

The Decline of a Nation

“Righteousness Exalts a Nation But Sin is a Reproach to any People” (Proverbs 14:34)
1st and 2nd Kings

Kings record the decline of the kingdom under the kings of Israel (From Solomon to Zedekiah)
Key verses: 1 Kings 9:4-7 based on Deuteronomy 27-28

1. To Whom was Kings Written? Kings was written to the Jews in the Captivity

- A. Kings was written after Jehoiachin’s release in 562 B.C. and before Cyrus Edict in 538 B.C.
- B. Kings was written to the Jewish captives in the Babylonian Captivity by a Jewish captive

2. Why was Kings Written? Kings was written to provide an extended exposition of the promises and warnings in the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-17)

A. Remember your past sins

- 1. Your sins caused the downfall (1 Kings 11:11; 2 Kings 17:7-23)
- 2. You deserve the captivity

B. Repent of your present sins (God is gracious and will forgive and set you free: 2 Kings 17:13-14)

C. Rejoice in the future hope of the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7:13

- 1. God’s sovereign choice of David’s line will never be cancelled (v. 13)
- 2. God will discipline disobedience (v. 14)
- 3. The greater son of David will set up His kingdom in the future (v. 16)
- 4. These promises to David are carried out in 1 and 2 Kings (2 Kings 25:27-30)

3. How is The Theme Developed?

I. The United Kingdom (1 Kings 1-11)

- A. Solomon’s faithfulness (1-10)
- B. Solomon’s Sin (11)

II. The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 12-22) in 931 B.C.

III. The Captive Kingdom (2 Kings 1-25)

- A. Israel’s captivity by the Assyrians (1-17) in 722 B.C.
- B. Judah’s captivity by the Babylonians (18-25) in 586 B.C.