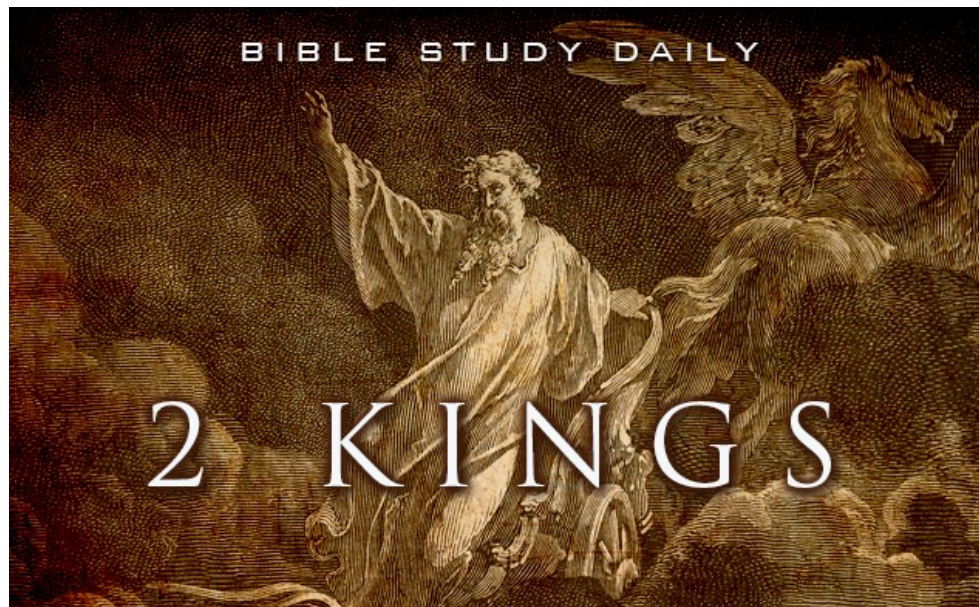




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of 2 Kings as well as my study notes for the book.



Name

The title “2 Kings” is derived from the history of the kings after Saul. Originally the books of 1 Kings and 2 Kings were a single book known simply as Kings. However when the books were translated into Greek (about 150 B.C.) the books of Samuel and Kings were combined into one large book (titled First, Second, Third, and Fourth Kingdom). Later 1 and 2 Samuel were again separated from the books of Kings. Note: in the Latin and Vulgate Bibles they are referred to as First, Second, Third, and Fourth Kings.

Author

The authorship of 1 and 2 Kings is unknown. Most scholars agree that the book contains the writing style of a single individual but there is no agreement as to whom that might be.

Genre

History

Literary Form

Historical Narrative of Royal Records

Time Frame

The record of 1 Kings and 2 Kings covers a period of approximately 410 years. 1 Kings begins around 970 B.C. with David's death, and 2 Kings ends around 560 B.C.

Emphasis

The book of 1 and 2 Kings emphasizes not just a record of the history of the people, but of the important spiritual lessons of obedience to God

- God will fulfill His kingdom purposes
- Obeying God with all our hearts is the basis of His blessings
- Turn from sin that separates us from God
- Fulfill our kingdom purpose

Outline

- The divided kingdom from Israel's Ahaziah to the fall of Israel 1:1-17:41
- The kingdom of Judah from King Hezekiah to the captivity 18:1-25:30

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 1-3)

2 Kings picks up right where 1 Kings left off. The first three chapters are a bit of a challenge because the narrative jumps around a little bit.

2 Kings 1:1 references the rebellion of Moab against Israel. Verses 2-18 record Ahaziah's fall and death. 2 Kings 2 records the end of Elijah's life and the beginning of Elisha's prophetic ministry. 2 Kings 3 jumps back to resume the events of Moab's rebellion against Israel.

2 Kings 1

In verse 1 after Ahab, king of Israel died, Moab rebelled against Israel.

Note: The discussion of Moab's rebellion against Israel resumes in 2 Kings 3:4-27.

In verses 8-18 Ahaziah falls and dies:

- Ahaziah falls out of the window of his upper room and was badly injured.
- He instructed his servants to go and inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron whether he would recover.

Note: Ekron is a Philistine city 40 miles away from Samaria. Baal-zebub (Baal-zebub means "lord of the flies") is a pagan fertility idol.

- The Lord spoke to Elijah and told him to tell the king's messengers to tell Ahaziah he would not recover.
- The king didn't like that news and sent a garrison of 50 men to bring Elijah back.
- The men of the garrison demanded Elijah return with them to Ahaziah and the Lord consumed the garrison of soldiers with fire.
- Ahaziah sent another garrison of 50 soldiers who also demanded Elijah come with them and the Lord consumed them with fire also.
- Ahaziah sent the third garrison of soldiers. The third garrison's leader pleaded respectfully to Elijah to spare their lives and angel of the Lord told Elijah to accompany this man.
- Elijah delivered the news in person to Ahaziah, and just as he had prophesied Ahaziah died.
- Since Ahaziah had no sons, his brother Joram became king of Israel in the second year of Jehoram king of Judah (852 B.C.).

Note: "Joram" is a spelling variation of "Jehoram." So at this time, the kings of Israel and Judah were both named Jehoram. Most Bible versions

distinguish between the two by referring to the king of Israel as Joram, and the king of Judah as Jehoram.

2 Kings 2

2 Kings 2 reveals Elijah's time of ministry has come to a close.

In verses 1-12 as Elijah and Elisha were travelling from Gilgal, Elijah told Elisha to stay behind while he went to Bethel. Elisha refused to leave Elijah. From Bethel, they travelled on and Elijah told Elisha to stay behind while he travelled on to Jericho. Again Elisha refused to leave Elijah. A third time Elijah told Elisha to stay behind while he travelled to Jordan and again Elisha refused to leave Elijah.

- Elijah asked what he could give Elisha before the Lord took him away and Elisha asked only for a double helping of his Spirit.
- Elijah promised that if Elisha saw him being taken up into heaven he would inherit a double portion of his Spirit, otherwise he would not.
- Elisha was with Elijah when God took him up into heaven, and his reward was the promised double helping of Elijah's spirit.

In verses 13-22 Elisha performed two miracles right away.

- The first miracle was to part the waters of the Jordan river just as Elijah had done.
- The second miracle was to purify the water of the city of Jericho.

In verses 23-25 Elisha curses the young men:

- As Elisha was traveling to Bethel some boy came out of the city making fun of him.
- Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord and bears mauled 42 of them.
- From there Elisha went first to Mount Carmel and then returned to Samaria (the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel).


2 Kings 3

2 Kings 3 resumes the account of Moab's rebellion against Israel.

In verses 1-3 Joram, son of Ahab became king of Israel. He was evil, but not as evil as his father, for he removed the pillar of Baal that his father had made.

In verses 4-27 the king of Moab had been paying a high tribute to the king of Israel, but decided to rebel.

- Joram formed an alliance with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, and the king of Edom to fight against Moab.
- Jehoshaphat suggested they inquire of God whether they would win their battle.

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- Elisha agreed to give them God's word because of Jehoshaphat.
 - Elisha performed another miracle, providing water for the men and animals.
 - Elisha told them God would hand the Moabites over to them, but that they were to completely destroy the Moabite land and all the cities.
 - The Israelites defeated the Moabites, destroyed their land, stopped up their springs, and burned their cities.
 - When the king of Moab realized he would lose the battle he sacrificed his own son as a burnt offering on the city wall. This so horrified the Israelites that they withdrew and returned home.

Some additional thoughts for consideration:

- *The alliance between Jehoshaphat and Joram was problematic. One nation was more inclined to seek God and follow him than the other. Without God's help in the battle, all three kings would have lost to the Moabites.*
- *We need to be careful when we make alliances that the people we join up with have God in their hearts and are faithful to follow Him. Without God, there is no victory!*

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 4-5)

2 Kings 4-7

2 Kings 4-7 represent a departure from the chronological record of the kings. They contrast the true followers of God with the pagan practices of the Israelites, and they record the work of the prophets of God beginning with Elisha over a period of many years.

2 Kings 4

2 Kings 4 recounts four of Elisha's miracles. There is the miracle of the widow's oil, the woman who bore a son who died and was brought back to life, the purification of the deadly stew, and the multiplied loaves of bread.

In verses 1-7 in the widow's story God provided for the family because the husband had died.

- The woman's two children were about to be sold into slavery for the payment of debt and she turned to Elisha for help.
- Elisha told her to go and borrow as many pots and containers as she could from her neighbors.
- The woman started pouring what oil she had into the containers and kept filling them until she had filled every container she had.
- Elisha told her to go and sell the oil to pay her debts and to live on the rest.

Note: This demonstrates how far the people had fallen away from God's law. Their tribe or clan should have stepped in to help the widow, but they did not.

In verses 8-37 in the story of the Shunammite woman whose son died, God restored the family by bringing the boy back to life.

- A Shunammite woman provided an upper room for Elisha to stay whenever he was visiting the city of Shunem.
- During one particular visit Elisha asked the woman what he could do for her to repay her hospitality. She said only that her husband was old and she had no children. Elisha promised that she would have a child by the next year.
- As promised the woman became pregnant and had a son.
- One year, as the child had grown, he suddenly died. The woman went to see Elisha at Mount Carmel.
- The woman met Elisha in great anguish. Elisha gave his servant, Gehazi,



his staff and told him to hurry to the boy and lay it on his face. Gehazi did as instructed but the boy did not respond.

- When Elisha arrived, he found the boy dead so he prayed to the Lord to restore him to life. The Lord restored the boy and Elisha gave him back to his mother.

In verses 38-41 in the story of the deadly stew, a group of starving prophets were saved from poisoning by a deadly stew.

- When Elisha returned from Gilgal there was famine in the land.
- A man went out into the field and gathered gourds to make stew unaware that the gourds were poisonous.
- God purified the stew through Elisha.
- The quantity of stew met the needs of the men and they had food left over.

In verses 42-44 in the story of the multiplied bread, the Lord multiplied bread to feed 100 men.

- A man brought a gift of 20 loaves of bread and Elisha told the man to give it to the prophet to eat.
- The man protested that it would not be enough, but Elisha told him to distribute the bread and that he would have bread leftover.
- So the man distributed the bread and as promised all the men were fed and there were leftovers.


2 Kings 5

2 Kings 5 recounts the healing of Naaman's leprosy, and the greed of Elisha's assistant Gehazi.

In verses 1-19 Naaman was commander of the Syrian (Aramean) army. The king of Aram (Syria) sought treatment for him by sending him to the king of Israel.

Note: The king of Aram at this time was Ben-hadad II (he reigned 19 years from 860-841 B.C.)

- Joram was upset when he read the letter from Beh-hadad thinking he was trying to pick a fight.
- When Elisha heard of the man he had Naaman brought to him and told him to dip himself in the Jordan river seven times (the Jordan River was about 25 miles away).
- Reluctant at first, Naaman's servants convinced him to follow Elisha's instructions, and when he did he was healed.
- Naaman tried to pay Elisha for being healed, but Elisha refused (healing from God is by grace, it is not for sale).

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- Naaman returned to Elisha completely healed, restored, and joyful proclaiming his belief in God (Yahweh).

Note: It is interesting that God chose to heal an Aramean, a pagan, of leprosy. Perhaps it was an indication of the extent of the apostasy that existed in Israel.

In verses 19b-27 Gehazi, Elisha's servant chased after Naaman and lied to him saying that Elisha had changed his mind about being paid.

- Naaman made the payment of 75 pounds of silver and two changes of clothes.
- When Gehazi returned Elisha wanted to know where he had been.
- Gehazi lied to Elisha, but Elisha knew and called him on the lie.
- Elisha cursed Gehazi with leprosy for trying to enrich himself, for lying, and for misrepresenting God.

Some thoughts for further consideration:

- *These miracles demonstrate God's power and willingness to help all kinds of people from all kinds of situations.*
- *What is also eminently clear is that we cannot represent ourselves as doing God's work while lying and deceiving as though we will not be found out. God knows the conditions of our hearts and He sees everything.*

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 6-8)

2 Kings 6

2 Kings 6 opens with Elisha's miracle of recovering the axe head that had fallen into the river.

- The sons of the prophets came to Elisha and said the place where they lived was too small. They asked permission to go to the Jordan River and get logs in order to build a place to live.
- Elisha gave them permission and went with them.
- While one of the men was cutting down a tree the axe head fell into the river.
- Elisha threw a stick into the river at the place where the axe head fell. The axe head floated to the surface and was retrieved.

Note: No doubt this miracle was a great encouragement to the young prophets with Elisha. It demonstrated God's willingness to provide for His people even though many of the Israelites had turned away and were worshipping Baal.

In verses 8- 33 the king of Syria (some translations say "Aramean" which is a more literal rendering of the Hebrew 'aram') was warring against Israel.

Note: The section from 2 Kings 6:8-8:15 reveals God's continued interest in the political sphere.

- Israel had escaped his grasp several times because Elisha gave advice to the king of Israel.
- This enraged the king of Aram (probably Ben-hadad II) learned he was in Dotham so he assembled his army and surrounded the city.
- Elisha's servant went out early in the morning, saw the army and reported it to Elisha.
- Elisha prayed for the Lord to blind the Syrian army and led them to Samaria where their vision was restored. Joram, the king of the Israelites asked if he should kill the prisoners, but Elisha said no.
- The Israelites fed their enemies and released them. Because of this, the Syrians stopped tried to invade Israel.

In verses 24-33 sometime later Ben-hadad, the king of Syria laid siege to Samaria causing a severe famine.

- The famine was so severe that two women agreed to eat each other's babies. They ate one woman's baby one day, but the second woman hid

her baby. The second woman complained to the king.

- The king tore his clothes and swore an oath against Elisha promising to kill him.

Note: The king was wearing sackcloth and had torn his clothes as a sign of mourning/repentance, but then he swore an oath against Elisha, God's prophet. It seems he blamed God for their predicament, and had not yet truly repented.

2 Kings 7

Elisha predicted that the siege would be over and the famine would end the next day.

- Four lepers who thought they were about to die decided to surrender to the Syrians in hopes that the Syrians would spare their lives.
- But as they got to the Syrian camp they found it empty because God had miraculously caused the Syrians to retreat leaving everything behind.
- The lepers went back to the king to give him the news of the Syrian retreat.
- The people of Samaria went out and plundered the Syrian camp.
- The siege and the famine ended just as Elisha had prophesied.

2 Kings 8


2 Kings 8 continues the story of the Shunammite woman Elisha had helped (1 Kings 4).

In verses 1-6 Elisha warned the Shunammite woman of a coming seven-year famine and told her to move away so she went to live in the land of the Philistines.

- When she returned the king found out about her from hearing the stories of Elisha's miracles.
- The king ordered her property and all the income from the property returned to her.

In verses 7-15 Ben-hadad, king of Syria was sick and he called for Elisha to tell him whether he would recover or not.

- Elisha was in Damascus (capital of Syria) when Ben-hadad fell ill.
- Ben-hadad sent his servant Hazeel with 40 camels loads of gifts to ask Elisha if he would recover.
- Elisha told Hazeel, the messenger, that the king would recover but that he would die.
- Elisha prophesied that Hazeel would do great evil to the people of Israel, burning their cities and killing the people.

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- The very next day Hazael went in to the king and smothered him with a wet towel. Hazael became king of Syria.

In verses 16-24 in the fifth year of Israel's king Joram, Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat succeeded his father as king of Judah (848-841 B.C).

- Jehoram was an evil king but the Lord would not destroy Judah because of the promise He made to David.
- Jehoram had married Athaliah (daughter of Ahab) to make a treaty with Ahab.
- Edom rebelled against Judah's control and appointed their own king.
- Jehoram died and was buried in Jerusalem and his son Ahaziah became king.

In verses 25-29 in the twelfth year of King Joram of Israel, Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.

Note: Don't confuse the two kings named Ahaziah. One was king in Israel, the other was king in Judah. They both only reigned for a year but not at the same time.

- Ahaziah was also an evil king walking in the ways of Ahab.
- He ruled in Jerusalem for only one year (841 B.C.).
- His mother was Athaliah the daughter of Ahab and granddaughter of Israel's King Omri.
- Ahaziah aligned with Joram (his uncle) in a battle against Hazael, king of Aram in Ramoth-gilead.
- Joram was wounded and returned to Jezreel.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *The story of the Shunammite woman is a great encouragement to me. God miraculously provided for her, restored her son, and restored her property. Despite the trials that she endured, she was faithful to God and kind to God's prophet Elisha. Romans 8:28 is certainly true of the Shunammite woman.*
- *It is surprising to me that through all these miracles and especially with the king of Israel being helped by God in his wars with the Syrians, that the people did not recognize God's hand. Their hearts were hardened and they did not repent and return to God even though God continued to watch out for them.*

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 9-10)

2 Kings 9

Sin is judged and God's word is fulfilled. As gruesome as these chapters are, they are all about sin being judged and God's word being fulfilled.

In verses 1-10 God had selected Jehu as king (1 Kings 19:16) and now the prophet Elisha sends a messenger to Jehu to ordain him as king over Israel (2 Kings 9:1-13).

Note: Jehu was commander of Ahab's army.

- Elisha's messenger, a young prophet, went to Jehu and privately anointed him king over Israel.
- Jehu was given instructions to strike the house of Ahab to avenge the blood shed by Jezebel.

In verses 11-13 Jehu's anointing as king is announced:

- Jehu's officers asked what message the man had and Jehu said the man had anointed him as king over Israel.
- Jehu's officers spread their cloaks under him, blew the ram's horn, and proclaimed him king.

In verses 14-15 Jehu made plans to kill Joram, king of Israel. He told his officers to make sure no one left the city to warn Joram.

In verses 16-29 the new king Jehu set out to establish his reign by killing Joram, king of Israel.

- Joram saw Jehu coming from a distance and with his nephew Ahaziah they went in their chariots to meet Jehu.
- Jehu shot Joram with an arrow killing him.
- He had Joram's body dumped in Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:1).
- Then Jehu went after king Ahaziah, killed him near Megiddo, and carried his body back to Jerusalem and buried him there (2 Chronicles 22:7).

In verses 30-37. Jehu turned his attention next to Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30). Jezebel had heard about her son Ahaziah's death.

- She leaned out her window and called out to Jehu, referring to him as Zimri.

Note: This is a reference Zimri who usurped the throne from his master (1 Kings 16:7-20).

- Jezebel's own servants threw her down into the street where she died and was eaten by dogs fulfilling 1 Kings 21:23.

2 Kings 10

2 Kings 10 records Jehu's execution of the rest of the house of Ahab.

In verses 1-6 Jehu sent a letter to the rulers of Jezreel and elders throughout Samaria saying they should prepare to fight. The leaders answered saying they would become Jehu's servants. So Jehu ordered them to kill Ahab's sons by the next day.

- The elders killed all 70 of the king's sons.
- They delivered the heads of Ahab's sons to him in Jezreel.

Note: This eliminated all those of Ahab's family, his children, and grandchildren who had led Israel into Baal worship.

- Jehu went overboard though when he also rounded up 42 officials, priests, and friends of Ahaziah and killed them.
- Jehu then rode throughout Samaria and killed all those who remained of the house of Ahab.

In verses 18-27 in his final crusade against the Baal worshippers, Jehu deceived the people into rounding up all the Baal priests for a special celebration. He had all the priests of Baal killed and destroyed the temple of Baal.

In verses 28-37 thus Jehu eliminated Baal worship in Israel, but he did not remove the golden calves nor did he stop the people from worshipping them in Bethel and Dan.


- However, because Jehu did what the Lord asked in wiping out the house of Ahab, the Lord promised that Jehu's sons would sit on the throne of Israel for four generations.

Note: The four generations of Jehu included Jehoahaz, Jehoash (Joash), Jeroboam II, and Zechariah.

- Despite this promise from God, Jehu did not follow God with all his heart nor did he turn away from the sins of Jeroboam.
- Because of Jehu's incomplete devotion to the Lord, the Lord reduced the size of Israel. Hazael, king of Aram, seized all of the land of Israel east of the Jordan River (Gadites, Reubenites, and the Manassites).
- Jehu reigned in Samaria 28 years (841-814 B.C.). When he died his son, Jehoahaz, became king.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *Jehu displayed great zeal in removing the Baal worship from the land of Israel, but he stopped short of bringing the people into proper worship*



of the Lord. As leaders, we do not become righteous by simply removing evil, we must also establish godliness. Perhaps much of the criticism of the church today exists because we point out evil, but have yet to establish godliness!

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 11-13)

2 Kings 11

1 Kings 11 describes the evil reign of Athaliah and the reforms of Jehoiada.

In verses 1-3 Athaliah, mother of Ahaziah, attempted to kill off all the descendants of the royal Davidic line by having all of her own descendants killed.

- But Jehosheba (King Joram's daughter and Ahaziah's sister) grabbed Joash, son of Ahaziah, and hid him away in the house of the Lord for six years while Athaliah ruled over the land.

Note: Some Bibles refer to Joash as Jehoash.

In verses 4-16 in the seventh year of Athaliah's reign Jehoiada, the priest and husband of Jehosheba gave orders for military commanders to assemble at the house of the Lord.

- Jehoiada showed the commanders Joash, the king's son and made them swear an oath to protect him.
- The commanders did everything Jehoiada commanded.
- Jehoiada the anointed Joash king over Judah.
- Then Jehoiada ordered the military to seize Athaliah and kill her outside the entrance to the king's palace.

In verses 17-20 Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people.

- The people tore down the house of Baal; its altars and images, and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal.
- Jehoiada appointed guards to protect the Lord's temple.
- Joash was then taken to the king's palace and sat on the throne.
- The people rejoiced because Athaliah was dead.

Note: Jezebel brought Baal worship to Israel and promoted it as the state religion. Her daughter, Athaliah brought Baal worship to Judah and had even built a temple for the worship of Baal in Jerusalem!

2 Kings 12

In verses 1-3 the covenant between God and the seven-year-old king Joash was renewed.

- Joash became king over Judah and ruled from Jerusalem for 40-years.

His mother's name was Zibiah.

- Jehoiada the priest, instructed the king and he did right in the eyes of the Lord except that he allowed the high places to remain where people offered sacrifices.

In verses 4-16 at some point, Joash ordered the priests to begin making repairs to the temple with the money that was offered in the temple.

- After 23 years nothing had been done to repair the temple so Joash ordered a locked collection box be placed at the entrance of the temple.
- After the money had been collected and counted it was paid out to workmen who completed the work.
- All the temple was repaired except for replacing the temple bowl and fixtures.

In verses 17-18 Hazael, king of Aram marched against Gath and captured it and planned to march against Jerusalem.

Note: Gath was a Philistine city that had been conquered by Judah (2 Chronicles 11:8).

- King Joash gathered all the consecrated items from the temple, all the gold from the temple treasury, and all the gold in the palace and sent it to Hazael as a bribe to keep him from attacking Jerusalem.

In verses 19-21 Joash was killed by rebellious servants, was buried in Jerusalem, and his son Amaziah ruled in his place.

Note: Joash was killed by some of his officials because he had killed Zechariah, the high priest (2 Chronicles 24:0-22).


Note: Some Bibles refer to Jehoash in 2 Kings 12:1-18, then refer to him as Joash in 2 Kings 12:19-21, but it is the same person.

2 Kings 13

2 Kings 13 records the reign of kings Jehoahaz and Jehoash in Israel, and the death of Elisha.

In verses 1-9 in Joash, king of Judah's 23rd year, Jehoahaz became king over Israel.

- He was a bad king, doing what was evil in the eyes of the Lord, just as his fathers had done.
- Jehoahaz did seek the favor of the Lord. The Lord listened to him and gave Israel some relief from the invading Syrians. But they did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam nor did they remove the Asherah pole in Samaria.
- When Jehoahaz died his son, Jehoash (also referred to as Joash) became king over Israel.



Note: Yes, this is another king named Joash, but this king is king over Israel while the other Joash was king over Judah. Also, this Joash is also referred to as Jehoash in some Bibles.

In verses 10-13 Joash became king over Israel in the 37th year of Judah's king Joash.

- Joash, king of Israel reigned 16 years in Samaria.
- He was a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord. He walked in the ways of Jeroboam causing Israel to sin.
- Joash, king of Israel died and was replaced by his son, Jeroboam.

In verses 14-22 is the record of the death of Elisha.

- Joash, king of Israel, visited Elisha because he had heard that Elisha was about to die. He wept over Elisha, so even though he was a bad king he seems to have had a respectful relationship with Elisha.
- Elisha gave Joash an oracle that Joash would defeat the Syrians (Hazeal and Ben-hadad) three times.

Note: After Elisha died, Joash did indeed recover the cities of Israel three times from the Syrians (2 Kings 13:25).

In verses 22-25 Hazeal king of Aram oppressed Israel during the reign of Jehoahaz.

- But because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the Lord did not allow the Israelites to be destroyed.
- Hazeal, king of Aram died and his son Ben-hadad became king in his place.
- Then Jehoash recaptured the cities Hazeal had taken from the Israelites.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *The future of David's royal line was nearly obliterated when queen Athaliah killed off her descendants, but God worked miraculously to preserve the Davidic line through Joash. God worked out his purpose through one loyal woman and her husband.*
- *Sometimes we think that what little we can do for the kingdom doesn't amount to much, but look what happened when one woman took action and saved a little boy. God can use us if we are faithful to Him, just like He used Jehoiada, the priest, and his wife Jehosheba.*

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 14-15)

2 Kings 14 and 15 record the reigns of several kings of Israel and Judah.

2 Kings 14

In verses 1-14 Amaziah, son of Joash began to reign in Judah in the second year of Jehoash, king of Israel.

- Amaziah was 25 years old when he became king and he ruled 29 years in Jerusalem (790-767 B.C.).
- He was a good king, doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
- But he failed to remove the high places and allowed the people to continue to make sacrifices there.
- Amaziah won a major military victory over the Edomites.
- After that, he challenged Jehoash, king of Israel. The king of Israel warned him not to come up against him but Amaziah didn't listen. Amaziah lost the battle. Jehoash broke down a major section of the wall at Jerusalem and plundered the gold and silver in the house of the Lord and the king's house.

In verses 15-16 Jehoash, king of Israel died and his son, Jeroboam ruled in his place. He was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.

In verses 17-21 15 years after the death of Israel's King Jehoash, a conspiracy rose up against Amaziah king of Judah. Amaziah was killed and his son, Azariah, ruled in his place. Azariah was 16-years old when he became king.

In verses 23-29 Jeroboam II became king of Israel in the 15th year of Amaziah king of Judah. Jeroboam II reigned in Samaria for a total of 41 years.

Note: Jeroboam II served as coregent with his father, Jehoash for nine years (793 – 782B.C.) and reigned as sole king until 753 B.C.

- Jeroboam II was an evil king. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam I.
- Jeroboam II was able to restore the borders of Israel to those similar to what existed in the time of Solomon.
- Jeroboam died and his son, Zechariah, reigned in his place.

2 Kings 15

In verses 1-7 Azariah became king of Judah in the 27th year of Israel's King Jeroboam II (767 B.C.).

Note: Azariah means “Yahweh has helped”. He is also known as Uzziah which means “Yahweh is my strength”.

- Azariah was a good king doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord, except that he did not remove the high places and continued to allow the people to make sacrifices there.
- The Lord touched him and made him a leper the rest of his life. His son, Jotham, governed the people of Judah.
- When Azariah died, Jotham reigned in his place.

In verses 8-12 Zechariah, son of Jeroboam II became king of Israel in the 38th year of Judah’s Kings Azariah.

- Zechariah was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Shallum, son of Jabesh conspired against the king, killed him, and ruled in his place.
- This fulfilled God's promise to Jehu that one of his heirs would sit on the throne of Israel for four generations.

In verses 13-15 Shallum reigned in Israel for only one month before Menahem, son of Gadi, killed him in the 39th year of Judah’s king Azariah (Uzziah) and became king in his place.

In verses 16-22 Menahem became king over Israel in the 39th year of Judah’s king Azariah and he reigned 10-years in Samaria.


- Menahem destroyed the city of Tiphshah, even killing all the pregnant women.
- He was a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Pul, king of Assyria invaded the land and Menahem gave him 75,000 pounds of silver to support him and strengthen his hold on Israel. To raise the money, Menahem taxed each of the wealthy men of Israel 20-ounces of silver.
- After Menahem died his son, Pekahiah, reigned over Israel in his place.

In verses 23-26 in the 50th year of Judah’s king Azariah, Pekahiah became king in Israel. He reigned two years in Samaria (742-740 B.C.). Pekahiah was a bad king who did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

- Pekahiah’s officer, Pekah conspired against him and killed him in the king’s palace in Samaria in 732 B.C. and became king in his place.

Note: Pekahiah also killed two men named Argob and Arieah. We don’t know exactly who these men were but they may have been princes, heirs to the throne.

In verses 27-31 in the 52nd year of Judah’s king Azariah Pekah became king in Israel and he reigned 20 years.

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- Pekah was a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
 - Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria attacked Israel and captured cities in northern Israel and deported the people to Assyria.
 - Hoshea, son of Elah conspired against the king, killed him, and reigned in his place in the 20th year of Jotham king of Judah.

In verses 32-38 in the second year of Pekah king of Israel, Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah began to reign in Jerusalem.

- He was 25-years old when he became king and reigned for 16 years in Jerusalem.
- He was a good king, doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord, except that he did not remove the high places and he allowed the people to continue to make sacrifices there.
- Jotham died and Ahaz, his son reigned in his place.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- King Ahaziah started out well, obeying God, but with the success of the military victory, pride came into his life, and that pride cost him and the people of Judah dearly when they lost the battle and all their treasures to the Israelites.
- We need to keep our eyes on the Lord and be faithful to follow him and beware lest pride enter into our lives, causing us to go places and do things we should not!

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 16-17)

2 Kings 16

Ahaz began his reign in Judah.

In verses 1-9 Ahaz became king of Judah when he was 20-years old and reigned for 16-years from Jerusalem. He became king in the 17th year of Pekah (735 B.C.) king of Israel.

- Unlike previous kings in Judah, Ahaz was a bad king. He followed the evil practices of the kings of Israel and even burned his son as a sacrifice.
- King Rezin of Syria (Aram) and Pekah the king of Israel came up against Ahaz and laid siege to Jerusalem, but they could not conquer him.
- Ahaz took money from the house of the lord and hired Tiglath-pileser III, king of Assyria to protect him. The king of Assyria marched to Damascus, captured the city, deported its people and put King Rezin to death.

In verses 10-18 Ahaz went to Damascus in Syria to meet Tiglath-pileser III.

- While Ahaz was in Assyria he saw an altar and ordered Uriah the priest to build him a copy of this pagan altar.
- The altar was built and Ahaz ordered Uriah to offer sacrifices on the pagan altar in the house of the Lord.
- Ahaz even stripped the bronze from the Temple water carts and sent it to Tiglath-pileser III in Assyria

In verses 19-20 Ahaz died, and his son Hezekiah ruled in his place.

2 Kings 17

Hoshea became king in Israel.

In verses 1-6 in Ahaz king of Judah's 12th year, Hoshea became king in Israel (732 B.C.).

- Hoshea was a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord, but not as his fathers had done.
- Shalmaneser the king of Assyria (son of Tiglath-pileser III), marched to Samaria and besieged it for three years because Hoshea had failed to pay his annual tribute.
- Shalmaneser captured Samaria in Hoshea's ninth year and took the Israelites to Assyria.

In verses 7-23 the Israelite exile occurred because the people had turned

away from God.

- They began to practice foreign religions in secret, then built high places, pillars, and Asherim and began offering sacrifices.
- They refused to listen to the prophets and rejected God's statutes.
- They worshipped foreign idols and stubbornly refused to return to God.
- They worshipped all kind of foreign gods including Baal.
- They even burned their sons and daughters as sacrificial offerings.
- Ultimately, they despised God and His commandments!

In verses 24-41 the king of Assyria brought people from other cities (Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim) and relocated them to the land of Samaria, replacing the people of Israel.

Note: Israel became a province of Assyria and was called the province of Samaria

- Because the people did not worship the Lord, the Lord sent lions among them who killed some of them.
- The Assyrian leaders believed the lions came as a result of the people not knowing the requirements of the Lord.
- So the king of Assyria sent an Israelite priest to Bethel with instructions to teach the people about God.
- But the people of the nation's living in Samaria continued to worship their own gods.

Note: 2 Kings 17:24 explains how the "Samaritans" came to exist (see John 4:9). The people of Israel intermarried with people from the nations that the King of Assyria had moved into Israel. These racially mixed Jews came to be despised by full-blooded Jews.

- The people of God did not worship the Lord or keep the laws and commandments He gave them. They continued in their sinful ways.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *Ahaz was a failure because he followed the example of the wicked people who lived nearby instead of remaining faithful to God. He was defeated by Syria and Israel and resorted to buying help from a foreign nation rather than turning to God and trusting Him. He made an attempt at worship, but rather than following God's pattern (Exodus 25:40), he modeled his altar from one he had seen in Assyria.*
- *The people of Israel led the people of Judah away from God, as they themselves became more and more corrupt.*
- *We all follow examples. We all model aspects of ourselves against others. The question is, are we modeling our lives against God and His*

standards or against sinful man?



What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 18-20)

2 Kings 18-25

These seven chapters recount the history of the remaining kings of Judah and conclude with the Babylonian captivity (586 B.C.).

2 Kings 18

In verses 1-8 Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, began to rule in Judah in the third year of Hoshea king of Israel.

- Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became king and reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years (729-686 B.C.).

Note: Hezekiah ruled as co-regent with his father Ahaz for 14 years (729-715 B.C.), then ruled alone for 18 years (715-686 B.C.)

- Hezekiah was a good king, doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He removed the high places and cut down the Asherah. Because of his faithfulness God blessed him, and he prospered.

Note: Only four kings of Judah were described as doing right in the eyes of the Lord; Asa (1 Kings 15:11), Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 17:3), Josiah (2 Kings 22:2), and Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:3).

In verses 8-12 in Hezekiah's fourth year, the seventh year of Israel's King Hoshea, Shalmaneser king of Assyria besieged Samaria for three years and captured it. Shalmaneser deported the Israelites. This occurred because the Israelites did not obey God.

Note: This is the second recounting of the fall and deportation of the Israelites in Samaria (2 Kings 17:3-6).

In verses 13-18 in the 14th year of Hezekiah, Sennacherib, king of Assyria came up against Judah and captured many of the fortified cities.

- Hezekiah attempted to pay a tribute of 300 talents (11 tons) of silver and 30 talents (1 ton) of gold to the Assyrians to get them to leave Jerusalem alone. They stripped the gold and silver from the house of the Lord and the house of the king.
- Despite receiving the tribute Sennacherib sent a large army to Jerusalem demanding surrender.

In verses 19-37 Rabshakeh, the commander of the Assyrian army challenged the people of Jerusalem saying, do you trust Egypt to come and save you, or do you trust your God to save you?

- Rabshakeh even claimed God had commanded the Assyrians to attack

and destroy Jerusalem.

2 Kings 19

In verses 1-7 Hezekiah seeks counsel from Isaiah:

- When Hezekiah received the message from Rabshakeh, Hezekiah tore his clothes and went into the temple to pray.
- Isaiah, son of Amoz reassured the king saying that God would protect them and that Rabshakeh would return home where he would be killed.

In verses 8-13 Sennacherib issues a final threat to Hezekiah:

- Sennacherib said no other nations' gods had protected them from the Assyrians, and no one would come to rescue the people of Judah.

In verses 14-19 when Hezekiah received the letter from Sennacherib he went to the temple of the Lord:

- Hezekiah returned to the house of the Lord weeping and praying to God.

In verses 20-34 the Lord answers Hezekiah's prayer:

- God heard Hezekiah's prayer and through Isaiah again reassured Hezekiah that God would protect the remnant in Jerusalem.

In verses 35-37 that night an angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 Assyrians. The Assyrians left Judah and returned to Nineveh.

- Years later (681 B.C.) while Sennacherib was worshipping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adram-melech and Sharezer killed him and escaped to Ararat. Then Sennacherib's son Esar-haddon became king in his place.

Note: Ararat is about 300 miles north of Nineveh.

2 Kings 20


In verses 1-11 Hezekiah became sick and was near death.

Note: The phrase "in those days" in verse 1 refers to the time when Sennacherib had invaded Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:13-19:36).

- Once again Hezekiah prayed to God and wept.
- God heard his prayer and through Isaiah healed Hezekiah and promised him 15 more years of life.
- The Lord also promised to deliver Hezekiah and the city of Jerusalem from the Assyrians.

In verses 12-19 during that time (shortly after Hezekiah's illness) the Merodach-baladan, king of Babylon came to Judah.

- Hezekiah showed him everything in the treasure house and all the storehouses.

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- When Isaiah confronted Hezekiah, Hezekiah referred to what he had shown the king of Babylon as my house and my treasures.
 - Isaiah told Hezekiah there would come a day when everything in his palace would be carried away by the king of Babylon.
 - Hezekiah considered this as good news thinking there would be peace during his reign.

In verses 20-21 Hezekiah died and his son, Manasseh, reigned in his place.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *Hezekiah was the first good king of Judah to remove the high places and the altars. With his example, he began the process of bringing the people back to God. A mini-revival. He was also a praying king. He reached out to God through prayer, earnestly seeking God's will and wisdom.*
- *Despite all these admirable traits, Hezekiah eventually came to think of the treasures of Judah as his, when he described them as 'mine'. Even the thought of the country being conquered at some time in the future didn't bother him as long as he had peace in 'his' days.*
- *Leaders would do well today to model Hezekiah's faithfulness to God, his willingness to humble himself in prayer, and his trust in God to fulfill His promises. That said, we must be careful lest the is of pride enter in and make us think that success is our doing, or that these are our treasures. It is all the Lord's. We are just here for a short period of time to shepherd that which the Lord entrusts to us.*

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 21-23)

2 Kings 21-23 continue the recounting of the kings of Judah.

2 Kings 21

In verses 1-18 Manasseh became king in Judah after his father Hezekiah died. He was 12-years old when he became king and he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem.

- Manasseh was a bad king who did more evil than all the kings of Israel or Judah.
- He reversed all the progress made by his father by rebuilding the high places, he erected altars for Baal, he even placed altars inside the house of the Lord.
- He burned his son as a sacrifice, made carvings of Asherah, and consulted mediums and spiritists.
- Manasseh led the people of Judah astray more than the kings of Israel and the people who the Lord had destroyed before the people of Israel.
- Because of Manasseh, the Lord decreed destruction on the people of Judah.
- Manasseh died and was buried in his own garden tomb. His son, Amon reigned in his place.

In verses 19-26 Amon was 22-years old when he became king of Judah. Amon reigned two years in Jerusalem.

- He was a bad king, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- He abandoned God.
- His own servants rose up against him and killed him.
- The king's supporters killed those who had conspired against Amon and appointed Amon's son, Josiah to rule in his place.
- Amon was buried in the garden of Uzza.

Note: According to Jewish tradition, Manasseh put the prophet Isaiah to death by having him sawn in two.

2 Kings 22

In verses 1-20 Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 31 years.

- He was a good king, doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

- Josiah instituted reforms to rebuild the house of the Lord.
- Hilkiah the priest found a copy of the Law, read it and shared it with Josiah.
- Josiah tore his clothes and repented when he heard the words of the Law.
- Huldah, the prophetess, advised the king that because he had repented the Lord would withhold his judgment on Judah until after he had died.

2 Kings 23

Josiah brought all the elders of Judah together in Jerusalem along with the priest and prophets and read the book of the Law (probably sections of the Pentateuch).

- Josiah renewed the covenant with the Lord to keep his commands, decrees, and statutes.
- Josiah continued with his reforms bringing the worship of God back to the people of Judah. He even reinstated the Passover celebration.
- He removed and burned all of the high places, Asherah, and other items that involved worship of other gods.
- He did away with horses that had been dedicated to sun gods.
- Josiah even removed shrines in Samaria that the kings of Israel had made.

In verses 28-30 Pharaoh Neco II of Egypt came to help the king of Assyria (609 B.C.).

Note: Egypt and Assyria were allies against Babylon.

- Josiah died in a battle against Pharaoh Neco of Egypt at Megiddo.
- His servants brought him back to Jerusalem for burial.

In verses 31-33 Josiah's son, Jehoahaz was made king and reigned in Judah. Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he began to reign in Judah.


- He was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- He reigned only three months before Pharaoh Neco removed him.

In verses 34-36 Neco made Josiah's son, Eliakim king in his place, and changed his name to Jehoiakim.

- Jehoiakim reigned eleven years in Judah. He was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he became king of Judah and he reigned 11 years from Jerusalem.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *Evil king Ahaz fathered Hezekiah who followed the Lord, but he fathered*



the evil king Manasseh. Manasseh was evil early in his reign, but we will see him repent when we get to 2 Chronicles 33:12. The evil king Manasseh fathered the good king Josiah, but Josiah turned away from God later in his life (2 Chronicles 33:12).

- *Manasseh tore down everything that his father Hezekiah built up, and Josiah tore down everything that his father Manasseh built up Josiah had God's word when the copy of the Law was found and that drove him to rebuild the house of the Lord, but with all this having and hearing God's Word the people failed to heed God's Word over time. A leader can do a lot to bring people back to God, but unless the people repent of their sin and follow God faithfully, they will soon turn back to their old sinful ways once again.*

What I Noticed Today (2 Kings 24-25)

2 Kings 24-25 conclude the recounting of the kings of Judah.

2 Kings 24

In verses 1-7 Nebuchadnezzar came up against Judah during Jehoiakim's reign and enslaved them for three years.

Note: Nebuchadnezzar was the son of Nabopolassar. He became king of Babylon in 605 B.C. and attacked Judah later in the same year. He also took captives back to Babylon including Daniel and his friends (Daniel 1:1-3).

- After three years Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.

Note: We know from 2 Chronicles 36:6 that Jehoiakim was taken to Babylon as a prisoner.

- The Lord sent Chaldean, Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite raiders against Jehoiakim to destroy Judah because of the sins of Manasseh.
- Jehoiakim died and his son Jehoiachin reigned in his place.

In verse 7 Pharaoh (Neco) did not march into Judah again. He lost all the territory from the Brook of Egypt to the Euphrates River to Nebuchadnezzar (this included all of Palestine).

In verses 8-9 Jehoiachin was 18 years old when he began to reign and he reigned for only three months. He was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.

In verses 10-17 Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, and Jehoiachin surrendered.

- Nebuchadnezzar carried away to Babylon the king and his household along with all the remaining treasures in the house of the Lord and the king's house. Only the poorest people were left in Jerusalem.
- Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiachin's son, Mattaniah, king of Judah and changed his name to Zedekiah.

In verses 18-21 Zedekiah was 21-years old when he became king and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem (597-586 B.C.).

- He was a bad king doing evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- After some time, Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.

Note: We know from Jeremiah 37-38 that Zedekiah made an alliance with Pharaoh Hophra of Egypt.

2 Kings 25

In verses 1-7 to put down the rebellion of Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar came up and besieged Jerusalem in the 10th month of Zedekiah's ninth year (588 B.C.).

- The Babylonians breached the city walls (July 16, 586 B.C.).
- Zedekiah had escaped from the city and was pursued by the Chaldeans. They captured him and brought him to Nebuchadnezzar.
- Nebuchadnezzar had all his sons killed in front of him, then gouged out his eyes, shackled him, and took him to Babylon in chains.

In verses 8-21 on the seventh day of the fifth month of the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar (August 16, 586 B.C.) Nebuchadnezzar sent his commander Nebuzaradan to burn Jerusalem.

- Nebuzaradan burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the other large homes in Jerusalem, broke down sections of the city walls, and broke up all the bronze, fire pans, and bowls and took them to Babylon.
- Nebuzaradan took most of the population captive back to Babylon, leaving only the poorest farmers to tend the fields.
- Nebuzaradan also captured Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest, court officials, and 60 men from the city back to Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah where all 72 men were executed.

In verses 22-26 of the few poor people left, Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah to be governor over the city.


- Gedaliah told the commanders of the armies to serve the king of Babylon and live in the land.
- Because of his support of Babylon, Ishmael, a member of the royal family, came with 10 men and killed Gedaliah and his followers. Then they fled and went to Egypt because they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

Note: We know from Jeremiah 41:1-43:7 that Jeremiah was forced to go with them to Egypt.

In verses 27-30 in the thirty-seventh year of his exile (560 B.C.), Jehoiachin was released from prison by King Evil-Merdoch of Babylon, and for the rest of his life, he ate at the king's table.

Some thoughts for additional consideration:

- *Judah had been moving farther and farther away from God. Despite the attempts of a couple kings to bring the people back to God, the people reverted to their old ways of following the foreign gods. Ultimately, God allowed the complete destruction of the city and the exile of the majority of the population. Suddenly they went from living in a country that had been blessed by God, to living in a pagan country of idolaters.*

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- *The self-destructive path of the people of Judah may be painfully obvious to us looking back at this history I wonder why the people didn't realize what a dangerous road they were on, return to God, and beg his forgiveness? The answer seems to be they were stubborn and persisted in their sin.*
 - *As I look around our country today I wonder if people have the sense that I do, that we are moving further and further away from God just like the people of Judah did? And I wonder too if people think God will not judge us as he did the people of Judah?*