
1, 2 Kings

Study Notes

Background

- 1-2 Kings is a historical book that intends to recount accurately the people and events from a specific time and place in the past.
- It can be argued that the central theme of Kings is that Yahweh is the one and only true God.
- Originally 1 and 2 Kings were one book.
- The Book of Kings answers the question, "What happened to the Lord's promise to Israel and what are the prospects for the future"?

Outlines

- Here are examples of how Kings can be outlined. Take note of the different approaches.

R. Patterson¹

1. The United Kingdom (1 Kings 1:1-11:43)
2. The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12:1-2 Kings 17:41)
3. The Southern Kingdom (2 Kings 18:1-25:30)

T. Schreiner²

1. Anticipation of Paradise (1 Kings 1-10)
2. The Nation Unravels (1 Kings 11-16)
3. The Conflict With Baal Worship (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 12)
4. Exile (2 Kings 13-25)

D. Wiseman³

1. The Last Days of David and Solomon's Accession (1 Kings 1:1-2:46)
2. The Reign of Solomon (1 Kings 3:1-11:43)
3. The History of the Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12:1-2 Kings 10:36)
4. The History of Judah and Israel to the Fall of the Northern Kingdom (2 Kings 11:1-17:41)
5. The History of Judah to the Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:1-25:30)

R. Hubbard/T. Bolen⁴

1. The United Kingdom of Solomon (1 Kings 1:1-11:43)
2. The Kings of Israel and Judah Until Ahab (1 Kings 12:1-16:34)
3. The Prophetic Ministries of Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 10:36)
4. The Kings of Israel and Judah Until Israel's Exile (2 Kings 11:1-17:41)
5. The Last Kings of Judah (2 Kings 18:1-25:30)

¹ Expositors Bible Commentary Volume 4 (pg. 21-24)

² The King in His Beauty (pg. 164-191)

³ TOTC Vol. 9 (pg. 65-72)

⁴ Zondervan Study Bible (pg. 597-600)

Questions for Study

• Before answering the following questions on chapter 1, take a moment to consider the time period in which Kings takes place. In other words, get the big picture in your mind.

1. What is David's situation?

2. How does the prospect of one's dying influence the way a person lives?

3. How did Adonijah the son of Haggith exalt himself? How might believers today attempt to exalt themselves? What does self-exaltation say about one's beliefs?

4. What are the names of the men opposed to Adonijah?

5. What did Bathsheba say to David? What was her motivation?

6. Why did David have his servants take Solomon to Gihon on David's donkey?

7. Why were the guests of Adonijah afraid when they heard that Solomon had been made king?

8. Consider for a moment God's plan in all of this. How does his sovereignty come into play? What do we learn about his character in this opening chapter? How might this apply to our situation today?