

FIRST KINGS

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INTRODUCTION

- A. AUTHORSHIP AND DATE: Most believe one man wrote it because:
1. Both I and II are joined together in Hebrew Bible.
 2. Narratives of each are incomplete without the other.
 3. Both contain same characteristic style.
 4. Closes in Babylon captivity , must have been between 586 - 560 B.C.
 5. ARCHAEOLOGY FIND....p. 137, FWCC
- B. PURPOSE; “The people of God are expected to keep the commandments of God and that there is a blessing in so doing and cursing for failure to keep his commandments.
1. It is the story of the King - who represents the nation - As the king goes so goes the nation.
 2. Each king is judged not on political or economic grounds but on religious.
 - a. “He did evil in the sight of the Lord.”
 - b. “He did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord.
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The Value of Righteousness

- A. David’s Charge To Solomon: 2:2-4a.
1. But Solomon unlike his father did not keep his covenant with God.
 2. Solomon violated the regulation give for kings (Deut. 17;14-20) 3 ways.
 - a. By multiplying horses (10:26)
 - b. By multiplying wives (11:1-8).
 - c. By multiplying gold (10:14-22).
- B. Perhaps Solomon’s most serious sin was the violation of the first commandment. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
1. This eventually led to the division of the kingdom.
 2. Value of righteousness seen in what happens to kingdoms.
- C. NORTHERN KINGDOM:
1. Jereboah (first king) violated the covenant by instituting calf worship at Dan. As a result God promised to send evil.
 2. **Northern kingdom lasted only 213 years.**
 3. All of the kings (except Shallum, who reigned only one month) are said to have done evil.
 4. Because of the sins of Israel the kingdom came to an end and the people carried away to Assyria (II Kings 17:23).
- D. KINGDOM OF JUDAH: Lasted 349 years. Had 19 kings.
1. Only Hezekiah & Josiah are given unqualified commendation.

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2. Came to an end in 586 B.C. when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem.
 - E. Should give us occasion to pause and consider our own nation..
 1. Rise of atheism - make fun of God and religion.
 2. Hedonist.
 3. IMMORALITY.
 - F. FIRST COMMANDMENT CONDEMNS SKEPTICISM, IT ENJOINS:
 1. The reality of God.
 2. The authority of God
 3. Submission by man to that authority.
 4. If you ask why keep referring to first commandment read: (Mat. 6:33; 16:24-26; Luke 9:59-62).
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BELIEVING A LIE

- A. STORY IN FIRST KINGS 13.
 1. Prophet of God out of Judah sent to decry the altar in Bethlehem.
 2. Story of what happened. ‘
 3. What the old prophet did. The young prophet.
 - B. NOTICE ABOUT THE YOUNG PROPHET:
 1. It took great courage.
 2. He was free from ambition.
 3. Was so unselfish as not to be influenced by the kings money.
 4. **The man of God was disobedient.
 - C. SO IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT WE BELIEVE.
 1. It is possible to believe a lie.
 2. The tragic results.
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TOTAL COMMITMENT

- A. I Kings 18...Contest on Mt. Carmel.
 1. The people had wearied of worshiping Jehovah as the ONLY God.
 2. Introduced the worship of Baal.
 3. Wanted the best of two worlds.
 - B. **How long....limping between the two. Must make a choice.**
 1. Must make a commitment
 2. The contest.
 - C. FOR YOU TODAY.
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DISCOURAGEMENT

- A. 19:4..."It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers." Why was Elijah so discouraged?
1. He was physically exhausted. He had fled about 95 miles on foot.
 - a. What did God do.
 - b. Gave him food and rest.
 2. Elijah was AFRAID. He had raised the dead; stopped the rain, killed the prophets of Baal.
 - a. Fleeing from death, yet praying for death (paradox).
 - b. What did God do?
 - c. Cure is faith. Psa. 23; II Tim. 1:1-2; etc.
 3. Elijah THOUGHT he was a FAILURE.
 - a. What did God do?
 - b. Sent messengers; etc.
 4. Elijah had a LACK OF SUPPORT.
 - a. What did God do?
 - b. "I have yet 7,000 who have not bowed to Baal.

THOUGHT: what if some of these had come forward and said; "Elijah we are with you....we will stand by you"?

Book Preserved Because

- A. Man teaches that it makes no difference what we do as long as we are honest.
1. This was the argument of Jereboam in chapter 12.
 2. Ten of the Tribes of Israel followed him....into captivity and destruction. People talk of "The Ten Lost Tribes". They were not lost, misplaced, but were **destroyed**.
- B. THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT WE BELIEVE.
1. Many in the world today teach that "it doesn't make any difference what we believe". "One way is as good as another".
 2. They need to talk with the young prophet of chapter 13.
- C. TOTAL COMMITMENT . Contest on Mt. Carmel chapter 18.
1. So many want to live in the world, like the world, yet be blessed by God when they die.
 2. Have we, in the church today, learned the lesson of complete dedication to God? (Matt. 6:33)
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