

## Some questions and issues in interpreting 1-2 Kings

- 1. What is the relationship between these two books and other parts of the “Deuteronomistic History”:**
  - Deuteronomy
  - Joshua
  - Judges
  - 1-2 Samuel
- 2. What is the relationship between the final version of 1-2 Kings and 1-2 Chronicles, a later retelling of the monarchy story?**
- 3. What internal coherence—or lack thereof—do we find within 1-2 Kings?**
- 4. What was the process of composition of the final books?** Consider:
  - the time of Solomon’s succession
  - the time of the split between the kingdoms of Israel and Judah
  - the time of Josiah (c. 630s BCE)?
  - the time of exile (586 BCE)?
- 5. What is the ideological stance of the book toward:**
  - monarchy in general
  - Jerusalem-centered monarchy
  - the reign of David
  - the reign of Solomon
  - the reign of Jeroboam (and other Israelite kings)
  - the reign of Josiah
  - other specific kings
  - prophets, both royal (Isaiah/Jeremiah) and nonroyal (Elijah/Elisha)
- 6. Who was the narrative’s intended audience at a given time?**
  - Jerusalem elites at the times in the narrative
  - ordinary folk in and around Jerusalem
  - people of YHWH beyond Jerusalem/Judah
  - foreign kings/elites
  - later audiences during Exile and after
- 7. What is the relationship between divine and human intentions and actions throughout the narrative?**
- 8. At any given point in the story, what is the role of foreign monarchies/empires, such as Egypt, Assyria and Babylon?**
- 9. How are the relationships between the people of Jerusalem/Judah and the indigenous peoples of Canaan portrayed?**