

# Dr. Robert Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 1, Introduction – Title, Authorship and Date Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

## 1. Abstract of Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 1, Introduction – Title, Authorship and Date, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This document presents a lecture by Dr. Robert Vannoy, likely part of a course, focusing on the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings. The lecture covers the **title, general content, authorship, and sources** of the books of Kings. **Regarding content, the book is presented as having three major sections** and is structured around introductory and concluding formulae for each king, including an evaluation of their faithfulness. **The lecture explores the debate around authorship**, discussing possibilities like Jeremiah and the Deuteronomistic History theory, while also considering the sources used, such as the annals of the kings and prophetic accounts. **Finally, the date of composition is examined**, suggesting a time after Jehoiachin's release from prison but before the end of the Babylonian captivity.

**2. 12 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 1 – Double click  
icon to play in Windows media player or go to the  
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link  
there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Exodus to Exile).**



**Vannoy\_ExtoExileK\_  
Session01.mp3**

### **3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 1, Introduction – Title, Authorship and Date**

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided lecture excerpt on the books of 1 and 2 Kings.

#### **Briefing Document: Introduction to 1 & 2 Kings (Vannoy Lecture 1)**

##### **I. Overview**

This lecture provides an introduction to the books of 1 and 2 Kings, covering key aspects like the book's title, general content and structure, authorship debates, the sources used in its composition, and the possible dating of the text. The lecturer, Dr. Vannoy, emphasizes the complexity of these issues and differing scholarly opinions.

##### **II. Key Themes and Ideas**

- **Title and Division:**
  - The Hebrew title is "Malakim" (Kings).
  - The division into two books originated with the Septuagint (Greek translation), which combined Kings and Samuel into "First, Second, Third, Fourth Book of Reigns/Kingdoms." Jerome followed this division in the Vulgate.
  - The division occurs after the deaths of Ahab and Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22), which is appropriate but somewhat arbitrary.
  - "It's clear, however, that the material of the two books constitutes an original unity."
- **General Content and Structure:**
  - Kings describes the last period of pre-exilic Israel.
  - The book is divided into three major sections:
    1. 1 Kings 1-11: The reign of Solomon and the United Kingdom.
    2. 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17: The Divided Kingdom until the fall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel/Samaria).
    3. 2 Kings 18-25: The Kingdom of Judah until the destruction of Jerusalem.
  - The history of the two kingdoms in the second section is presented in a parallel fashion, moving back and forth between the reigns of contemporary kings.

- Each king's reign is presented within a framework of introductory and concluding formulas.
- Introductory Formula: age of succession, length of reign, place of rule, mother's name, assessment of the reign, and synchronization
- Concluding Formula: supplemental source, death announcement, place of burial, name of successor
- A key element of the framework is the evaluation of each king based on their faithfulness to God and the covenant, or their idolatry. Kings of Israel were judged based on their adherence to Jeroboam's calf worship.
- "Because the kings of Israel, which is the Northern Kingdom, all participated in the calf worship at Bethel and Dan, they are all said to have "walked in the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat who made Israel to sin"
- **Dating of the Formulae:**
- Scholarly debate exists over the origin of the introductory and concluding formulae.
- Martin Noth suggests they are the latest material, forming the final framework.
- Alfred Jepsen argues the opposite, that the framework is the oldest material, stemming from a "synchronistic chronicle."
- **Authorship:**
- Traditionally, Jeremiah is credited with authorship, but this is not widely accepted by modern scholars.
- The text mentions Jehoiachin's release from prison in Babylon (2 Kings 25:27-30), implying the book was written after 562 B.C.
- The last chapter of Jeremiah is very similar to the end of 2 Kings. "The words of Jeremiah end here," and then in chapter 52 you have a description of the fall of Jerusalem, which is very similar to what you have in the book of Kings. It appears that Jeremiah 52 and 2 Kings 24:18-25, 30 are derived from a common source that was not written by Jeremiah."
- The dominant theory is Martin Noth's Deuteronomistic History theory, which posits a single author or editor (Deuteronomistic historian) responsible for

Deuteronomy through 2 Kings, compiling and arranging the material according to Deuteronomistic principles during the exilic period.

- "...there's general agreement among critical scholars today that 1 and 2 Kings is a history work governed by a Deuteronomistic viewpoint by means of which the actions of the various kings of Israel and Judah are assessed."
- **Sources:**
  - The author likely used various historical sources, including:
    - "The book of the annals of the kings of Israel"
    - "The book of the annals of the kings of Judah"
    - "The Book of the Annals of Solomon"
  - The author likely drew on prophetic accounts, especially concerning Elijah and Elisha.
- **Date of Composition:**
  - Must be after Jehoiachin's release in 562 B.C.
  - Some believe the presence of phrases like "to this day" suggest pre-exilic material.
  - "There are considerations, however, that have caused some to regard the final material in the book as added to an earlier original composition. In a number of instances certain things from the pre-exilic period are said to continue in existence "to this day.""
  - A possible theory is that the book was first composed between the death of Jehoiakim and the destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.) and then completed during the exile.
  - The end of Babylonian captivity (539 B.C.) is a possible end date because it is not mentioned.
- **The Deuteronomistic Lens:**
  - The lecture notes that the books are often viewed through a "Deuteronomistic" lens, where the actions of kings are judged based on adherence to the laws and principles found in Deuteronomy.

- However, the lecturer raises concerns about dating Deuteronomy to the time of Josiah and then retroactively applying its principles to evaluate earlier kings. He questions whether the centralization of worship in Jerusalem is necessarily a requirement of Deuteronomy.
- "In other words, if Deuteronomy wasn't around till the time of Josiah, how could you assess the reign of say, Rehoboam, first king of the Southern Kingdom, on the basis of Deuteronomy if Deuteronomy doesn't exist in 931 B.C.?"

### **III. Conclusion**

The study of 1 and 2 Kings involves grappling with complex questions of authorship, sources, and dating. The books present a theologically driven history of Israel and Judah, heavily influenced by Deuteronomic principles, but the extent and nature of this influence are debated among scholars.

## **4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 1, Introduction – Title, Authorship and Date**

### **Study Guide: 1 & 2 Kings**

#### **I. Study Questions**

##### **A. Title and Placement**

1. What is the Hebrew title of the book of Kings, and what does it mean?
2. How did the Septuagint influence the division of Kings and Samuel?
3. How does Kings fit within the Former Prophets?
4. What historical period does Kings cover within pre-exilic Israel?

##### **B. General Content and Structure**

1. What are the three major sections into which Kings can be divided?
2. Describe the parallel narrative structure used in the second section of Kings.
3. List the six elements typically found in the introductory formulae for each king.
4. Explain the significance of the "high places" in the evaluation of the kings.
5. How do Noth and Jepsen differ on the origin of the framework formulae?
6. What are the three points of orientation after the division of the kingdoms?
7. Who were the three good kings of Judah?
8. Why was Ahab the strongest disapproved king?

##### **C. Authorship and Sources**

1. Who is traditionally credited with the authorship of Kings, and why is this unlikely?
2. Explain Martin Noth's Deuteronomistic History theory.
3. What is the significance of the "to this day" statements regarding the dating of Kings?
4. What are "the book of the annals of the kings of Israel" and "the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?"

5. What kind of material is derived from court annals?
6. What does the book reference regarding Solomon?
7. When was the final form of the book reached?

## **II. Quiz (Short Answer)**

1. **What is the Vulgate and how did it influence the naming conventions of the books of Samuel and Kings?**
2. **Explain the significance of the deaths of Ahab and Jehoshaphat in relation to the division between 1 and 2 Kings.**
3. **Describe the introductory and concluding formulae used in the book of Kings and explain their importance.**
4. **Why are the kings of Israel consistently evaluated negatively in the book of Kings?**
5. **What is the Deuteronomistic History theory, and who is its main proponent?**
6. **Summarize Wellhausen's view on the centralization of worship in Jerusalem and its impact on the narrative of Kings.**
7. **What are the "Annals of the Kings of Israel" and "Annals of the Kings of Judah" and how are they used in the book of Kings?**
8. **Why is the reference to Jehoiachin's release from prison important for determining the date of composition of Kings?**
9. **How do the "to this day" statements impact the dating of the book?**
10. **List the main subdivisions of 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17.**

## **III. Quiz Answer Key**

1. The Vulgate is Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible. Jerome altered the Septuagint's "First, Second, Third, Fourth Book of Reigns" to "One, Two, Three, Four Kings," influencing the numbering of Kings in the Roman Catholic tradition.
2. The deaths of Ahab and Jehoshaphat provide an appropriate place to divide the book into 1 and 2 Kings, though the division remains somewhat arbitrary as it leads to overlaps in the narratives of Ahaziah and Elijah.

3. The introductory formulae include elements like the king's age at succession, length of reign, and an evaluation of their faithfulness, while the concluding formulae often mention the king's death, burial, and the source where more of the story can be found. These elements structure the narrative around each king.
4. The kings of Israel are consistently evaluated negatively because they continued the calf worship at Bethel and Dan, following in the "way of Jeroboam, son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."
5. The Deuteronomistic History theory, proposed by Martin Noth, suggests that a single author compiled Deuteronomy through 2 Kings during the exilic period, using a Deuteronomic theology to interpret Israel's history.
6. Wellhausen argues that the idea of centralized worship in Jerusalem was a later development, implying that the condemnation of Jeroboam's altars at Bethel and Dan is a later theological construct imposed on the narrative.
7. These are mentioned as the two sources used by the author of Kings, containing records of each kings' reigns. They were probably court records or accessible historical writings.
8. The reference to Jehoiachin's release from prison provides a *terminus post quem* (earliest possible date) for the composition of at least part of the book, suggesting it was written after 562 B.C.
9. The phrase "to this day" often references that the poles carrying the ark could still be seen. They have implications for dating the text as they suggest it was written before the destruction of the Temple and the end of certain practices. This may provide reason to consider that the book was written pre-exile.
10. The three main subdivisions of 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17: 1 Kings 17-Elijah 2 Kings 2:1-Elisha 2 Kings 9-Jehu



## IV. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the challenges in determining the authorship of 1 and 2 Kings. What are the main arguments for and against different proposed authors or schools of thought?
2. Analyze the impact of the Deuteronomistic History theory on the interpretation of 1 and 2 Kings. How does this theory influence our understanding of the book's purpose and message?
3. Explore the significance of the formulae used to introduce and conclude the reigns of the kings in 1 and 2 Kings. What do these formulae reveal about the author's perspective and the book's overall structure?
4. Examine the role of prophets like Elijah and Elisha in the narrative of 1 and 2 Kings. How do these figures shape the events and themes of the book?
5. Evaluate the historical accuracy of 1 and 2 Kings in light of the potential sources used by the author and the theological agenda of the Deuteronomistic historian.

## V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Septuagint:** The Greek translation of the Old Testament.
- **Vulgate:** Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible.
- **Former Prophets:** The traditional Jewish designation for Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings.
- **Exilic Period:** The time during which the Israelites were exiled in Babylon.
- **Deuteronomistic History:** A theory proposing that Deuteronomy through 2 Kings was written or compiled by a single author or school of thought with a Deuteronomic theological perspective.
- **High Places:** Sites of worship outside of the Jerusalem Temple, often associated with idolatry.
- **Annals:** Official records or chronicles of events, particularly those of kings or royal courts.
- **Synchronization:** The practice of aligning events in different kingdoms to establish a chronological framework.
- **Terminus post quem:** Latin for "limit after which," referring to the earliest possible date for an event or composition.
- **Prophetic Biographies:** Accounts or narratives focused on the lives and actions of prophets.

## 5. FAQs on Vannoy, Exodus to Exile -- Kings, Session 1, Introduction – Title, Authorship and Date, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions About 1 and 2 Kings

- **What is the original Hebrew title of the book we know as 1 and 2 Kings, and how did it come to be divided into two parts?**
- The original Hebrew title is "Malakim," which translates to "Kings." Initially, the book was a single, unified work. The division into two parts was introduced by the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which combined Kings and Samuel into a single historical work. This division was later adopted into Hebrew texts and continues in modern Bibles.
- **What is the overall structure and content of the books of 1 and 2 Kings?**
- Kings covers the period of pre-exilic Israel, beginning with the death of David and ending with the Babylonian exile. It is naturally divided into three main sections: (1) The reign of Solomon and the united kingdom (1 Kings 1-11), (2) The divided kingdom until the fall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) to the Assyrians (1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17), and (3) The kingdom of Judah until the destruction of Jerusalem (2 Kings 18-25), with supplementary accounts of Gedeliah and Jehoiachin. The history of the divided kingdom is presented in a parallel fashion, moving back and forth between the kings of Israel and Judah.
- **What are the introductory and concluding formulae used in Kings, and what is their significance?**
- The author of Kings uses standardized formulae to introduce and conclude the accounts of each king's reign. The introductory formula typically includes the king's age at succession, length of reign, place of rule, mother's name, an assessment of the reign, and synchronization with the reign of a king in the other kingdom. The concluding formula usually references supplemental sources, provides a death announcement, place of burial, and the name of the successor. These formulae provide a structured framework for the historical narrative. The evaluation of each king, judging their faithfulness to the Lord or their descent into idolatry, is a crucial element.

- **What is the significance of the phrase "walked in the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat?"**
- Because all the Northern Kings participated in the calf worship at Bethel and Dan, they are all said to have "walked in the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat who made Israel to sin."
- **Who is traditionally credited with the authorship of 1 and 2 Kings, and what are some of the arguments for and against this attribution?**
- In the Mishnah, Jeremiah is traditionally credited with the authorship of 1 and 2 Kings. Arguments in favor include the possibility that Jeremiah, alive during the relevant period, could have written most of the book. Arguments against include that Jeremiah likely wrote the account of the deportation and imprisonment of Jehoiachin in Babylon, but Jeremiah was taken to Egypt. Additionally, Jeremiah 52 is very similar to 2 Kings 24:18-25, 30, but Jeremiah 51:64 reads, "The words of Jeremiah end here."
- **What is the Deuteronomistic History theory, and how does it relate to the authorship and interpretation of 1 and 2 Kings?**
- The Deuteronomistic History theory, popularized by Martin Noth, posits that a single author or collective (Deuteronomistic historian) compiled Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings during the exilic period. This author sifted through and arranged the material in Kings according to Deuteronomistic theological principles, evaluating the kings based on their adherence to the laws outlined in Deuteronomy, particularly regarding centralized worship. This view emphasizes a unified plan and theological interpretation of history.
- **What sources did the author of 1 and 2 Kings likely use, and how can we identify them?**
- The author of Kings likely utilized several sources, including "the book of the annals of the kings of Israel," "the book of the annals of the kings of Judah," and "the Book of the Annals of Solomon." These were probably court records or historical accounts. Additionally, the author appears to have drawn upon prophetic narratives or biographies, especially for the stories of Elijah and Elisha. References to these sources are made throughout Kings, though their precise nature remains debated.

- **When was 1 and 2 Kings likely composed, and what evidence supports this dating?**
- The earliest possible date for the composition of Kings is sometime after 562 B.C., as the book mentions the release of Jehoiachin from prison in Babylon. However, some argue for pre-exilic material being added to in post-exilic times, citing phrases like "to this day" as indicating a pre-exilic perspective. The absence of any mention of the end of the Babylonian captivity suggests the book reached its final form before 539 B.C.