



## 1 and 2 Kings (The NIV Application Commentary)

*By August H. Konkel*

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Readers of 1 and 2 Kings commonly approach these books as a straightforward chronology of post-Davidic Israel: the inauguration of Solomon's reign, the division of the kingdom following his death, and Israel's and Judah's ensuing kings, conflicts, captivities, and overarching spiritual decline. In reality, however, the books of the Kings fall into the collection known as the Former Prophets, and their true story and underlying theme center on such striking personalities as Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, and other divinely appointed spokesmen. It is God's interaction with his people by way of his prophets and their kings?his pleadings, his warnings, and the fulfillment of his words?that comes across again and again with forcefulness and clarity. God speaks; now will his people hear, believe, and respond? The question is as relevant for us today as it was for the ancient Israelites. Bridging the centuries, August Konkel connects past context to contemporary circumstances, helping us grasp the meaning and significance of 1 and 2 Kings and take to heart their message for us today. Most Bible commentaries take us on a one-way trip from our world to the world of the Bible. But they leave us there, assuming that we can somehow make the return journey on our own. They focus on the original meaning of the passage but don't discuss its contemporary application. The information they offer is valuable?but the job is only half done! The NIV Application Commentary Series helps bring both halves of the interpretive task together. This unique, award-winning series shows readers how to bring an ancient message into our postmodern context. It explains not only what the Bible meant but also how it speaks powerfully today.

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#### **About the Author**

A. H. Konkel the President of Providence College and Seminary in Otterburne Manitoba (Canada). He obtained the PhD degree from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1987. He served as translator for the book of Job in the New Living Translation, and has completed a commentary for Job for Tyndale House Publishers. He was a contributor to the New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis. He is married to Esther, they are the parents of four children.

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