

## OVERVIEW OF 2 KINGS

**Theme:** The book of 2 Kings continues the story of the divided kingdom's of Israel to the north and Judah to the South from the death of Ahab in the North through the fall of the Northern Kingdom (also known as Samaria) in 722 B.C. at the hands of Assyria to the fall of Judah to Babylon and the establishment of a puppet government for Judah.

**Authorship & Date:** The author and date of the book are unknown, but it was likely compiled from a number of sources after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

**Historical Context:** The book covers approximately 155 years of Israel's history from 853 B.C. through 560 B.C. The primary dates within the book are the fall of Samaria in 722 B.C. and the fall of Judah in 587 B.C.

### Key Passages:

- 2 Kings 2:9 And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."
- 2 Kings 2:1-18 The translation of Elijah and transition to Elisha
- 2 Kings 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that *there is* no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."
- 2 Kings 18:4-7 He (Hezekiah) removed the high places and broke the *sacred* pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan. 5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him...
- 2 Kings 19:14-19 Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance – God's answer vv. 20-37
- 2 Kings 22:8-11 the book of the law found, Josiah tears his cloths in response

### Broad Outline for 2 Kings (Continuing from 1 Kings)

- III. The Divided Kingdom – Period of Alliance between Judah and Israel (16:29 – 22:53 through 2 Kings 9:37)
  - A. Ahab and Elijah Messages to Israel 16:29-22:40
  - B. King of Judah – Jehoshaphat (22:41-50)
  - C. King of Israel – Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51-2 Kings 1:18)
  - D. The Ministry of Elisha under Ahaziah and Jehoram (2 Kings 2:1-8:29)
- IV. The Divided Kingdom – Decline and fall of the Northern Kingdom (Samaria/Israel)
  - A. Reign of 10 Kings of Israel and Eight Kings of Judah ( 9:1- 17:4)
  - B. The Fall of Israel (17:5-41)
- V. The Southern Kingdom Alone (2 Kings 18:1-25:30)
  - A. Reign of Hezekiah (18:1-20:21)
  - B. Two Evil Kings (21:1-21:26)
  - B. Reign of Josiah (22:1-23:30)
  - C. Judah under Egypt's influence (23:31-34)
  - D. Fall of Judah to Babylon and Deportations (24:1 – 25:30)

### Food for Thought in 2 Kings (part 1)

1. Elijah is one of two men in scripture who do not experience death (2 Kings 2:1-18). How does this contribute to the esteem held for the prophet Elijah? (Consider also Mal 4:5, Matt 11:14, 16:14, 17:3) What hope can this give us?

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2. Elisha asked for a “double portion” or Elijah’s spirit and indeed more miracles are recorded for Elisha than for Elijah and the two ministries are parallel in many ways. What applications can you make from some of the stories of Elisha?
  - a. The Widow’s Oil (4:1-7)
  - b. The Shunammite and her Son (4:8-37, 8:1-6)
  - c. The floating ax head (6:1-7)
  - d. The capture of the Syrians (6:8-23)
3. One significant story in the life of Elisha is the healing of Naaman’s Leprosy (chapter 5)
  - a. What is significant about how Naaman comes to Elisha?
  - b. How would you characterize Naaman’s response to the healing process? How does 5:17 show a change in attitude?
  - c. Why would Naaman ask forgiveness for bowing in the temple of Rimmon (v. 18).
  - d. How would you classify Gehazi’s actions in 5:20-27 and the results? (Consider also Gehazi’s presence in chapter 8).

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Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)						
King	Good or Evil	Length of Reign	Kings Passages	Chronicles Passages	Prophet(s)	Remarks/Observations
Saul	G-E	42				
David	G+	40				
Solomon	G-	40	1 Ki 1:1-11:43			Solomon's 4 <sup>th</sup> year is 480 years after the exodus (1 Ki 6:1)
Rehoboam	E	17				
Abijah		3				
Asa		41 (3)				
Jehoshaphat		25 (5)				
Jehoram	E	8				Ahab's daughter was his wife
Ahaziah	E	1				Jehoram's youngest son, (Textual error-he could not be 42 as stated in 2Chron. 22:2)
Queen Athaliah	E	6	2 Ki 11:1-11:20			Killed royal heirs to usurp the throne.
Joash (Jehoash)	G-?	40	2 Ki 11:4-12:21	2 Chron 24:1	Elijah (2 Chron 21:12) Jehoida priest	King at age 7. Repaired the temple. Did good when Jehoida was priest.
Amaziah		29 (23)				
Azariah		52 (11)				
Jotham		16 (9)				
Ahaz		16 (14)				
Hezekiah		29 (11)				
Manasseh		55				
Amon		2				
Josiah		31				
Jehoahaz		3 mo				
Jehoiakim		11				
Jehoiachin		3 mo				
Zedekiah		11				

### Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)

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King	Good or Evil	Length of Reign	Kings Passages	Chronicles Passages	Prophet(s)	Remarks/Observations
Jeroboam I	E	22				
Nadab	E	2				
Baasha	E	24				
Elah	E	2				
Zimri	E	7 days				
Tibni	E	6 (6)				
Omri	E	12				
Ahab	E	22				
Ahaziah	E	2				
Jehoram (Joram)	E	12				
Jehu	E	28				Did some good-destroyed Baal worship, but did not walk in the law of the Lord.
Jehoahaz	E	17				
Jehoash	E	16 (11)				
Jeroboam II	E	41				
Zechariah	E	6 mos.				
Shallum	E	1 mo.				
Menahem	E	10 (10)				
Pekahiah	E	(2)				
Pekah	E	20				
Hoshea	E	9				Israel falls in 722 – pretty solid historic date.