

## THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

5/7 – 1Kgs 14-15, John 1:1-28  
5/8 – 1Kgs 16-18, John 1:29-51  
5/9 – 1Kgs 19-20, John 2  
5/10 – 1Kgs 21-22, John 3:1-21

5/11 – 2Kgs 1-3, John 3:22-36  
5/12 – 2Kgs 4-5, John 4:1-30  
5/13 – 2Kgs 6-8, John 4:31-54  
5/14 – 2Kgs 9-11, John 5:1-24

\*\* Summaries/outlines from The Holy Bible, Contemporary English Version, ©1995 by the American Bible Society.

### 1 KINGS

First Kings is the first half of a single book that was divided into two parts because together they were too long to fit on one scroll. These books continue the history of Israel.

The book of 1 Kings has three parts. The first part tells about the last years of King David's life and how his son Solomon became the king of Israel. The second part includes events from Solomon's rule and tells how famous and rich he was. Much of this second part tells how Solomon built and dedicated the temple in Jerusalem. The last part of the book reports what happened after Solomon's death—the northern tribes rebelled against Rehoboam his son, and the nation of Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms: Judah in the south and Israel in the north. This part of 1 Kings includes stories about the kings of these two kingdoms. The book concludes with the rule of King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahaziah of Israel.

Each king in the book is judged according to his faithfulness to the Lord. If the king was faithful and obeyed God's Law, he was praised as being good; but if he disobeyed and did wrong, he was condemned as being evil. All the kings of Israel were judged to be evil, because they rejected the Lord and worshiped idols. However, most of the kings of Judah were judged to be good, because they followed the example of their ancestor King David and worshiped the Lord.

First Kings also includes the familiar stories about Elijah the prophet, who opposed the evil King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of the northern kingdom. Elijah warned the people of Israel to obey the Lord and not to worship other gods. Elijah wanted to prove that the Lord was the one true God, and so he arranged a contest between the Lord and the pagan god Baal. Elijah and the prophets of Baal would offer a sacrifice to their own God, but the fire on the altars would not be lit. Elijah explained to the people: "How much longer will you try to have things both ways? If the Lord is God, worship him! But if Baal is God, worship him!...The prophets of Baal will pray to their god, and I will pray to the Lord. The one who answers by starting the fire is God." (18:21, 24)

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Solomon Becomes King (1:1-53)
- II. David's Final Words and His Death (2:1-12)
- III. Solomon Takes Control of the Kingdom (2:13-46)
- IV. Solomon's Wisdom and His Officials (3:1-4:34)
- V. Building and Dedication of the Jerusalem Temple (5:1-8:66)
- VI. Other Events During Solomon's Rule (9:1-10:29)
- VII. Solomon's Unfaithfulness, Enemies, and Death (11:1-43)
- VIII. The Northern Tribes of Israel Rebel Against King Rehoboam (12:1-24)
- IX. King Jeroboam of Israel Makes Two Gold Statues of Calves (12:25-33)
- X. Prophets Condemn Jeroboam (13:1-14:20)
- XI. Kings of Judah and Israel (14:21-16:34)
- XII. Elijah the Prophet (17:1-19:21)
- XIII. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel (20:1-22:40)
- XIV. King Jehoshaphat of Judah and King Ahaziah of Israel (22:41-53)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

1Kgs14: Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife: "The LORD says, 'I will sweep away the house of Jeroboam.'" Rehoboam ruled Judah and Judah did evil.

1Kgs15: Abijah ruled Judah and was not devoted to the LORD. Asa ruled and did right. Nadab ruled Israel and did evil. Baasha killed Nadab.

1Kgs16: Elah ruled Israel and did evil. Zimri killed Elah but Israel made Omri king. Omri did evil. Ahab ruled and began to worship Baal.

1Kgs17: Elijah told Ahab, "There will be no rain." Elijah stayed with a widow in Zarephath. The widow's son died but the LORD revived him.

1Kgs18: Elijah went to Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal. Baal gave no answer but the LORD answered Elijah with fire. Then rain fell.

1Kgs19: Elijah fled from Jezebel. At Horeb there was a wind, an earthquake and a fire; then the LORD spoke. Elijah put his mantle on Elisha.

1Kgs20: Ben-hadad attacked Samaria. Israel defeated the Arameans twice. Ahab made a treaty with Ben-hadad so a prophet spoke against him.

1Kgs21: Naboth would not sell his vineyard, so Jezebel had him killed. Elijah said to Ahab, "Dogs will lick up your blood and eat Jezebel."

1Kgs22: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

## 2 KINGS

Second Kings is the second half of a single book that was divided into two parts, because they were too long to fit on one scroll. The book 2 Kings continues the history of the two separate kingdoms of Judah and Israel.

The book of 2 Kings has two main parts. The first part is the history of the two kingdoms until 722 BC, when the northern kingdom was conquered by the Assyrians. Samaria, the capital city of Israel, was destroyed, and the people of that kingdom were taken as prisoners to Assyria. Only Judah, the southern kingdom was left.

The second part of the book is the history of Judah until 586 BC, when it was conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia. Jerusalem, the capital city, was completely destroyed, and many of the people of Judah and Jerusalem were led away as prisoners to Babylonia. King Nebuchadnezzar then made Gedaliah ruler of those left in Judah. The book concludes with some hope for Judah's future: King Jehoiachin is released from prison in Babylon and is invited to eat with the Babylonian king every day.

According to the book of 2 Kings, Israel and Judah were destroyed because the people refused to be faithful to the Lord. He had sent prophets over and over to warn the people and their kings to stop worshiping other gods and to turn back to him. Finally, the people were punished. The two kingdoms were destroyed, and the people were forced to live in foreign nations, far from their own land. The fall of Jerusalem is one of the most important events in Israel's history. The book itself explains why this disaster took place: "The people of Judah and Jerusalem had made the Lord so angry that he finally turned his back on them. That's why these horrible things were happening." (24:20)

### **OUTLINE**

- I. Elijah the Prophet Condemns King Ahaziah of Israel (1:1-18)
- II. Elisha the Prophet (2:1-8:15)
- III. Kings of Judah and Israel (8:16-16:20)
- IV. King Hoshea of Israel and the Defeat of the Northern Kingdom (17:1-41)
- V. King Hezekiah of Judah and the Assyrian Invasion (18:1-20:21)
- VI. Two Evil Kings of Judah: Manasseh and Amon (21:1-26)
- VII. The Rule of King Josiah and The Book of God's Law (22:1-23:30)
- VIII. The Last Kings of Judah (23:31-24:20)
- IX. Jerusalem is Destroyed and the People are Taken to Babylonia (25:1-21)
- X. Gedaliah is Made Ruler and King Jehoiachin is Released from Prison (25:22-30)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

2Kgs1: Ahaziah consulted Baal-zebub. Elijah said that he would die. Ahaziah sent men to Elijah but they were consumed by fire. Ahaziah died.

2Kgs2: Elisha followed Elijah. A chariot of fire appeared and Elijah went up to heaven. Elisha took Elijah's mantle and divided the waters.

2Kgs3: Israel, Judah and Edom went to fight Moab. Elisha said, "The LORD will send water and give you Moab." The Moabites were defeated.

2Kgs4: Elisha told a Shunammite woman that she would have a son. The child died but Elisha revived him. Elisha cleansed the food at Gilgal.

2Kgs5: Naaman of Aram was a leper. Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan and he was healed. Gehazi asked for a gift and became leprous.

2Kgs6: The king of Aram sent an army to capture Elisha but the LORD blinded them. Ben-hadad besieged Samaria and there was a great famine.

2Kgs7: Elisha prophesied an end to the famine. Four lepers went and found that the Arameans had fled. The people plundered the Aramean camp.

2Kgs8: Elisha told Hazael that he would rule Aram. Hazael killed Ben-hadad. Jehoram ruled Judah and did evil. Ahaziah ruled and did evil.

2Kgs9: Elisha sent a prophet to anoint Jehu. Jehu killed Joram and Ahaziah. Eunuchs threw Jezebel out of the window and dogs ate her body.

2Kgs10: Jehu sent a letter and had Ahab's sons killed. He killed Ahaziah's brothers and all the worshippers of Baal. Hazael defeated Israel.

2Kgs11: Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehosheba hid Joash. Jehoiada had the army proclaim Joash as king and put Athaliah to death.

## **JOHN**

Who is Jesus Christ? John answers this question in the first chapter of his Gospel. Using the words of an early Christian hymn, he calls Jesus the "Word" by which God created everything and by which he gave life to everyone. He shows how John the Baptist announced Jesus' coming, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." When Philip met Jesus he knew Jesus was "the one that Moses and the Prophets wrote about." And, in the words of Nathanael, Jesus is "the Son of God and the King of Israel."

In John's Gospel we learn a lot about who Jesus is by observing what he said and did when he was with other people. These include a Samaritan woman who received Jesus' offer of life-giving water, a woman who had been caught in sin, his friend Lazarus who was brought back to life by Jesus, and his follower Thomas who doubted that Jesus was raised from death. Jesus also refers to himself as "I am," a phrase which translates the most holy name for God in the Hebrew Scriptures. He uses this name for himself when he makes his claim to be the life-giving bread, the light of the world, the good shepherd, and the true vine.

Jesus performs seven miracles that are more than miracles. Each of them is a "sign" that tells us something about Jesus as the Son of God. For example, by healing a lame man, Jesus shows that he is just like his Father, who never stops working. This sign also teaches that the Son does only what he sees his Father doing, and that like the Father "the Son gives life to anyone he wants to."

The way John tells the story of Jesus is quite different from the other three Gospels. Here, Jesus has long conversations with people about who he is and what God sent him to do. In these conversations he teaches many important things—for example, that he is the way, the truth, and the life.

Why did John write? John himself tells us, "So that you will put your faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God." How is this possible? Jesus answers that question in his words to Nicodemus: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."

### **OUTLINE**

- I. A Hymn in Praise of the Word (1:1-18)
- II. The Message of John the Baptist (1:19-34)
- III. Jesus Chooses His First Disciple (1:35-51)
- IV. Jesus' Seven Special Miracles (2:1-12:50)
- V. Jesus' Last Week: His Trial and Death (13:1-19:42)
- VI. Jesus is Alive (20:1-10)
- VII. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (20:11-21:25)

### **BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)**

Jn1: The Word of God became flesh and dwelt with us. John the Baptist bore witness to him. Andrew told Simon Peter and they followed Jesus.

Jn2: Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. He drove money-changers from the temple. He said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it."

Jn3: Jesus told Nicodemus, "Be born again. Whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life." John the Baptist said, "He is above all."

Jn4: Jesus spoke with a Samaritan woman about her husbands. She said, "Can this be the Christ?" Many believed. He healed an official's son.

Jn5: Jesus healed a man at Bethesda. He said, "The Son only does what he sees the Father doing. My works and the Scriptures bear witness."

### **Getting to Know God Through His Book - 4 Questions - Ask...**

**Insight**—what does the passage say? Paraphrase the main point(s) and the commands to follow, promises to claim, examples to follow (or avoid), etc.

**Question**—what don't I understand? Need to know more about? How does this passage make me feel?

**Praise**—what does this passage teach me about God? Turn what the passage says into praise for the Lord's goodness, power, holiness, wisdom, etc.

**Apply**—what is God saying to me from this passage? Confess how you have not followed it. Pray, asking God to help you obey. Get quiet and ask God to speak to you.

**Journal**—write out your prayers, thoughts, responses to God and His Word

## **HOW TO PRAY**

Scripture is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to and listening to God. Jesus gave us the model in the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6). Keep your relationship fresh with the Lord by both reading and praying - two way communication. Remember to look up like Jesus did when He prayed.

1. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name – focus on God, adore, praise, thank Him – long to see His glory and honor.
2. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – ask for what you know will please Him, pray back the Scripture – that is His will.
3. Give us this day our daily bread – ask for your needs and others to be met.
4. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us – ask for forgiveness, from God, and from others you may have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive and restore others too. Ask Him to get rid of bitterness and have love & compassion for those who have hurt you.
5. And lead us not into temptation – ask God to take over your day, protect you and others from evil.
6. For thine is the kingdom, power & glory – end by re-focusing on God, His kingdom, power, and glory!
7. Listen – ask God to speak to you by His Spirit – always test what you hear by His Word.
8. Pray the Blind Bartimaeus Prayer (Mark 10) – Tell God what you feel, what you want, and ask God what you should do to get what you want (if what you want is right).

