



The book of 1 Kings

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

This book, as its name indicates, tells the story of the kings of the kingdom of Israel and Judah. It must be said that the Hebrew text was not divided into 1 and 2 Kings. It is with the Greek and Latin translation that the text was divided into two parts to facilitate the copying of this long manuscript. According to Jewish tradition, the prophet Jeremiah is the author of the book of Kings. One of the reasons why the authorship of this text is attributed to Jeremiah is the significant link between the subjects dealt with in this book and the text of the prophet Jeremiah. Moreover, the absence of the prophet's name in the book of Kings is a reason for this, knowing that he played a crucial role as a messenger of God during the reign of some kings. To write this book, the author refers to the texts cited such as the acts of Solomon, the book of the chronicles of Israel and Judah.

Date

As for the question of date, the text has been set between 561 and 538 BC. In fact, it has been noticed that the language of the book belongs to the period of the exile of the people of Israel in the sixth century BC. Moreover, when we read this text, we noticed that the author does not allude to the return of the Jewish people from exile or captivity.

Main theme and target audience

The text tells the story of the kings of Israel and Judah from the rise of King Solomon to the deportation of the people under the reign of Zedekiah. The text is written precisely for the people of Israel in exile among the Babylonians and Syrians. While it is true that the text is historical, it must be emphasized that it has a strong religious implication in which the author seeks to convince the people in exile that the disobedience of their leaders is the cause of their deportation.

Outline of the book

1. Unified Kingdom: the reign of King Solomon. (1 Kings 1:1 - 11:43)
2. Solomon's ascension
3. The building of the temple
4. Wealth and wisdom of Solomon
5. Decline of Solomon
6. Divided kingdom: the kings of Israel and Judah. (1 Kings 12:1-22:37)