



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 16. Kings A

- **Introduction**

- Author: Unknown, probably a compilation of several sources from across the Monarchic Period
- Date: Covers 971–561 BC (the end of David's reign to the release of Jehoiachin in Babylon); written sometime during the captivity
- Remember that it's one book!
- Context: Kings was written to answer the major questions raised by the _____.
 - The _____ Covenant was threatened because the chosen people were evicted from the Land.
 - The _____ Covenant was threatened because it appeared that either YHWH forgot His promises to His chosen people or that He wasn't powerful enough to enforce them.
 - The _____ Covenant was threatened because one of his rulers wasn't on the throne.

- **The Main Point**

- Kings was written both to answer 'How did we get here?' as well as prove that it wasn't _____ fault.
- Kings is _____ history: it is selecting and interpreting historical events to make points.
- Kings outlines one long, slow decline across generations from the height of blessing for Israel to the depth of judgment.
- The judgment is inevitable because of their unfaithfulness, yet God shows mercy along the way whenever faithful exceptions emerge.
- It is the conclusion of a larger narrative arc starting in Joshua conquering the Land, needing and establishing a monarchy, and then failing uphold the covenant, resulting in their expulsion from the Land.
- Kings should be read alongside the Major & Minor Prophets because they detail all the warnings God gave as Israel declined, as well as the prophecies that showed how God was still going to fulfill His promises despite the coming short-term judgments.
- This rhetorical purpose explains the differences in tone and details between Kings and Chronicles.

- **Main themes:**

- God's _____ & man's sinfulness
 - God is faithful to fulfill His promises, but man sins anyway.
 - God is also faithful to carry out His judgments for sin (cf. Deut. 27–28; 2 Sam. 7:14).
 - This contrast is seen in the parallel accounts of the Davidic and Northern monarchies.
 - Kings goes out of its way to show that God is being faithful to what He said all along and that what befalls Israel is because of their sin, not any failure on God's part.
- God's _____ & man's responsibility
 - Kings shows how God is in control of everything from natural events to national affairs.
 - Nonetheless, Israel's fate is tied to whether or not they will remain faithful to God.
- God's _____ & mercy
 - God's covenant with Israel demands that He punish them for their unfaithfulness, and once their unfaithfulness hits a certain point, He declares that judgment unavoidable.
 - Multiple times when kings repent, He delays that judgment out of mercy until a generation comes that deserves it.

- The importance of pure _____ to God
 - Israel's unfaithfulness shows up primarily in idolatry.
 - Despite all the blessings from YHWH, pagan religions were always seductive to Israel (and us!).
 - Even when idolatrous, Israel never completely forsook YHWH (i.e., syncretism).

- The importance of divine _____
 - God never abandoned His people to figure things out for themselves: they had the Law and a steady stream of prophets
 - Israel stubbornly ignored both the Law and prophets that would have kept them from destruction (cf. 2 Kings 17:13–14).

- The important of godly _____
 - Every king is evaluated not on prosperity or military success, but on whether or not he is faithful to YHWH.
 - As the king goes, so goes the nation.

Discussion:

1. What is to be gained each by studying how God works in individual lives/circumstances, as well as across centuries?
2. Why is it so important to see how God is faithful during the *worst* circumstances in life, not just the best ones?

Blanks: Exile, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, God's, theological, faithfulness, sovereignty, justice, devotion, revelation, leadership