

Kings Chiastic Structures

1 Kings 1–11, United Davidic Kingdom

1 Kings 12, Divided into Israel and Judah

1 Kings 13–16, Kings of Israel and Judah

1 Kings 17–2 Kings 7, Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 8–16, Kings of Israel and Judah

2 Kings 17, Fall of Israel

2 Kings 18–25, Judah until Exile

1 Kings 17:8–24, Widow’s Oil and Resurrection

1 Kings 17–19, No Rain, Baal, Jezebel, Sinai-Moses

(1 Kings 20–21, Syria, Ben Hadad, Naboth’s Vineyard)¹

1 Kings 22, Ahab and Jehoshaphat Inquire of Micaiah

2 Kings 1, Fire Falls from Heaven

2 Kings 2, Elijah to Heaven by Whirlwind

2 Kings 3, Jehoram and Jehoshaphat Inquire of Elisha

2 Kings 3, No Water, Water to Blood (Moses), Human Sacrifice

2 Kings 4, Widow’s Oil and resurrection

2 Kings 5–7, Elisha’s Double Portion of Mighty Works

¹ 1 Kings 20–21 do not fit neatly into the chiastic structure proposed here, and Elijah is noticeably absent between his call of Elisha at the end of 1 Kings 19 through 21:17. In this section we read of “a prophet” (1 Kings 20:13), “the prophet (20:22), “a man of God” (20:28), “a certain man of the sons of the prophets” (20:35), and “one of the prophets” (20:41) but find no reference to Elijah. Cf. Leithart’s observation on literary artistry: “texts are as structurally complex as a musical composition, which can be organized by many structures (melodic, harmonic, rhythmic) simultaneously.” Peter J. Leithart, *1 & 2 Kings*, Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2006), 154 n. 2.