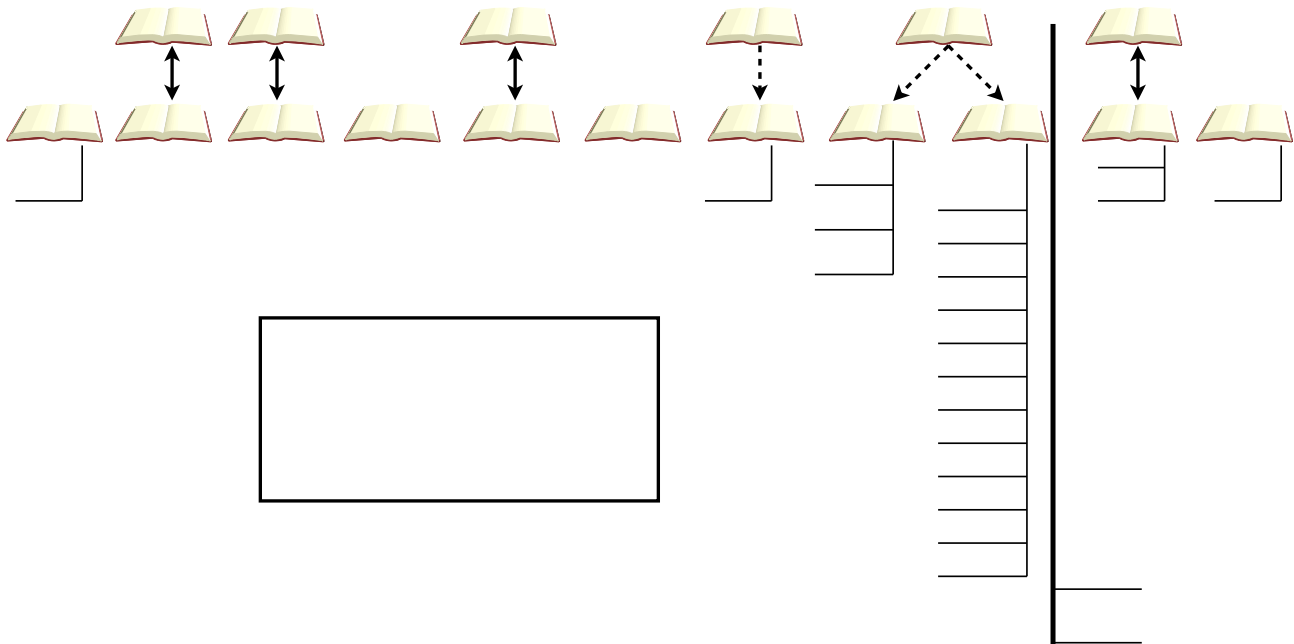


XIV. UNIT 14: “Keys to the Kingdoms” – An Introduction to Prophets & Kings

I. Looking Back:

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN ORDER



II. “KEYS TO THE KINGDOMS” – An Introduction to the Prophets and I Kings

A. First Things First: Getting a “Bigger Picture” of the Big Picture

- Picture #1:** The Book of Kings is a history of Israel’s _____, highlighting “good” and “bad” kings.

The Bigger Picture: The Book of Kings is a record of the willingness or unwillingness of Israel’s leadership to lead the nation in _____ faithfulness.

- Picture #2:** The Book of Kings is a record of God’s _____ of the sin of Israel and Judah.

The Bigger Picture: The Book of Kings is a record of God’s _____ to the covenant stipulations.

- Picture #3:** It is important to know the _____ of the Ancient Near East during the 10th – 6th century BC to understand this book.

The Bigger Picture: It is *more* important to know the _____ stipulations from the 15th century BC (i.e. Exodus and Leviticus) to understand this book!

4. **Picture #4:** The Book of Kings is only a small part of our Bible, comprising _____ of 1189 chapters (3% of the Bible and 5% of the Old Testament).

The Bigger Picture: The scriptures associated with this time period comprise _____ % of the Bible and _____ % (nearly half!) of the Old Testament.

5. **Picture #5:** The Book of Kings records primarily _____ activity; the _____ of kings.

The Bigger Picture: The Book of Kings records a period of intense _____ activity; the _____ of God! (_____ of the 419 OT occurrences of “*thus says the LORD*” are associated with this time.)

B. Four “P’s” in the Puzzle

1. The “_____” — Nations and Personalities Around Israel

a. Egypt – a 3000 year old kingdom

- (1) _____ — married a Pharaoh’s daughter and built her a palace (1 Kings 7:1-8)
 (2) _____ — Came against Rehoboam, Solomon’s son in Jerusalem and took all the treasures of the House of the Lord as well as all the treasures of Solomon (1 Kings 14:21-26).
 (3) _____ — Killed King Josiah at Megiddo when Josiah interfered with a battle between Necco and the King of Assyria (2 Kings 23:29)

b. Assyria – another ancient kingdom

- (1) _____ — also known as Pul; wicked King Menahem of Israel taxed his people to provide tribute to Pul to keep him from destroying Samaria (2 Kings 15:19)
 (2) _____ — Destroyed Samaria and conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC and scattered the Israelites throughout the Assyrian empire. (2 Kings 18:9)
 (3) _____ — came to Jerusalem eight years after Shalmaneser V had conquered Israel; Hezekiah gave him much tribute, but God caused him to return to Assyria where he was murdered. (2 Kings 18:13 - 2 Kings 19:36)
 (4) _____ — son of Sennacharib, became king in his place (2 Kings 19:37)

c. Babylon – the “second coming” of an ancient people

- (1) Merodach Baladan — was a constant threat to Assyria, but never succeeded. He also befriended King Hezekiah of Judah, and sent him gifts and a letter when he heard he was sick. (2 Kings 20:12-18; Isaiah 39:1-8)
 (2) _____ — the Babylonian king credited with the sack and destruction of Jerusalem. He attacked it on at least three occasions: 609, 597 and 586 BC (2 Kings 23:36-24:1; 24:8-11; 25:1-22)

2. The “_____”:

- a. _____ — “As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “Sodom, your sister and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.” (Ezekiel 16:48-50)

- b. _____ to culture — “And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods and **walked in the customs of**

- the nations** whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.” (2 Kings 17:7-8)
- c. covenant _____ — “Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, ‘Since this has been your practice and **you have not kept my covenant** and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.’” (1 Kings 11:11)
- “They **despised his statutes and his covenant** that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them.” (2 Kings 17:15)
3. The “_____”:
- a. Solomon - the “grand-daddy” of Israel’s idolatry (chapters 1-11)
- (1) “_____” marriages - (1 Kings 11:3; Deut. 17:17)
 - (2) _____ : cultural accommodation - (1 Kings 11:4-8; Deut. 12:1-5)
 - (3) Confidence in his _____ rather than Yahweh - (1 Kings 10:26,28; Deut. 17:16)
 - (4) Security in his _____ rather than Yahweh - (1 Kings 10:14-21; Deut. 17:17)
 - (5) **Summary:** He was unfaithful to the _____ (1 Kings 11:9-11; Deut. 12:18-20)
- b. Jeroboam - the “gold standard” of evil (1 Kings 12:26-33; he is mentioned all the way to 2 Kings 23:15!!)
- (1) moved _____ out of Jerusalem
 - (2) set-up “border _____” at Bethel and Dan
 - (3) set-up his own _____
 - (4) changed the _____ of sacred feasts
4. The “Plot”
- a. 1 Kings 1-11 — the “rise and fall” of _____
 - b. 1 Kings 12 — the _____ of the nation
 - c. 1 Kings 13 - 2 Kings 25 — the story of two kingdoms and one _____.
- C. God’s Answer: The _____!
1. “Pulpits and Pens” – Two _____ of prophets:
 - a. “_____” prophets — (“protoprophets”); left no writings (E.g. Elijah, Elisha, Shemaiah and Huldah, the prophetess; cf. 1 Kings 17:1; 2 Kings 6:12; 2 Chron. 12:5; 2 Kings 22:14).
 - b. “_____” prophets — (classical prophets); writings have been preserved (E.g. Jeremiah, Isaiah, Nahum, etc.).
 2. Two “_____” of a genuine prophet:
 - a. their present message _____ cannot contradict the Story so far (Deut. 13:1-5).
 - b. their predictive prophecies must be 100% _____, 100% of the _____ (Deut. 18:21-22)
 3. Five characteristics of genuine prophets:
 - a. they were “God-_____” - they spoke *for* God; they were His “here-and-now voice” on earth.
 - (1) the phrases, “*thus says the LORD,*” and “*...declares the LORD*” occur nearly _____ in the 17 books of prophecy.
 - (2) in contrast to the _____, who spoke *to* God on behalf of the *people*, the prophets spoke to the people *on behalf of* God.

- b. they were “_____ -tellers” — they delivered God’s word for the present hour.
 - (1) their ministry was primarily _____, not written (even though we have their writings).
 - (2) they exposed the “_____,” those who had *abandoned* the covenant.
 - (3) they spoke the Truth of God into the present _____, not preserving the words of God for posterity, like Moses).
- c. they were “_____ -tellers” — they provided “_____” for the Story, (*but always to reveal the will and word of God for the _____*).
 - (1) the coming _____ as the eternal kingdom of David, was a recurring theme of the prophets.
- d. they were “_____ guardians” — their messages were always connected to the covenant
 - (1) they were constantly calling God’s people _____ to the Story, and their covenant responsibilities in it (justice, mercy, faithfulness, and holiness).
 - (2) they declared God’s intentions to _____ or judge them in response to covenant faithfulness or unfaithfulness
 - (3) they predicted the _____ fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.
 - (4) they emphasized the restoration of _____, as the intention of Yahweh (Of the 234x “shalom” appears in our OT, one out of four are from the lips of Isaiah and Jeremiah).

D. The Book of Kings and the New Testament

- 1. The last name mentioned in the Old Testament is the prophet, _____. But, he is mentioned nearly _____ times in the New Testament, seven times by Jesus himself.
- 2. Elijah is one of the two Old Testament figures who meet with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (the other one is Moses, the name mentioned along with Elijah’s at the OT’s close!).
- 3. There are no references to the _____ of Elijah in the New Testament, compared to 22 references to the words of _____.
- 4. The two references in the New Testament to Elijah speaking are *both* references to his _____ life!
- 5. Jesus’ only mention of Elijah’s (and Elisha’s) ministry is in reference to him reaching out to those _____ the covenant family (Luke 4:24-30)

E. The Book of Kings and the Christian

- 1. We must constantly remind ourselves that the opposite of holiness is *not* sin. It is _____, because idolatry is accommodation to culture, and we are called to be “_____.”
- 2. We too are in a covenant relationship with Yahweh. One secured by the death of His only Son. It too has responsibilities, not merely _____. (John 13:34,35; 14:21; Luke 9:23, etc.)
- 3. We need to have or pray for, a love for the _____ word of God. It’s absence is a sign of _____ (Amos 8:11).

III. KEY INFORMATION - The Book of 1 Kings

Key Word: “_____ Kingdom”

Key Chapter: _____ — the nation divides in 931 BC

Geography: _____

Summary: How Israel became a _____ kingdom.