

Grace OPC Sunday Class			
Year:	2 of 4		Date: Week 10
Quarter:	2 of 4	Bible Survey	
Lesson Title:	Survey of 1 and 2 Kings		
Lesson Purpose:	To understand the structure and contents of 1 and 2 Kings and look at some of its main themes		

Readings for next week: Hendricksen (H) Pp. 105-119, 310-312.

1. Review

Last week 1 and 2 Samuel. Moving on to 1 and 2 Kings

2. Who Wrote 1 and 2 Kings, and When?

Unknown but tradition apparently points to Jeremiah as a possible author. Whoever it was, the author made use of the available sources:

1 Kings 11:41 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon and whatever he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

1 Kings 14:19 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

2 Kings 24:5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

The books cover a period of over 400 years. It is thought likely that most of it was written before the exile and that parts (such as 2 Kings 25) were added later.

3rd and 4th Books of Kingdoms in the Greek version and 3rd and 4th Books of Kings in the Latin and in Hebrew Bibles since the 16th century.

3. Structure for 1 and 2 Kings

Chapter	Event
1 Kings 1-11 1 Kings 1-4 1 Kings 5-8 1 Kings 9-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Kingdom (under Solomon) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rising (accession to the throne, wisdom) 2. Shining (crowning work, the temple etc.) 3. Declining (polygamy and resultant idolatry) • Result:
1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 14 2 Kings 15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Divided Kingdoms <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The kings, to Uzziah of Judah, and to Jeroboam II of Israel. The Mission of the prophets (Elijah, Elisha and others) to an idolatrous people. 2. The kings to Hezekiah of Judah, and to Hoshea of Israel. The Assyrian Exile
2 Kings 18 – 25 2 Kings 18-23 2 Kings 23-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Remaining Kingdom (Judah) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jehovah's blessings on the reigns of the king-reformers Hezekiah and Josiah (contrast Manasseh) 2. Jehovah's punishment upon wicked Judah and its wicked kings (Jehoahaz to Zedekiah); the Babylonian exile.

4. Some Themes and Applications in 1 and 2 Kings

What does NT do with these characters?

Matthew 12:3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what **David** did when he became hungry, he and his companions, 4 how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone?"

Acts 7:45 "And having received it in their turn, our fathers brought it in with Joshua upon dispossessing the nations whom God drove out before our fathers, until the time of David. 46 "**David** found favor in God's sight, and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. 47 "But it was **Solomon** who built a house for Him. 48 "However, the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made by *human* hands; as the prophet says:

Matthew 6:28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even **Solomon** in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

Matthew 12:42 "*The Queen of the South* will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of **Solomon**; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Luke 4:26 and yet **Elijah** was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land* of Sidon, to a **woman who was a widow**. **27** "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of **Elisha** the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only **Naaman** the Syrian." **28** And all *the people* in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things;

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; **15** and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. **17** **Elijah** was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. **18** Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit. **19** My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Revelation 2:20 'But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit *acts of immorality* and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Are they being used as examples for us?

King Solomon

His prayer for wisdom

1 Kings 3:5 In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what *you wish* me to give you." **6** Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. **7** "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. **8** "Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. **9** "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

1 Kings 3:10 It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. **11** God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, **12** behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you. **13** "I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days. **14** "If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days."

Why was this prayer so pleasing in God's sight? What was the major concern of Solomon? What was the attitude of his heart?

The wisdom he received

1 Kings 4:29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. **30** Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. **31** For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was *known* in all the surrounding nations. **32** He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. **33** He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he spoke also of animals and birds and creeping things and fish. **34** Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

His great fall

1 Kings 11:1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, **2** from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, "You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, *for* they will surely turn your heart away after their gods." Solomon held fast to these in love. **3** He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away. **4** For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father *had been*. **5** For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. **6** Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father *had done*. **7** Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon. **8** Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

God's judgment was to tear 10 tribes of Israel away from the kings of Judah

What lessons should we learn from this?

Wisdom in and of itself does not protect against sin and keep the heart close to God

It doesn't matter how wise we are, how much we have studied, what we know

How can we keep close to God?

Rehoboam's folly

His answer to the people of Israel (1 Kings 12:13-16). Rejected the elders and followed the fools he had grown up with.

Then his idolatry, leading to God's judgment through Egypt (1 Kings 14:21-31)

1 Kings 10:17 He [Solomon] made 300 shields of beaten gold, using three minas of gold on each shield, and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

1 Kings 10:27 The king [Solomon] made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland.

1 Kings 14:25 Now it happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. **26** He took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he took everything, even taking all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. **27** So King Rehoboam made shields of bronze in their place, and committed them to the care of the commanders of the guard who guarded the doorway of the king's house. **28** Then it happened as often as the king entered the house of the LORD, that the guards would carry them and would bring them back into the guards' room.

How long did it take of godlessness before Solomon's prosperity and kingdom was decimated?

Had Rehoboam sat under his father's teaching? Had he heard his wisdom?

We sometimes say "I wish I had heard Paul's teaching (or Luther, Calvin, Edwards, Spurgeon) – or Solomon's wisdom. Guess what!

Is there a useful application for us here?

Remember, too, that we hear **Christ** every Lord's day

Note Rehoboam's repentance is recorded in Chronicles - 2 Chron 12:5-6

God's dealings with unfaithful Israel through Elijah and Elisha

Under Jeroboam, Israel was led into great wickedness and idolatry – Baal worship.

Yet God did not leave Himself without a testimony among His people

Raised up first Elijah, then Elisha, and many other prophets to call Israel to repentance

He waited patiently for His people to repent and return to Him – instructive for us

Elijah's example of prayer

Why does James call attention to Elijah? Does he use him as an example for us to follow?

God's tender dealing with Elijah after his encounter with the prophets of Baal

1 Kings 19 – wonderful to read when we are at our wits' end!

Why does God put up with Elijah? Why does He put up with us?

God's preserving a faithful remnant

Romans 11:2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about **Elijah**, how he pleads with God against Israel? **3** "Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE." **4** But what is the divine response to him? "I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL." **5** In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

This is comforting to us in days when so many who call themselves God's people have run out after the world.

Prayers God answered in unexpected ways

Abraham – praying for Sodom and Gomorrah. Stopped at 10 righteous – God delivered Lot

Last week – David's desire to build a house for God – God built a house for him

This week:

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree; and he requested for himself that he might die, and said, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."

Did Elijah die?

2 Kings 2:11 As they were going along and talking, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

God reads the heart and does more than we can ask or imagine

If God is for us, who can be against us?

2 Kings 6:16 So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." **17** Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Keeping the Good News to Ourselves

2 Kings 7:9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household."

The Lost Book of the Law 2 King 22:14

Somehow in their backsliding, Judah had lost the Book of the Law

What happens to us when we backslide?

Fall of Israel, then of Judah

After displaying enormous patience with His people, God finally brings upon them the judgment He had promised if they would not obey His Law. Israel exiled to Assyria, Judah to Babylon even after seeing the fate of Israel.

5. Where is Christ in these Books?

- All the temple furnishings and decorations – 1 Kings 6 and 7
- Solomon as a type of Christ, the King of Peace, full of wisdom and truth, with all enemies under his footstool
- His prayer of dedication for the temple:
 - 1 Kings 8:27** "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!
 - John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

6. Chronological table of the Kings of Judah and Israel

THE KINGDOM PERIOD (1010-586 B.C.)					
DAVID (1010-971)		SOLOMON (971-931)		DIVISION (931)	
Judah			Israel		
King	Period	Co-Regency	King	Period	Co-Regency
Rchoboam	931-913		1 Jeroboam	931-913	
Abijam	913-911		Nadab	910-909	
Asa	911-870		2 Baasha	909-886	
			Elah	886-885	
			3 Zimri	885	
			Tibni	885-880	
			Omri	880-874	
Jehoshaphat	873-848	873-870	Ahab	874-853	
Jehoram	853-841	853-848	4 Ahaziah	853-852	
Ahaziah	841		Joram	852-841	
Athaliah	841-835		Jehu	841-814	
Joash	835-796		Jehoahaz	814-798	
Amaziah	796-767		Joash	798-782	
Azariah (Uzziah)	767-740	791-767	5 Jeroboam II	782-753	793-782
			Zachariah	753-752	
			6 Shallum	752	
			7 Menahem	752-742	
			Pekahiah	742-740	
Jotham	740-732	750-740	8 Pekah	740-732	
Ahaz	732-716		9 Hoshea	732-722	
			Fall of Samaria	722	
Hezekiah	716-687	729-716	Chronology is that of Edwin R. Thiele, <i>The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings</i> (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, revised edition, 1965). Used by permission.		
Manasseh	687-642	696-687			
Amon	642-640				
Josiah	640-608				
Jehoahaz	608				
Jehoiakim	608-597				
Jehoiachin	597				
Zedekiah	597-586				