

The Metanarrative

Creation—Blessing

From chaos to order
From darkness to light
From unproductive to fruitful
From aimless to *telos* / blessing
From work to rest

Fall—Blessing and Curse Compete

From innocence to shame
From harmony to strife
From fruitful to futile

Israel—Blessing to all through Abraham

Fear and faith compete
From Canaan to Egypt
From Egypt to Sinai
From Wilderness to Land
From Judges to kingship
From Land to Exile

The Purpose of 1 & 2 Kings

Why are we in exile?

All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt... The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all his prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe my commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through my servants the prophets." But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God. They rejected his decrees and the covenant he had made with their ancestors and the statutes he had warned them to keep. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. 2 Kings 17: 7, 13-15

What is Israel's Calling?

Genesis 12

2 Samuel 7:16

How will Israel fulfill her calling?

If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them. However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you...Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess. Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. Deuteronomy 28:13-15, 63-64

Timeline of the Kings

From the Golden Age to Exile in 400 years

970 BC—1 Kings Begins at the end of David's rule

930 BC—Kingdom Divides into northern Israel (Jeroboam I) and southern Judah (Rehoboam)

853 BC—King Ahab dies (Confirmed via Assyrian chronological records)

722-721BC—Northern Israel falls to the Assyrians

586 BC—Jerusalem falls to Babylon

560 BC—2 Kings ends in the 37th year of Jehoiachin's exile (2 Kings 25: 27-30)

On the Reliability of the Old Testament, Kenneth Kitchen (Eerdmans, 2006)

Highlights of Kings

Kingdom Divided: 1 Kings 12

The King Becomes Pharaoh

The New Moses Becomes Aaron

The Prophets: God's Wrestlers

Elijah vs. Ahab—who controls rain and drought, life and death? 1 Kings 17-19

-Showdown on Mt. Carmel

-Flight to Horeb (Sinai)

Elisha and the trail of blessing and judgment: 2 Kings 2-6

Light in the Darkness

Joash miraculous survival: 2 Kings 11-12

Hezekiah holds fast to the LORD: 2 Kings 18-20

Josiah a king like no other: 2 Kings 22-23

Is the light extinguished? 2 Kings 25

“The last four verses of Kings announce, in a cautious, nuanced way, that a scion of David, king of Israel, is yet alive and well.” Jon Levenson

Theology of Kings

Who is in control?

What kind of God is this?

Where does Israel stand now? Where does humanity stand?