

Notes

The Daily
Bible Reader
2015

San Marcos church of Christ
2660 Hunter Rd. (PO Box 669)
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 396-2399 smcofc.org

JUNE 2015
1 & 2 KINGS

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Memory Verse: “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!” - 1 Kings 8:27 (NKJV)

We will be reading through I & II Kings this month. Our schedule is divided into weekly readings. By reading at least three chapters each day you should be able to finish the readings each week. May God bless you as you feast on his Word each day!

Like the books of Samuel, I & II Kings were originally one book. The division of the two books was first made in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint). These books cover the span of Israel’s history that begins with Solomon’s rule over a united kingdom until the fall and captivity of Judah by the Babylonians.

The book of I Kings divides into two main sections: the united kingdom under Solomon (Ch. 1-11), and the divided kingdom. (Ch 13-22) Under the rule of Solomon, David’s son, Israel rose to her peak in size, peace, and prosperity. However, Solomon was influenced by foreign wives and his devotion turned from Jehovah to false gods. His divided heart resulted in a divided kingdom. The rest of I Kings traces the histories of two “disobedient” kingdoms (Israel and Judah).

Solomon’s greatest legacy was building the temple. David, his father wanted to build it, but was not allowed because he shed so much blood. The temple was built in seven years and was similar to the tabernacle though twice its size. The wealth and fame of Israel grew greatly during the rule of Solomon. However, because of the stubborn- ness of Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, the kingdom was divided. God also sent prophets among these two nations to warn them. The most noted among the prophets was Elijah. He lived during the reign of Ahab, king of Israel. The great victory at Mt. Carmel demonstrated to the world that Jehovah, not Baal was God!

The book of II Kings is divided into two sections: 1) the history of the divided kingdoms (Ch. 1-17), and 2) the history of the surviving kingdom of Judah (Ch. 18-25). Sometimes the narrative is a little hard to follow as the author switches back and forth

between these two kingdoms. The decline and collapse of both kingdoms occurred because the rulers refused to heed the warnings of God’s prophets.

The prophets play a prominent role in both I and II Kings. Elisha, the successor to Elijah, is the prominent character in II Kings. Like Elijah his ministry is most prominent in the northern kingdom. His lengthy ministry began when Elijah was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot. To assist him, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. He is most noted for his miracles including the healing of Naaman, the Syrian captain, of his leprosy. The Syrians, Assyrians, and Babylonians were the nations that threatened Israel and Judah. Israel fell to Assyria in 722 BC and Judah fell to the Babylonians in 606 BC.

Notes

Schedule
June 1-7
1 Kings 1-12
June 8-14
1 Kings 13-22
June 15-21
2 Kings 1-13
June 22-28
2 Kings 14-25
June 29,30
Catch Up Days