

LEGEND OF THE BOOK

As any who is familiar with Westgate Commentaries will already know I express a particular interest in how each book of scripture is constructed under guidance of the Spirit of God and by the skill given to each prophetic consecrated writer or combination of writers.

In the case of the Books of Kings as with other OT books I have paid attention to the significant postscript which led me to give full effect in the commentary to the manner of divine direction of the theocracy through prophets. Let me set out the concluding postscript to the Hebrew original for your reading.

Concluding Hebrew Postscript

There are 1534 "openings of the lips" belonging to the scroll of the book of kings. And our constitution or appointment is that of a happy people whose God is the LORD. There are 53 sederim in the book. So we are appointed and "I will be her own" whispers the LORD "a wall of fire about her and I will be for Glory in her midst and the Messiah king will gather the divisions of Israel by the prophets."

God fills his temple in Old & New testaments

The commentary I have set out for the reader recognises the theocratic and continuing rule of the LORD over Israel. It gives testimony to the greatest public holiday any nation every enjoyed when Solomon dedicated the Temple at the feast of Tabernacles and the Glory of God filled the temple so that the population along with the priests stood without not just to watch but to position themselves as servant ministers of God as we all should do.

God gathers his people
In Old and New Testaments
By His prophets

The divine "whisper" about His protection and Glory and gathering of His people we too should take as the LORD'S desire for His church. He would have us conscious that we are to live *Causa gloriae Dei* and filled with His Holy Spirit –aware of his protection and taught by his prophetic preachers through whom our outreach like that of Solomon and the prophets is to the entire world. This illumination and mission is at the heart of these great books.

God is actively at work
In Old and New Testament time

Thus in a word the structure of the book of Kings as you will discover by reading through the commentary demonstrates **the principle of prophetic direction to the people of God under eight prophetic figures**. The book is not to be thought of as a multiple of chapters reading like a compiled history book-though it is truly prophetic history. The 55 dynamic events recorded along the course of the narrative bear testimony to God at work in the

progress of Israel's story. This is not a secular history but a record upon which even the Gentile historian Luke I believe models his writing when-and I speak as a man- he uses his EGENETO 44 TIMES IN Acts and 72 times in the gospels ("And it happened") to show God dynamically active in the early church.