



Bible Class With Dr. Ricky Temple
A Brief Compiled Review of the Books of Kings

April 15 and 16, 2026

1 & 2 KINGS — OUTLINE WITH SCRIPTURAL PROOF

Theme Line: This is the story of what happens when leadership drifts and devotion is slowly replaced.

I. SOLOMON — SUCCESS AND THE START OF DRIFT (1 Kings 1–11)

Big Idea: You can start wise and still finish compromised.

Scriptural Proof (Start Right): 1 Kings 3:9

“Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong...”

Scriptural Proof (Peak Success): 1 Kings 8:27

“The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!”

Scriptural Proof (The Drift): 1 Kings 11:4

“As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord...”

Hebrew Word: TURNED (nāṭāh)

Meaning: to stretch out, bend, incline, lean away

Teaching Insight:

- Solomon did not instantly fall—his heart was gradually bent

Note: “Drift is not a fall—it is a slow bend in the wrong direction.”

Leadership Insight:

- Right beginnings do not guarantee right endings

II. THE KINGDOM DIVIDES (1 Kings 12–16)

Big Idea: Poor decisions can split what took years to build.

Scriptural Proof (Bad Counsel): 1 Kings 12:8

“But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men...”

Scriptural Proof (Harsh Leadership) 1 Kings 12:14

“My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier...”

Scriptural Proof (False Worship System): 1 Kings 12:28

“Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

Leadership Insight:

When leaders choose ego over wisdom, people suffer

III. A PATTERN OF BAD KINGS (1 Kings 15–16)

Big Idea: Decline becomes normalized when standards drop.

Scriptural Pattern: 1 Kings 15:26

“He did evil in the eyes of the Lord...”

Note: 1 Kings 16:30

“Ahab... did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him.”

Leadership Insight:

- What is repeated becomes accepted culture

IV. ELIJAH — GOD INTERRUPTS THE DRIFT (1 Kings 17–2 Kings 2)

Big Idea: God raises a voice when leadership fails.

Scriptural Proof (Drought): 1 Kings 17:1

“There will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

Scriptural Proof (Mount Carmel): 1 Kings 18:21

“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him...”

Scriptural Proof (Burnout): 1 Kings 19:4

“I have had enough, Lord... Take my life...”

Leadership Insight:

Even strong leaders can become emotionally exhausted

V. ELISHA — POWER IN A BROKEN SYSTEM (2 Kings 2–8)

Big Idea:

God’s power still works in unhealthy environments.

Scriptural Proof (Double Portion): 2 Kings 2:9

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit...”

Scriptural Proof (Naaman): 2 Kings 5:10

“Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan...”

Leadership Insight:

God’s work is not limited by the condition of leadership around you

VI. THE FALL OF ISRAEL (2 Kings 17)

Big Idea: Repeated disobedience leads to consequences.

Scriptural Proof (Why They Fell): 2 Kings 17:7–8

“All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord... and followed the practices of the nations...”

Scriptural Proof (Warning Ignored): 2 Kings 17:13

“The Lord warned Israel and Judah... but they would not listen...”

Leadership Insight:

Ignoring warnings leads to inevitable collapse

VII. JUDAH — DELAYED BUT NOT AVOIDED COLLAPSE (2 Kings 18–25)

Big Idea: Reform without transformation does not last.

Scriptural Proof (Hezekiah): 2 Kings 18:6

“He held fast to the Lord and did not stop following him...”

Scriptural Proof (Josiah): 2 Kings 22:11

“When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes.”

Scriptural Proof (Final Fall): 2 Kings 25:9

“He set fire to the temple of the Lord... and all the houses of Jerusalem.”

Leadership Insight:

Temporary revival cannot replace lasting obedience

VIII. CORE THEMES WITH SCRIPTURE SUPPORT

1. Success Can Lead to Drift: 1 Kings 11:4


“His heart was not fully devoted...”

2. Leadership Decisions Shape Generations: 1 Kings 12:16

“What share do we have in David...?”

3. God Always Sends Warnings: 2 Kings 17:13

“The Lord warned them... but they would not listen...”

 2 Kings 25:9

“He set fire to the temple...”

IX. Summary Observations

Note: “1 & 2 Kings shows us that people don’t fall all at once—they drift slowly, ignore warnings, and then collapse suddenly.”

Across 1 & 2 Kings (the Divided Kingdom period):

- Israel (North): 19 kings
- Judah (South): 20 rulers (including Queen Athaliah)

Total = 39 kings/rulers

“Thirty-nine leaders... and only a handful truly led well.”

Closing Insight for Class:

“Out of 39 leaders, most failed spiritually—which shows how rare and valuable godly leadership really is.”



Addendum: ALL 39 KINGS — WITH YEARS OF REIGN

( Good |  Bad)

ISRAEL (NORTH) — 19 KINGS (ALL BAD)










King	Years	Summary	Scripture
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King	Years	Summary	Scripture
● Nadab	2	Continued father's sin	1 Kgs 15:26
● Baasha	24	Violent rise, corrupt rule	1 Kgs 15:34
● Elah	2	Short, unstable leadership	1 Kgs 16:13
● Zimri	0 (7 days)	Collapsed instantly	1 Kgs 16:19
● Omri	12	Worsened corruption	1 Kgs 16:25
● Ahab	22	Most evil king	1 Kgs 16:30
● Ahaziah	2	Followed evil patterns	1 Kgs 22:52
● Joram	12	Partial reform, still evil	2 Kgs 3:2
● Jehu	28	Incomplete obedience	2 Kgs 10:31
● Jehoahaz	17	Continued decline	2 Kgs 13:2
● Jehoash	16	Maintained sinful system	2 Kgs 13:11
● Jeroboam II	41	Prosperity without God	2 Kgs 14:24
● Zechariah	0.5	Very short reign	2 Kgs 15:9
● Shallum	0 (1 month)	Political instability	2 Kgs 15:13
● Menahem	10	Cruel leadership	2 Kgs 15:18
● Pekahiah	2	Continued evil	2 Kgs 15:24

King	Years	Summary	Scripture
 Pekah	20	Rebellion and decline	2 Kgs 15:28
 Hoshea	9	Final king before collapse	2 Kgs 17:2

JUDAH (SOUTH) — 20 RULERS (MIXED)

GOOD / MOSTLY GOOD

King	Years	Summary	Scripture
 David	40	Standard for leadership	1 Kgs 15:5
 Asa	41	Strong early reformer	1 Kgs 15:11
 Jehoshaphat	25	Strengthened nation	1 Kgs 22:43
 Joash	40	Good under guidance	2 Kgs 12:2
 Amaziah	29	Partial obedience	2 Kgs 14:3
 Uzziah	52	Strong but prideful later	2 Kgs 15:3
 Jotham	16	Consistent leadership	2 Kgs 15:34
 Hezekiah	29	One of the best kings	2 Kgs 18:5
 Josiah	31	Led revival	2 Kgs 22:2

BAD / UNFAITHFUL

King	Years	Summary	Scripture
Rehoboam	17	Divided kingdom	1 Kgs 14:22
Abijah	3	Inconsistent heart	1 Kgs 15:3
Jehoram	8	Followed Ahab's ways	2 Kgs 8:18
Ahaziah	1	Corrupt alliances	2 Kgs 8:27
Athaliah	6	Seized power violently	2 Kgs 11:1
Ahaz	16	Promoted idolatry	2 Kgs 16:2
Manasseh	55	Most evil, longest reign	2 Kgs 21:2
Amon	2	Continued evil	2 Kgs 21:20
Jehoahaz	0.25	Very short reign	2 Kgs 23:32
Jehoiakim	11	Rejected God's word	2 Kgs 23:37
Jehoiachin	0.25	Brief, corrupt reign	2 Kgs 24:9
Zedekiah	11	Final king before fall	2 Kgs 24:19

1. TOTAL TIME SPAN

- Israel: ~209 years
- Judah: ~345 years

2. AVERAGE LENGTH OF REIGN

Israel (19 kings)

- Total \approx 208 years
- Average \approx 11 years per king

Judah (20 rulers)

- Total \approx 393 years (including David overlap)
- Average \approx 19–20 years per king

3. COMBINED AVERAGE

- Overall average reign \approx 15 years

4. AGE INSIGHT (LIMITED DATA)

The Bible only gives ages for some kings, but patterns show:

- Many kings began ruling young (8–25 years old)
- Several ruled into midlife or later
- Leadership often started before maturity was fully developed

Estimated average starting age: \sim 20–25 years old

POWERFUL TEACHING INSIGHTS

1. Stability vs Instability

- Israel: shorter reigns \rightarrow instability
- Judah: longer reigns \rightarrow more stability

2. Length \neq Quality

- Manasseh ruled 55 years (bad)
- Josiah ruled 31 years (good)

Lesson: “Long leadership does not guarantee good leadership.”

3. Direction Determines Duration

- Judah lasted longer because of periodic righteousness
- Israel collapsed faster due to consistent rebellion

“The average king ruled about 15 years—
but what mattered was not how long they ruled,
it was how well they led while they ruled.”