings 12: 2), Amaziah (2 Kings 14: 3), and others who attempt to bring about reform, like Josiah (2 Kings 23: 4-19) and even experience miraculous deliverance, like Hezekiah (2 Kings 19).

On the other hand, Israel never has a godly ruler and looks more and more like the nations that were in the land before they possessed it (2 Kings 17: 8).

1 Kings

The prophets Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17-19; 2 Kings 1-8) are zealous for the Lord.

They perform many miracles, proving the power of God over false deities (1 Kings 18: 19-39), and even raising the dead to life (1 Kings 17: 22).

The prophetic word of the Lord falls on deaf ears as God raises up two enemy nations, Assyria and Babylon, to invade Israel and Judah respectively.

1 Kings

The Temple

There is too much written regarding the temple in 1 & 2 Kings not to take note of it.

1 Kings 5-9 provide details about its elaborate design and dedication. It is not too hard to imagine the joy and vibrancy of the people as they worshiped there. The following chapters make consistent reference to its plundering both by enemies of Israel (1 Kings 14: 25-28) and even their own leaders (2 Kings 12: 17-18). It seems that the state of the temple closely paralleled the people's spiritual state.

1 Kings

The Prophets

There are two leadership roles in Kings: prophets and kings.

Bad kings delivered bad leadership, taking the nation farther from God. It was the role of the prophet to deliver God's word of warning and judgment. On occasion, a good king, like Hezekiah, would seek the advice and intercession of a prophet, as he did with Isaiah (2 Kings 19).

Prophets like Elijah and Elisha demonstrated the power and the superiority of God through miracles.

1 Kings

God and the Nations

God moves the hearts of individuals, but He also moves nations to accomplish His will. Most notably, he used Assyria (2 Kings 17) and Babylon (2 Kings 25) to bring judgment upon the peoples of Israel and Judah.

We also see His sovereign hand in the division of Israel and Judah (1 Kings 12: 15), the raising up of Solomon's enemies (1 Kings 11: 14-25), and the defeat of the Assyrians against Hezekiah (2 Kings 19: 35).

1 Kings

The Cost of Compromise

Solomon strayed away from the word of God. He completely ignored God's commands. He let his heart be influenced by his ungodly wives which led to his horrible downfall.

It is likely that he reasoned that he was just being like all the other kings around him, or that God would approve of his behavior since He had appeared to him. Solomon's compromise came at a high price, not just for himself and his subjects, but for future generations.

1 Kings

The Impact of Leadership

David's leadership impacted the generations after him. God tore the kingdom apart, partially because He wanted one tribe to remain in David's line (1 Kings 11: 13).

The example here is that each of Judah's and Israel's kings was responsible before the Lord for the direction of their respective kingdoms. If any of them would seek the Lord with all their heart, He would be faithful to protect and bless them.

1 Kings

1 Kings 2: 3

3 Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn,

1 Kings 3: 9

9 “So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”

1 Kings 3: 25

25 The king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.”

1 Kings

After reigning for forty years, king David died. Solomon became king. God gave Solomon a choice of anything he wanted: Solomon chose wisdom (1Kings 3: 9).

Solomon's Baby Decision (1 Kings 3: 16-27):

King Solomon had to decide between two women as to which was the mother of a baby. Solomon said (1 Kings 3: 25) to cut the living child into two halves and to give one half to each mother. When one woman said she would rather give up her claim than have the child killed, Solomon knew that she was the real mother.

1 Kings

Solomon authored 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs. Solomon built the "Temple of the Lord" in Jerusalem (90 feet long, 30 feet wide, 45 feet high) -- decorated with cypress and cedar wood as well as gold, taking 7 years to build.

Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, who brought in their "gods" (1 Kings 11: 5-7) such as Ashtoreth (of the Sidonians), Milcom (of the Ammonites), Chemosh (of Moab), and Molech (of the Ammonites). Solomon ruled for 40 years before his death.

1 Kings

The Divided Kingdom: After Solomon's death, around 922 B.C., the Hebrews were divided into two groups:

The Southern Kingdom (which included Jerusalem and involved the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin)

The Northern Kingdom (which included the other ten tribes of the Hebrews and was actually called "Israel").

The Southern Kingdom was under the "family of David."

1 Kings

The kings of both Southern and Northern Kingdoms worshiped "gods" other than the "Lord God of Israel," leading to many problems. One king, Ahab of "Israel" (the Northern Kingdom), had a wife, Jezebel, who worshiped the "gods" Baal (1 Kings 16: 29-33) or Baalzebub and Asherah. Jezebel tried to kill the Lord's prophets and encouraged Ahab to do evil.

Elijah was a prophet of the "Lord God of Israel" during this time. Elijah returned a child to life (1 Kings 17: 17-23). On Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18), Elijah and the prophets of Baal had a showdown to see who would send fire to light their altars: God lit the fire for Elijah, and the prophets of Baal were killed. Elijah told King Ahab that dogs would devour Queen Jezebel's body. (1 Kings 21: 23).

1 Kings

SOLOMON BECOMES KING

1 Kings opens with the conclusion of the court history of David that began in 2 Samuel 9 and then relates the story of who would follow David as king: David's eldest living son, Adonijah, or his son by Bathsheba, Solomon.

ISRAEL UNDER KING SOLOMON

Israel under Solomon is seen as experiencing a “golden age.” Given the gift of wisdom by God, Solomon organizes the nation to be more efficient, brings them peace and prosperity, and builds the temple to the Lord in Jerusalem, majestic palaces, and strong forts.

Solomon is not always wise. He uses forced labor to complete his building projects and taxes the people too heavily. His sin is that he builds shrines to the gods that his foreign wives worshiped.

1 Kings

Solomon's Wisdom and Administration

When the Lord appears to Solomon in a dream the young king asks God for the wisdom to rule his people. God is so pleased that Solomon has asked for wisdom that God promises to make him rich and respected as well.

Solomon Builds and Dedicates the Temple

With the help of King Hiram of Tyre, Solomon builds a temple to the Lord to replace the sacred tent in Jerusalem and dedicates it during the Festival of Shelters. Solomon is warned in a dream that the Lord will desert the temple and the land if the people disobey God's commands and start worshiping foreign gods.

1 Kings

Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom

Originally, Solomon had asked God to make him wise so that he would know the difference between right and wrong and so he would be able to rule God's people. However, he uses his wisdom to make himself wealthy and famous. This turns out to be the beginning of his decline as king.

Solomon's Failings

Because Solomon disobeys the Lord by worshiping the gods of his foreign wives, Solomon's kingdom begins to face troubles from enemies inside and outside of Israel.

1 Kings

THE KINGDOM DIVIDES

After Solomon dies, Jeroboam, one of Solomon's former officials, leads the northern tribes in a rebellion against Rehoboam, Solomon's heir.

The remainder of 1 Kings focuses on the religious loyalties of the kings of Israel in the north and the kings of Judah in the south.

The kings of Israel are strongly condemned because they choose to worship at Bethel and Dan, the "holy" places set up by Jeroboam (chapter 12), rather than to worship God in Jerusalem.

The story of the divided kingdom continues in 2 Kings.

1 Kings

The Northern Tribes Rebel

The people from the northern tribes promise to obey and serve Rehoboam on the condition that he lighten their work load. Rehoboam refuses and the people from the north break away, uniting under Jeroboam, who makes Shechem his capital. He also sets up gold statues of calves in Dan and Bethel. Rehoboam also sins by allowing the people of Judah to build shrines and worship foreign gods.

Early Kings of Judah and Israel

Abijam and Asa continue the line of David on the throne of Judah for a total of forty-four years. Leadership in Israel is less stable due to shifting loyalties among military and political leaders. Under Omri, a new capital is set up for Israel in the city of Samaria. This section ends with Omri's son, Ahab, coming to power.

1 Kings

Elijah the Prophet

The unfolding story of the kings of Israel and Judah is put aside momentarily so that the author of 1 Kings can describe the work of the prophet Elijah, whose name means “the Lord is my God.” Elijah challenges King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel who followed the Canaanite god Baal.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel

This section is a collection of stories about King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. First, it tells of Ahab’s battle with King Benhadad of Syria and of the condemnation brought to Ahab by an unnamed prophet of the Lord (chapter 20). This is followed by the story of how Jezebel plots to get Naboth’s vineyard for her husband, and Elijah’s words of condemnation to the King and Queen (chapter 21). The prophet Micaiah warns Ahab that he will die in battle against the Syrians.

King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahaziah of Israel

For a brief period there is cooperation and peace between the kings of Judah and Israel.

2 Kings					
DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
		The divided kingdom	2 Kings depicts the downfall of the divided kingdom. Prophets continue to warn the people that the judgment of God is at hand, but they will not		
561 - 538 BC	2 Kings 25 Chapters			Actions have consequences	Jesus is the powerful prophet and the Great Physician

2 Kings

There are three prominent themes in the Book of 2 Kings.

First, **the Lord will judge His people when they disobey and turn their backs on Him.** The Israelites' unfaithfulness was reflected in the evil idolatry of the kings and resulted in God's exercising His righteous wrath against their rebellion.

Second, **the word of the true prophets of God always comes to pass.** The Lord always keeps His word. The words of His prophets are true.

Third, **the Lord is faithful.** He remembered His promise to David (**2 Samuel 7:10-13**). Despite the disobedience of the people and the evil kings who ruled them, the Lord did not bring David's family to an end.

2 Kings

2 Kings traces the decline and captivity of both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, endured a succession of evil kings reigning during a 130-year period until the Assyrian captivity. 2 Kings also gives the history of Judah, up to the time of Babylonian captivity.

The miracle-filled ministry of Elisha is recorded, as well as significant accounts that include the raising of the Shunammite's son (chap. 4), the healing of Naaman, the Aramean leper (chap. 5), the death of Jezebel (chap. 9), and the revivals under Hezekiah (chap. 18) and Josiah (chap. 23).

Elijah, Elisha, Amos and Hosea prophesied to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

2 Kings

In chapters 1-17, we read of the rulers of the divided kingdoms who lead them to their fate in exile.

The prophet Elijah concludes his ministry and hands over the reins to another up and coming prophet who God will use, named Elisha. Elisha is an apprentice of sorts, and follows Elijah as he follows God's lead. God took Elijah in a whirlwind to heaven and the apprentice asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, and it was granted to him (2 Kings 2: 9).

In Elisha's ministry, he carries out twice as many miracles as Elijah, as God does His will through His prophet. We also find in these chapters, details about kings and dynasties, which ultimately disobey and ignore God's orders and provisions.

Finally, during the reign of the last evil king, Hoshea, the Assyrians take the Northern Kingdom into captivity. They have neglected the warning and coming judgment announced by the prophet Hosea. It is fitting that the more evil of the two kingdoms (Northern Kingdom) is the kingdom that goes into permanent captivity. There is no record or evidence of these 10 tribes of Israel ever returning from exile.

2 Kings

In chapters 18-25 the Southern Kingdom is not doing much better, and soon would also face God's judgment.

2 Kings 17: 13-14

13 Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets *and* every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

14 However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God.

2 Kings

2 Kings is a continuation of 1 Kings.

Elijah is swept up to heaven.

Elisha raises a boy from the dead.

Naaman is cured of leprosy by washing in dirty water.

Jerusalem is plundered by the Babylonians and the Great Exile begins.

Solomon's temple is destroyed.

2 Kings

2 Kings 2: 3

3 Then the sons of the prophets who *were at* Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?” And he said, “Yes, I know; be still.”

2 Kings 19: 15

15 Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said, “O Lord, the God of Israel, who are enthroned *above* the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

2 Kings

Elijah parted the Jordan River with his cloak (2 Kings 2: 8) and then was carried by a whirlwind into heaven, following a chariot of fire (2 Kings 2: 11), leaving **Elisha** as the main priest of "Israel" (Northern Kingdom) and with twice the prophetic power of Elijah.

2 Kings

2 Kings 2: 8-11

8 Elijah took his mantle and folded it together and struck the waters, and they were divided here and there, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

10 He said, "You have asked a hard thing. *Nevertheless*, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

11 As they were going along and talking, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

2 Kings

Elisha was credited with several miracles:

1. Parting the Jordan River (2 Kings 2:13-14).
2. Causing a poor widow to have her olive oil multiplied many times so that she could pay her debts and live normally (2 Kings 4:1-7).
3. Enabling a barren woman to have a child (2 Kings 4:14-17) and then bringing the child back to life after his death (2 Kings 4: 32-35).
4. Multiplying loaves and grain to feed 100 men (2 Kings 4: 42-44).
5. Healing a leper by having him wash 7 times in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5: 10;14).
6. Causing an ax head to float (2 Kings 6: 5-7).

2 Kings

Elisha anointed Jehu as king of "Israel," and Jehu had king Ahab's wife, Jezebel, killed and, as prophesied by Elijah, her body was scattered (2 Kings 9: 30-36). After Elisha died, a man's body was thrown into Elisha's tomb and was revived (2 Kings 13: 20-21).

The fall of "Israel" (Northern Kingdom, including Samaria) and the people's exile to Assyria (2 Kings 17: 6) around 722 B.C. was attributed to their not following the Lord. At that point, Judah (the Southern Kingdom, which included Jerusalem) still was independent.

The "gods" from other areas included Succoth-benoth, Nergal, Ashima, Nibhaz, Tartak, Adrammelech, Anammelech, Molech, Asherah, Nisroch, Topheth, Ashtoreth, Chemosh, Milcom, and Baal; these were being worshipped also by the Hebrews, angering the Lord.

In the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah, Isaiah was the prophet. Isaiah caused time to go backwards (2 Kings 20: 11).

2 Kings

During the reign of Josiah as king of Judah, Hilkiah (the High Priest) discovered a scroll of laws in the temple. Josiah restored the Lord's Temple and destroyed the shrines to other "gods." Huldah (the prophetess: 2 Kings 22: 14-20) told Josiah that Judah would be destroyed because of its worshiping these "gods."

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took over Judah in 586 B.C. Thus, the Southern Kingdom was independent for 135 years longer than the Northern Kingdom.

2 Kings

God still shows mercy and offers hope, as evidenced by the healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5: 1-19).

God observed that “the affliction of Israel was very bitter, there was no one to help” (2 Kings 14: 26).

Jehoiachin, the last king of Judah, went into captivity to Babylon. He was allowed to get out of prison, dine with the king regularly, and received a (monetary) allowance for the rest of his life (2 Kings 25: 27-30).

2 Kings

2 Kings teaches an important life lesson:
actions have consequences.

“Repent! Sin will incur judgment,” God warned through the prophets.

Israel and Judah learned the hard way that God means what He says.

2 Kings

Jesus uses the stories of the widow of Zarephath from 1 Kings and Naaman in 2 Kings to illustrate the great truth of God's compassion toward those that the Jews deemed unworthy of God's grace—the poor, the weak, the oppressed, tax collectors, Samaritans and Gentiles.

By citing the examples of a poor widow and a leper, Jesus showed Himself to be the Great Physician who heals and ministers to those in the greatest need of divine sovereign grace.

2 Kings

The body of Christ, His Church, would draw from all levels of society, male and female, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile.

Eph. 3: 1-6

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

6 *to be specific*, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

2 Kings

God hates sin and He will not allow it to continue indefinitely. If we belong to Him, we can expect His discipline when we disobey Him.

A loving Father corrects His children for their benefit and to prove that they indeed belong to Him.

God may at times use unbelievers to bring correction to His people.

As Christians, we have His Word to guide us and warn us when we go astray from His path.

Like the prophets of old, His Word is trustworthy and always speaks truth.

God's faithfulness to His people will never fail, even when we do.

2 Kings

Christians are to:

1. Serve God only.
2. Avoid serving false “gods”.
3. Listen and obey God’s Words.

1 CHRONICLES

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
450 - 430 BC	I Chronicles 29 Chapters	United kingdom divided – priestly view.	Israel's history is repeated from the priestly perspective. Emphasis is given to Judah and the nation's deportation to Babylon.	Godliness is a choice of each person (it does not carry from generation to generation)	Jesus is the Son of David that is coming to rule

1 CHRONICLES

1 Chronicles gives the history from Adam to King David.

1 Chronicles wants to show Jews who have come back to Israel that it was God's forgiveness that brought them home.

1 Chronicles encourages the remnant.

God tells David not to build a temple for Him because he shed blood as a warrior.

1 CHRONICLES

1 Chron. 4: 10

10 Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep *me* from harm that *it* may not pain me!” And God granted him what he requested.

1 Chron. 16: 34

34 O give thanks to the Lord, for *He is* good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

1 Chron. 22: 7-8

7 David said to Solomon, “My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the Lord my God.

8 “But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.

1 CHRONICLES

This book reviews the Hebrew history. From Abraham's son Isaac were two sons -- Esau and Jacob, who was renamed "Israel." The sons of Israel were the 12 tribes of Israel:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Judah and Benjamin

The last two eventually became the "Southern Kingdom," and the others the "Northern Kingdom."

1 CHRONICLES

One of the reasons for King Saul's problems was his consulting a medium. (1 Chronicles 10: 13; see also 1 Samuel 28).

Jerusalem was called Jebus (from where the Jebusites, the original inhabitants, lived), and then "Fortress of Zion," and later "City of David," before finally Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 11: 4-6).

The Lord told King David (1 Chronicles 17:11-12) that his line would always be the royal line but that his son would build the temple. David's census, showing 1,570,000 men of military age, was not authorized by God (1 Chronicles 21).

David was given credit for getting the materials ready for the temple, although not for its construction.

2 CHRONICLES

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
450 - 430 BC	2 Chronicles 26 Chapters	United kingdom divided – priestly view	Israel's history is repeated from the priestly perspective. Emphasis is given to Judah and the nation's deportation to Babylon.	Godliness is a choice of each person (it does not carry from generation to generation)	Jesus is the King who reigns eternally

2 CHRONICLES

In 2 Chronicles, Solomon prays to God for wisdom instead of long life, power or money, so he is given all.

The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.

King Cyrus of Persia, rebuilds the temple after releasing Israel from the Great Exile to Babylon.

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chron. 1: 11-12

11 God said to Solomon, “Because you had this in mind, and did not ask for riches, wealth or honor, or the life of those who hate you, nor have you even asked for long life, but you have asked for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may rule My people over whom I have made you king,

12 wisdom and knowledge have been granted to you. And I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings who were before you has possessed nor those who will come after you.”

2 CHRONICLES

2 Chron. 7: 14

14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chron. 13:10

10 “But as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the sons of Aaron are ministering to the Lord as priests, and the Levites attend to their work.

2 CHRONICLES

This book continues with the history of the Hebrews with Solomon and his being given great wisdom from God.

The temple construction on the top of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem was described, with the size being 90 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, and 180 ft. high, with much gold throughout. The "Holy of Holies" was 30 ft. square, overlaid with gold. The Ark was transferred to this place.

The Queen of Sheba's visit and great impression with Solomon was described (2 Chronicles 9).

2 CHRONICLES

The story of King Jehoshaphat of Judah (Southern Kingdom) and his alliance with King Ahab of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and their consulting Micaiah the prophet is described in detail (2 Chronicles 18; see also 1 Kings 22). King Jehoram of Judah, a "wicked" king, died of what- appeared-to-be bowel cancer (2 Chronicles 21:18-19).

King Uzziah of Judah got leprosy by entering the forbidden sanctuary.

King Hezekiah of Judah restored the Temple of the Lord God and had burnt offerings and sin offerings for the nation: young bulls, rams, lambs, and goats were sacrificed for the sin offering (2 Chronicles 29: 20-24). Much celebration occurred with this re-dedication of the Temple at Jerusalem.

2 CHRONICLES

The finding of the scroll of the laws of God by Hilkiah and King Josiah's destroying the idols and altars to "gods" such as Baal was described (2 Chronicles 34). The end of the independence of the Southern Kingdom of Judah occurred when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took over and destroyed Jerusalem -- around 586 B.C.

EZRA

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Israel's History				
457 - 444 BC	Ezra 10 Chapters	Israel released from captivity returns to promised land.	Israel returns to Canaan after 70 years of exile, with emphasis on the spiritual and moral restoration of Jerusalem.	God is Faithful to His people.	Jesus is the Priest proclaiming freedom

EZRA

In the book of Ezra, the rebuilding of the temple is the center of it all. It shows the unity among returning tribes as they returned from the Babylonian Exile.

Ezra arrived with another 2,000 people. His enthusiasm from the Lord sparked a spiritual revival.

By the end of Ezra, Israel had renewed its relationship with God and were obedient.

EZRA

Ezra 1: 5

5 Then the heads of fathers' *households* of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites arose, even everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 3: 11

11 They sang, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, *saying*, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

EZRA

After the takeover by Nebuchadnezzar, eventually King Cyrus of Persia came to power, and he decided to help the Jews to return to Jerusalem (around 520 B.C.) and to rebuild the Temple of Jehovah, the God of Israel and of Jerusalem. The temple was rebuilt with a height of 90 ft. and a width of 90 ft. Ezra, high priest, dedicated the temple but was not happy with the priests marrying heathen wives, or intermarriage - mixed marriages of Jews and non-Jews.