

# July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mark 11:1-14 1 Kings 1 Hosea 4:11b-5:4	2 Mark 11:15-33 1 Kings 2 Hosea 5:5-15	3 Mark 12:1-27 1 Kings 3 Hosea 6:1-7:2	4 Mark 12:28-44 1 Kings 4-5 Hosea 7:3-16	5 Mark 13:1-13 1 Kings 6 Hosea 8
6 Mark 13:14-37 1 Kings 7 Hosea 9:1-16	7 Mark 14:1-31 1 Kings 8 Hosea 9:17-10:15	8 Mark 14:32-72 1 Kings 9 Hosea 11:1-11	9 Mark 15:1-20 1 Kings 10 Hosea 11:12-12:14	10 Mark 15:21-47 1 Kings 11 Hosea 13	11 Mark 16 1 Kings 12:1-31 Hosea 14	12 1 Cor. 1:1-17 1 Kings 12:32-13:34 Joel 1
13 1 Cor. 1:18-31 1 Kings 14 Joel 2:1-11	14 1 Cor. 2 1 Kings 15:1-32 Joel 2:12-32	15 1 Cor. 3 1 Kings 15:33-16:34 Joel 3	16 1 Cor. 4 1 Kings 17 Amos 1	17 1 Cor. 5 1 Kings 18 Amos 2:1-3:2	18 1 Cor. 6 1 Kings 19 Amos 3:3-4:3	19 1 Cor. 7:1-24 1 Kings 20 Amos 4:4-13
20 1 Cor. 7:25-40 1 Kings 21 Amos 5	21 1 Cor. 8 1 Kings 22 Amos 6	22 1 Cor. 9 2 Kings 1-2 Amos 7	23 1 Cor. 10 2 Kings 3 Amos 8	24 1 Cor. 11:1-16 2 Kings 4 Amos 9	25 1 Cor. 11:17-34 2 Kings 5 Obadiah 1	26 1 Cor. 12 2 Kings 6:1-7:2 Jonah 1
27 1 Cor. 13 2 Kings 7:3-20 Jonah 2	28 1 Cor. 14:1-25 2 Kings 8 Jonah 3	29 1 Cor. 14:26-40 2 Kings 9 Jonah 4	30 1 Cor. 15:1-34 2 Kings 10 Micah 1	31 1 Cor. 15:35-58 2 Kings 11 Micah 2		

## 1 & 2 Kings The Story of Israel's Kings

First Kings serves as a sequel to 1 & 2 Samuel, continuing the story of Israel's kings. The people had asked God for a human king (1 Sam. 8:1-22). Israel's kings, beginning with Saul and David, were meant to lead the people in obedience to all God's commands, but as humans they struggled with this godly responsibility.

The first eleven chapters of 1 Kings tell the story of Solomon, Israel's third king and David's son, who reigned over a united kingdom during a time of unparalleled world prominence. It was a time of economic prosperity and peace with neighboring countries as well as the beginning of Israel's literary age. As a young man, Solomon followed his father's pattern of seeking guidance from God and received the greatest gift God could give: divine wisdom to govern.

But this golden age had a dark side. Unfortunately, this man of wisdom was unable to manage wisely his personal and spiritual life. Solomon eventually led Israel into ongoing spiritual compromise. Solomon used marriages to form political alliances with other countries in order to maintain peace and increase the country's prosperity. After he built the Temple in Jerusalem to provide a permanent place of worship and honor for the one true God, he set up altars to his wives' gods throughout the countryside and frequented them regularly.

God's judgment of Solomon's behavior was severe: it led to the division of Israel into two kingdoms following Solomon's death, and the slide of God's people into spiritual apathy and disobedience.

Second Kings describes the decline of the two kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom, called Israel, and the Southern Kingdom, called Judah. Chapters 1-17 provide the stories of Israel's fall to the Assyrians, including the flagship city of Samaria. Chapters 18-23

tell the history of Judah, the southern kingdom that survived longer but ultimately fell to Babylon. Judah's key city, Jerusalem, was captured; the Temple was destroyed; and God's people were deported from their "Promised Land" into Babylonian exile.

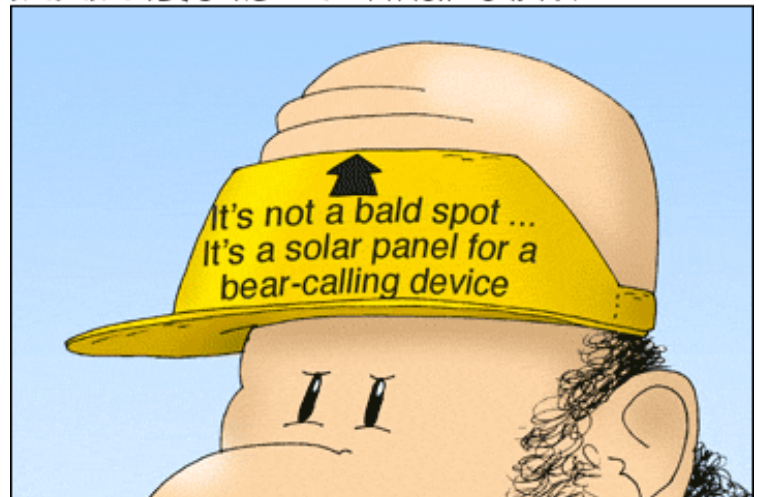
Second Kings also describes strong, prophetic individuals sent by God to challenge the wayward behavior of the kings and to bring spiritual direction and hope to the people. The two most prominent prophets described in this book are Elijah and his successor Elisha. The early chapters describe Elijah's final season of life and the transference of God's Spirit to Elisha. God's further miraculous works through Elisha are shown to be many and varied. The purpose of Elijah, Elisha, and their fellow prophets was to keep reminding the kings and the people of God's covenant relationship of love that God had established with them long before. Proclaiming this truth was often a dangerous responsibility.

These books have strong implications for our lives: God's relentless love allows us the consequences of our disobedience and still is ever ready to forgive and reconcile as we return our hearts to God.

[From *Transformation Journal*, Sue Nilson Kibbey & Carolyn Slaughter, Abingdon Press, 2007, pp. 67 and 73.]

*Cartoon below is funnier if you read 2Kings 2:23-24.*

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GCI, INC.



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See 2Kings 2:23-24)

03-29-2005

Copyright Gospel Communications International, Inc -  
www.reverendfun.com