

Tuesday Evening Bible Study  
Series #15: Historical Books of the Old Testament  
Week 5: 1 & 2 Kings  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019

**The Books of 1 & 2 Kings: The Divided Kingdom**

**Summary**

First Kings continues the story where 2 Samuel left off. Chapters 1-2 complete the presentation of the reign of David and the succession of Solomon. Chapters 3-11 depict Solomon's glorious reign, highlighted by the construction of the temple, but including his ultimate apostasy. Chapters 12-14 relate Jeroboam's rebellion, his censure by the prophets, and the resulting division of the nation into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah in 722 B.C.E. The rest of 1 Kings details the reigns of the divided monarchy, alternating between the north and the south, but with the bulk of the material considering the period of Israelite supremacy, especially under Omri and Ahab. In this period the prophet Elijah is a dominant force.

**Who wrote 1 & 2 Kings?**

Ancient tradition identifies Jeremiah as the author of 1 and 2 Kings. Today, many scholars believe that 1 and 2 Kings are the concluding part of the Deuteronomistic History and that various older traditions have been gathered together and edited by a nameless exilic editor or editors.

**Themes**

The lives of Samuel, Saul, and David, presented so graphically with all the faults of the human condition, can serve as mirrors of our own humanity. Seeing how God works in and through these people can help us discern the activity of God in our own relationships with the Lord and with others.

**When were 1 & 2 Kings written?**

The final event recorded in the books of Kings occurred in 561 B.C.E. Since the return from Babylon (538 B.C.E.) is not recorded, one assumes that--as part of the Deuteronomistic History--1 Kings reached its final form sometime between these dates during the Babylonian exile.

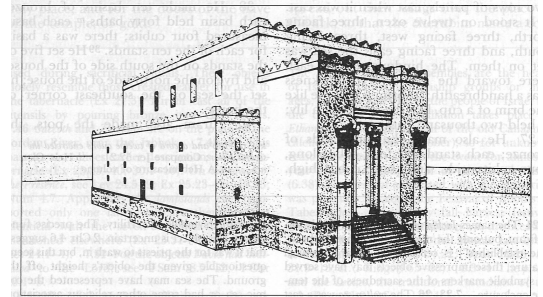
**How should I read the Book of the Kings?**

First Kings *looks* like a history of Judah, the southern kingdom, and Israel, the northern kingdom. While important historical information is presented, some of it is at odds with the presentation found in 1 and 2 Chronicles. Both Chronicles and Kings should be read as *theological*, rather than *historical*, presentations of the years of the monarchy. Kings is designed to demonstrate the reasons for the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel in 722/721 B.C.E. and Judah's exile to Babylon in 587/586 B.C.E.

## **Outline of 1 & 2 Kings**

### **1 Kings**

- I. The Reign of Solomon (1:1 – 11:43)
  - A. Solomon becomes king (1:1 – 2:46)
    - 1) The struggle for the succession (1:1-53)
    - 2) David's last instructions (2:1-9)
    - 3) The death of David (2:10-12)
    - 4) Solomon consolidates his reign (2:13-46)
  - B. Solomon governs in wisdom (3:1 – 4:34)
    - 1) Solomon prays for wisdom (3:1-15)
    - 2) Solomon demonstrates his wisdom (3:16-28)
    - 3) Solomon enjoys a wise and prosperous reign (4:1-34)
      - a) Solomon's Administration (4:1-19)
      - b) The magnificence of Solomon's rule (4:20-28)
      - c) The fame of Solomon's wisdom (4:29-34)
  - C. Solomon builds the Temple (5:1 – 8:66)
    - 1) Preparation and materials (5:1-18)
    - 2) Construction and furnishings (6:1-38)
    - 3) Solomon's palace and other structures (7:1-12)
    - 4) Bronze and gold furnishings (7:13-51)
    - 5) Dedication of the Temple (8:1-66)
      - a) Gathering (8:1-13)
      - b) Solomon's speech (8:14-21)
      - c) Solomon's prayer of dedication (8:22-53)
      - d) Solomon blesses the assembly (8:54-66)
  - D. Solomon's Glory (9:1 – 10:29)
    - 1) God's promise and threat to Solomon (9:1-9)
    - 2) Solomon enjoys prosperity and glory (9:10-28)
    - 3) The Queen of Sheba pays Solomon a visit (10:1-13)
    - 4) More evidence of prosperity and glory (10:14-29)
  - E. Solomon messes up! And his downfall. (11:1-43)
    - 1) Solomon's infidelity (11:1-13)
    - 2) Solomon's adversaries (11:14-25)
    - 3) Jeroboam's rebellion (11:26-40)
    - 4) The death of Solomon (11:41-43)



- II. The Kingdoms divide (12:1 – 16:34)
  - A. The northern tribes secede to become the Kingdom of Israel (12:1 – 14:20)
    - 1) Rehoboam's stubbornness; the kingdoms split (12:1-19)
    - 2) Jeroboam's reign over Israel (12:20-33)
      - a) Jeroboam begins his reign (12:20-24)
      - b) Jeroboam and golden calves (12:25-33)
    - 3) God's word against Bethel (13:1-34)
    - 4) God's judgment against Jeroboam—bad (14:1-20)
      - a) Judgment (14:1-18)
      - b) Death of Jeroboam (14:19-20)

- B. The Histories of Israel and Judah (14:21 – 16:34)
  - 1) Rehoboam—bad (Judah) (14:21-30)
  - 2) Abijam—bad (Judah) (15:1-8)
  - 3) Asa—good (Judah) (15:9-24)
  - 4) Nadab—bad (Israel) (15:25-32)
  - 5) Baasha—bad (Israel) (15:33 – 16:7)
  - 6) Elah—bad (Israel) (16:8-14)
  - 7) Zimri—bad (Israel) (16:15-20)
  - 8) Omri—bad (Israel) (16:21-28)
    - a) Samaria becomes the new capital (16:24-28)
  - 9) Ahab—very bad (Israel) (16:29-34)
    - a) Ahab & Jezebel (16:31-34)

### III. Prophets & Kings (1 Kings 17:1 – 2 Kings 10:36)

- A. Elijah vs. Baal (17:1 – 18:46)
  - 1) Elijah predicts a drought (17:1-7)
  - 2) The Widow of Zarephath (17:8-24)
  - 3) Elijah's message to Ahab (18:1-19)
  - 4) Elijah's triumph over the priests of Baal (18:20-40)
  - 5) The drought ends (18:41-46)
- B. Elijah flees to Mt. Horeb (19:1-21)
- C. Israel against the Arameans (20:1-43)
  - 1) Israel's first defeat of Ben-hadad (20:1-22)
  - 2) Israel's second defeat of Ben-hadad (1:23-43)
- D. Naboth's vineyard (21:1-29)
- E. Micaiah's Prophecy (22:1-28)
- F. Ahab dies in battle (22:29-41)
- G. Jehoshaphat—good reigns over Judah (22:41-50)
- H. Ahaziah—bad reigns over Israel (22:51-53)
- I. The conclusion of Elijah's ministry (2 Kings 1:1 – 2:18)
  - 1) Elijah denounces Ahaziah (1:1-18)
  - 2) Elisha inherits Elijah's mantle (2:1-18)
- J. Elisha's Ministry (2:19 – 8:29)
  - 1) Elisha performs two miracles (2:19-25)
  - 2) The war with Moab (3:1-27)
  - 3) Elisha and the widow's oil (4:1-7)
  - 4) Elisha raises the Shunammite's son (4:8-37)
  - 5) Elisha purifies a pot of stew (4:38-41)
  - 6) Elisha feeds a hundred men (4:42-44)
  - 7) Elisha heals Naaman (5:1-27)
  - 8) Elisha makes an ax head float (6:1-7)
  - 9) Elisha stops an Aramean attack (6:8-23)
  - 10) Famine is thwarted in Samaria (6:24 – 7:20)
  - 11) A Shunammite woman's land is restored (8:1-6)
  - 12) The death of Ben-hadad (8:7-15)
  - 13) Jehoram—bad reigns over Judah (8:16-24)
  - 14) Ahaziah—bad reigns over Judah (8:25-29)
- K. Revolution and reform under Jehu (9:1 – 10:36)

- 1) Elisha anoints Jehu—mostly good, a little bad—as king over Israel (9:1-14)
- 2) Jehu kills Joram (9:14-26)
- 3) Jehu kills Ahaziah (9:27-29)
- 4) Jehu orders Jezebel's death (9:30-37)
- 5) Jehu slaughters the family of Ahab (10:1-17)
- 6) Jehu slaughters the worshippers of Baal (10:18-36)

#### IV. New hope for Judah, but destruction for Israel (11:1 – 17:41)

- A. Restoration and reform in Judah (11:1 – 12:21)
  - 1) Athaliah—bad becomes king of Judah (11:1-3)
  - 2) Athaliah is overthrown and the Davidic monarchy is restored (12:4-21)
  - 3) Reforms under King Joash—good & repair of the Temple (12:1-21)
- B. More sin and turmoil in Israel and Judah (13:1 – 16:20)
  - 1) Jehoahaz—bad (Israel) (13:1-9)
  - 2) Jehoash—bad (Israel) (13:10-13)
  - 3) The death of Elisha (13:14-21)
  - 4) Israel recaptures cities of Aram (13:22-25)
  - 5) Amaziah—good (Judah) (14:1-22)
  - 6) Jeroboam II—bad (Israel) (14:23-29)
  - 7) Azariah—good (Judah) (15:1-7)
  - 8) Zechariah—bad (Israel) (15:8-12)
  - 9) Shallum—bad (Israel) (15:13-16)
  - 10) Menahem—bad (Israel) (15:17-22)
  - 11) Pekahiah—bad (Israel) (15:23-26)
  - 12) Pekah—bad (Israel) (15:27-31)
  - 13) Jotham—good (Judah) (15:32-38)
  - 14) Ahaz—bad (Judah) (16:1-20)
- C. The Fall of Israel (17:1-41)
  - 1) Hoshea—bad (Israel) & Israel's fall to the Assyrians (17:1-6)
  - 2) The causes of Israel's fall (17:7-23)
  - 3) Assyria resettles Samaria (17:24-41)

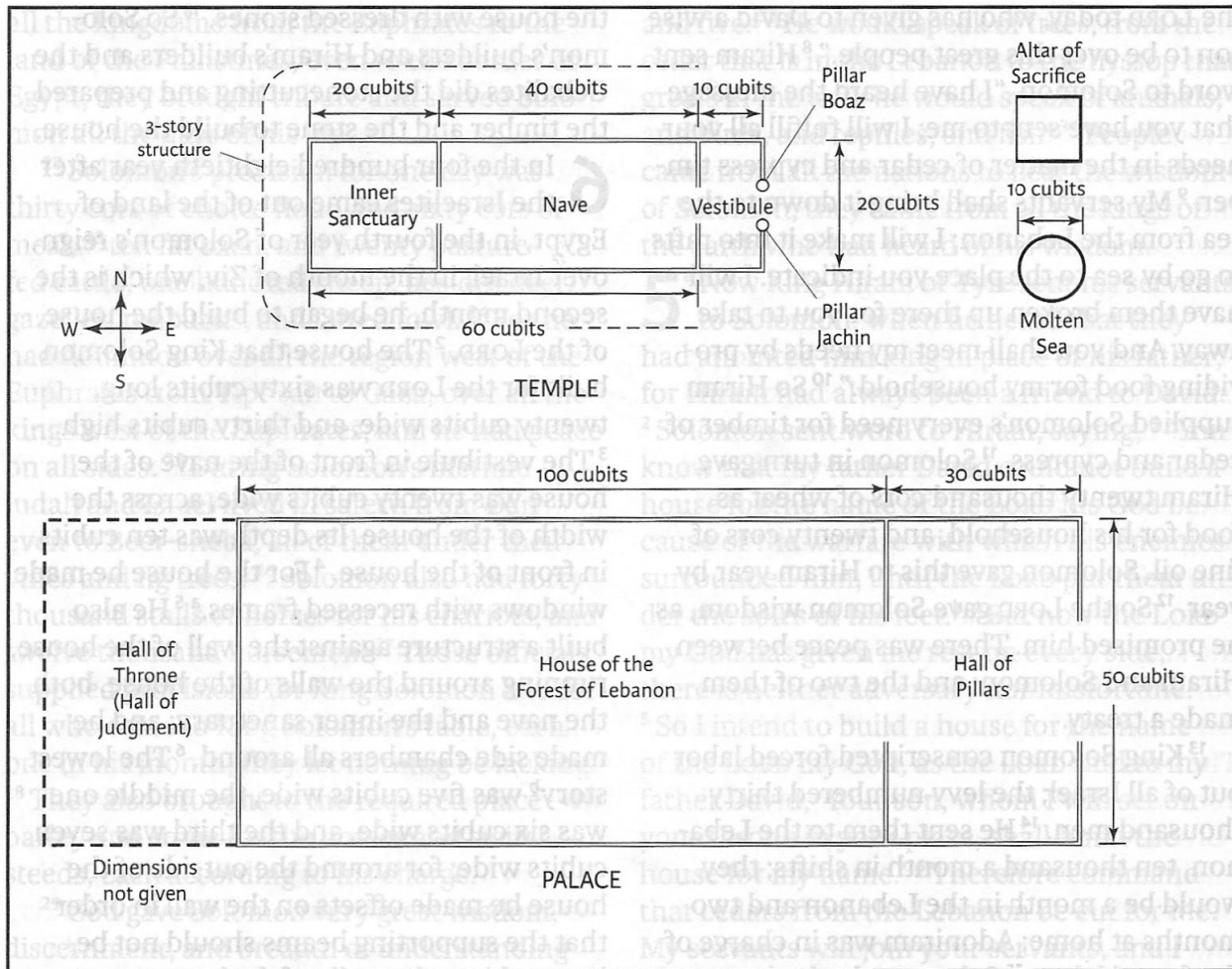
#### V. The collapse of the Southern Kingdom of Judah (18:1 – 25:30)

- A. Hezekiah—good (18:1 – 20:21)
  - 1) Hezekiah becomes king (18:1-12)
  - 2) Sennacherib of Assyria invades Judah (18:13-37)
  - 3) Hezekiah consults Isaiah (19:1-7)
  - 4) Sennacherib threatens Hezekiah (19:8-13)
  - 5) Hezekiah's Prayer (19:4-34)
  - 6) Sennacherib's defeat and death (19:35-37)
  - 7) Hezekiah's illness (20:1-11)
  - 8) Hezekiah's folly with the Babylonian king (20:12-19)
  - 9) The death of Hezekiah (20:20-21)
- B. Manasseh—bad (21:1-18)
- C. Amon—bad (21:19-26)
- D. Josiah—the best! (22:1 – 23:30)
  - 1) Josiah becomes king (22:1-2)
  - 2) Hilkiah the priest finds the Book of the Law (22:3-20)

- 3) Josiah's reforms based on the Law (23:1-27)
- 4) Josiah dies in battle (23:28-30)
- E. The decline and fall of Judah (23:31 – 25:30)
  - 1) Jehoahaz—bad (23:31-35)
  - 2) Jehoiakim—bad (23:36-37)
  - 3) Judah is overrun by several enemies (24:1-7)
  - 4) Jehoiachin—bad becomes king and Jerusalem falls under siege (24:8-17)
  - 5) Zedekiah—bad; Jerusalem falls to Babylon (24:18 – 25:21)
  - 6) Gedaliah is made governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar (25:22-26)
  - 7) Jehoachin is granted a place at the king's table (Hope!) (25:27-30)

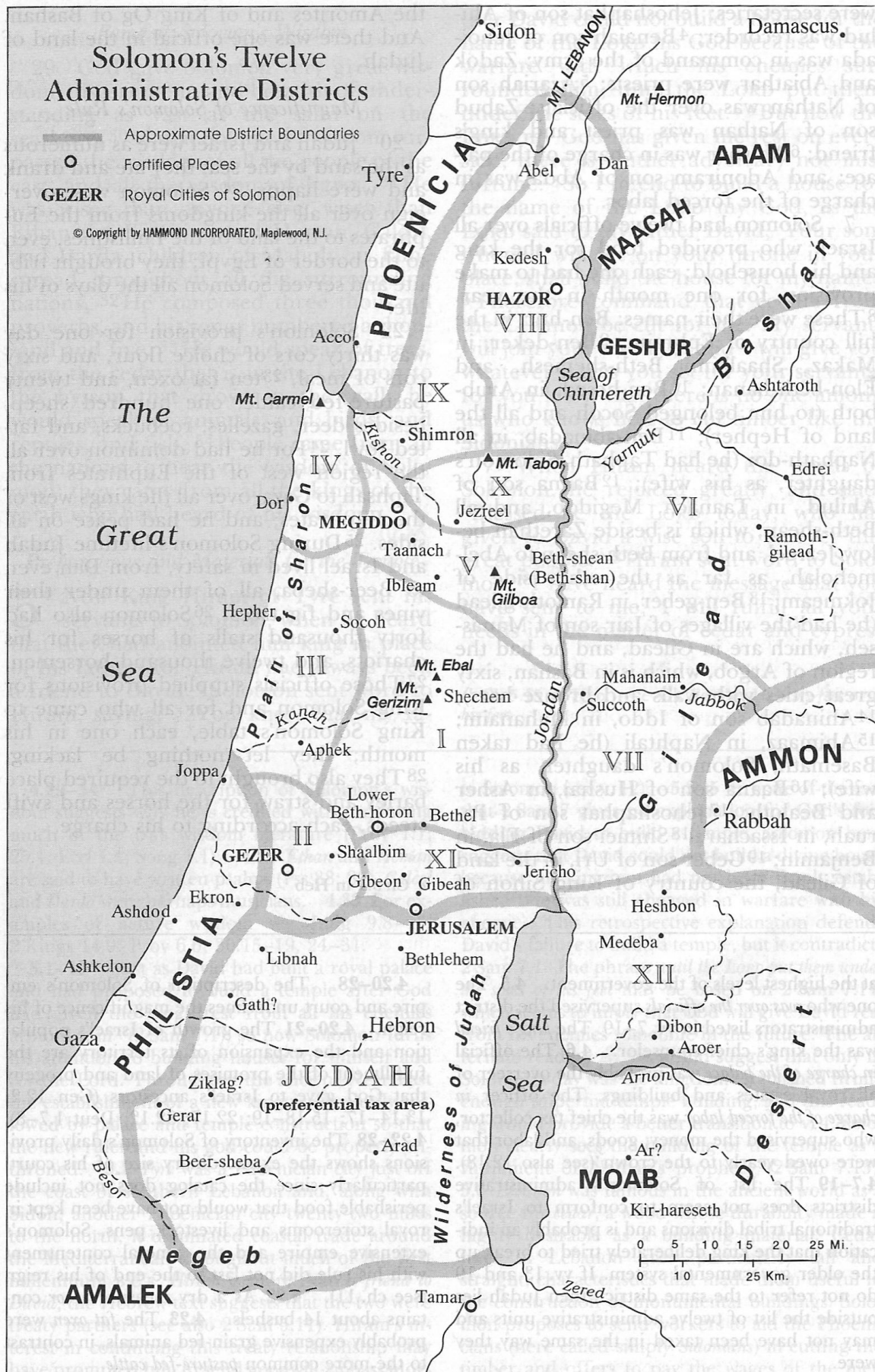
Watch the videos, “Read Scripture: 1 Samuel,” & “Read Scripture: 2 Samuel.”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVFW3wbi9pk> (1 & 2 Kings)



The Temple and palace of Solomon according to First Kings.

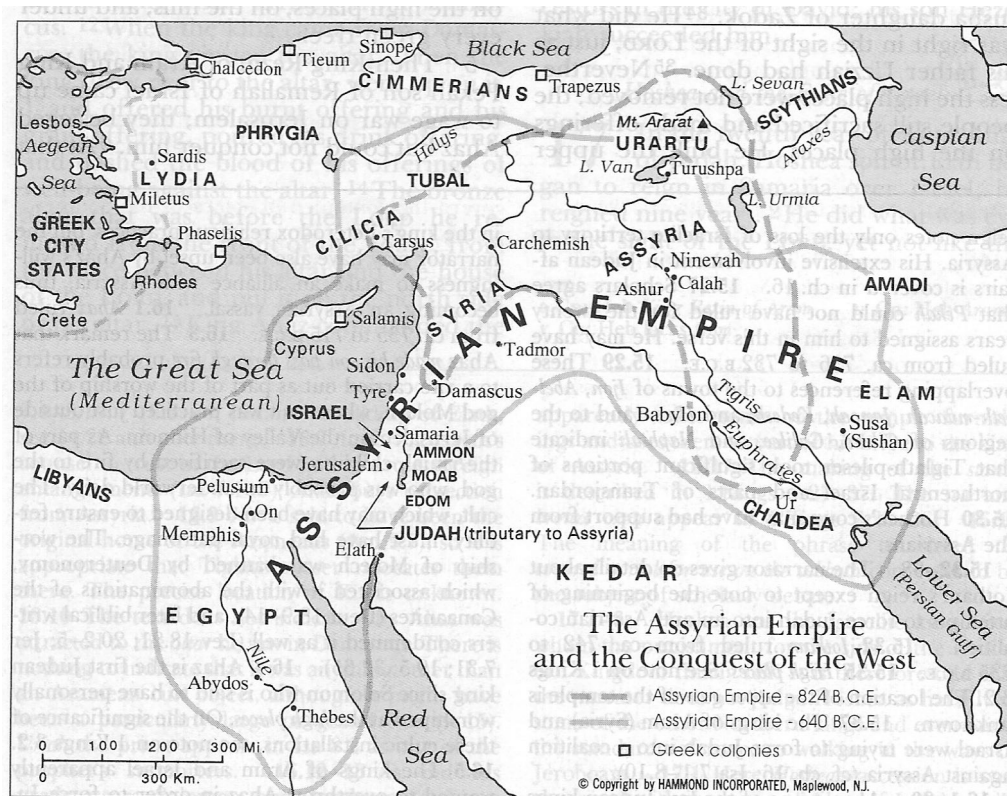
One cubit is approximately 18 inches or 1½ feet.

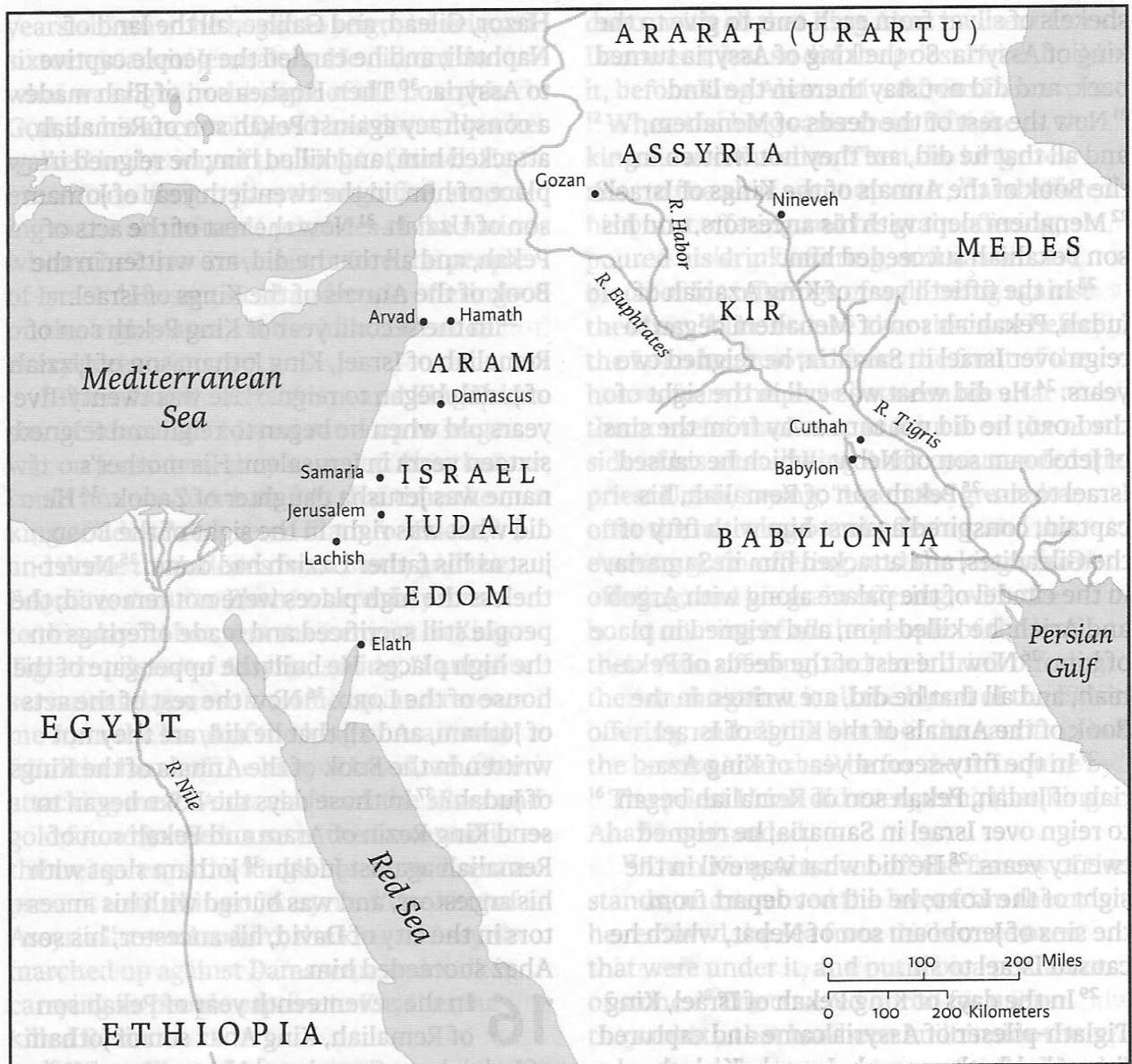






Boundaries of Israel (North) & Judah (South)





Chs 15–21: Assyria and Israel and Judah.

### Resources

HarperCollins Study Bible (NRSV), 1989

“1 Kings” & “2 Kings,” <https://www.enterthebible.org/>

*HarperCollins Bible Commentary*, James L. Mays, gen.ed. (San Francisco:HarperCollins, 2000)

### Maps

The Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV), 2010