

# 2 Kings - Introduction & Background

II. The divided kingdom from the North-South division until the Assyrian invasion (1 Kings 12:1—2 Kings 17:41)

(12) Israel during Elijah's Ministry (1 Kings 17:1—2 Kings 1:18)

(F) Elijah predicted Ahaziah's death for consulting a pagan deity regarding his illness and showed that Yahweh is the one who brings fire from heaven (2 Kings 1:1-18)

(13) Israel during Elisha's Ministry (2 Kings 2:1—8:15)

(A) Elijah's rapture and Elisha receives the double portion (2:1-18)

(B) Elisha purifies the water and curses the disrespectful youths (2:19-25)

(C) Jehoram, Jehoshaphat and the King of the Edom defeat the rebel vassal Mesha of Moab through Elisha's miraculous provision of water in the wilderness of the Edom (3:1-27)

(D) Elisha's miracles reveal Yahweh as both provider and life giver (2 Kings 4:1—6:7)

(a) Provision of oil to the widow (4:1-7)

(b) Provision of the child to the barren couple (4:8-17)

(c) Resuscitation of the child (4:18-37)

(d) Elisha purifies the poisonous pot of stew (4:38-41)

(e) Elisha multiplies the loaves (4:42-44)

(f) Elisha takes away and gives leprosy (5:1-27)

(i) Leprosy taken from Naaman of Aram (5:1-14)

(ii) Leprosy given to Gehazi (5:15-27)

(g) Elisha floats the lost axe head (6:1-7)

(E) Elisha's miracles reveal Yahweh as protector (2 Kings 6:8—8:6)

(a) Through Elisha the Lord protected Israel from the Arameans (6:8-23)

(b) Through Elisha the Lord protected Samaria from the Arameans (6:24—7:20)

(i) After Samaria was besieged by the Syrians food became scarce causing Israel to resort to cannibalism and Jehoram to blame these circumstances on Elisha (6:24-31)

(ii) Elisha was aware that Jehoram wanted to kill him (6:32-33)

(iii) Elisha predicted an end to the famine within one day (7:1-2)

(iv) As announced by four lepers, the Lord fulfills Elisha's word and delivered the city (7:3-20)

- (c) Elisha used his influence with Jehoram to restore the land to the landlord woman (8:1-6)
- (F) Elisha predicts Ben-hadad's death and weeps over Hazael's wickedness that he will perpetrate against Israel as king over Aram (8:7-15)
- (14) Jehoram's reign in the South (8:16-24)
- (15) Ahaziah's reign in the South (8:25-29)
- (16) Jehu's reign in the North (9:1—10:36)
  - (A) Elisha anoints Jehu (9:1-10)
  - (B) Jehu's friends embrace Jehu as king (9:11-13)
  - (C) In fulfillment of God's prophetic program Jehu kills Jehoram of Israel, Ahaziah of Judah, and Jezebel (9:14-37)
  - (D) In fulfillment of God's prophetic program Jehu kills Ahab's 70 sons and Ahaziah's 42 relatives (10:1-14)
  - (E) Jehu aligned with Jehonadab of the Rechabites as he completed the eradication of Ahab's house (10:15-17)
  - (F) Jehu eradicates Baal worshipers (10:18-28)
  - (G) Jehu's retention of false religion (10:29-31)
  - (H) Transjordan eroded by the neighboring nations (10:32-36)
- (17) Athaliah's reign in the South (11:1-21)
- (18) Joash's reign in the South (12:1-21)
- (19) Jehoahaz's reign in the North (13:1-9)
- (20) Jehoash's reign in the North (13:10-25)
- (21) Amaziah's reign in the South (14:1-22)
- (22) Jeroboam II's reign in the North (14:23-29)
- (23) Uzziah's reign in the South (15:1-7)
- (24) Zachariah's reign in the North (15:8-12)
- (25) Shallum's reign in the North (15:13-15)
- (26) Menahem's reign in the North (15:16-22)
- (27) Pekahiah's reign in the North (15:23-26)
- (28) Pekah's reign in the North (15:27-31)
- (29) Jotham's reign in the South (15:32-38)
- (30) Ahaz's reign in the South (16:1-20)
- (31) Hoshea's reign in the North (17:1-6)
- (32) Historical and theological explanation for the fall of Israel (17:7-41)
  - (A) Reasons (17:7-17)
    - (a) Followed the other gods (17:7-12)
    - (b) Rejected prophets (17:13-14)
    - (c) Rejected the covenant (17:15-17)

- (B) Results (17:18)
- (C) Judah failed to learn from Israel's example (17:19-23)
- (D) Syncretism during the Assyrian captivity (17:24-41)

### III. The Southern kingdom from the time of the Assyrian captivity to the Babylonian captivity (2 Kings 18:1—25:30)

- (1) Hezekiah's reign (18:1—20:21)
  - (A) Hezekiah's reforms (18:1-12)
  - (B) Sennacherib invades Judah (18:13-37)
  - (C) God delivers Judah from Sennacherib (19:1-37)
  - (D) Hezekiah's request for an extension of life (20:1-11)
  - (E) Hezekiah foolishly discloses the temple treasures to the Babylonians (20:12-21)
- (2) Manasseh's reign (21:1-18)
- (3) Amon's reign (21:19-26)
- (4) Josiah's reign (2 Kings 22:1—23:30)
  - (A) Josiah repairs the Temple (22:1-7)
  - (B) A copy of the covenant is found in the Temple causing Josiah to mourn (22:8-20)
  - (C) Josiah's covenant renewal (23:1-3)
  - (D) Josiah's reforms (23:4-25)
  - (E) God's imminent judgment against Judah still remains irrevocable (23:26-27)
  - (F) Pharaoh Neco kills Josiah (23:28-30)
- (5) Reign of Jehoahaz (23:31-33)
- (6) Reign of Jehoiakim (23:34—24:7)
- (7) Reign of Jehoiachin (24:8-16)
- (8) Reign of Zedekiah (24:17—25:7)
- (9) The Babylonian captivity (25:8-30)
  - (A) Destruction of Jerusalem (25:8-17)
  - (B) Third deportation (25:18-21)
  - (C) Nebuchadnezzar installs puppet governor Gedaliah to encourage the exiles to submit to Babylon (25:22-24)
  - (D) The exiles migrate to Egypt after assassinating Gedaliah (25:25-26)
  - (E) Evil-merodach releases Jehoiachin from house arrest (25:27-30)

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1 Kings records of the division of the kingdom; 2 Kings records the collapse of the kingdom. 1 Kings covers about 150 years; 2 Kings covers about 300 years. Considering the

two books as a unit, they open with King David and close with the king of Babylon. 2 Kings opens with the rapture of righteous Elijah to heaven and closes with the deportation of unrighteous Jews to Babylon. 1 & 2 Kings are the books of man's rule over God's kingdom—and the results were not good.

The moral teaching of these books is to show man his inability to rule himself and the world. In these four historical books we get a very graphic view of the rise and fall of the kingdom of Israel. The king and the prophet take the place of the priest as God's instruments of communication. 1 Kings 22:51 told us that "Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria...." We pick up the story in 2 Kings at this point. (The division is due to the length of the scrolls, not a break in subject matter. Ahaziah's reign in Israel is begun in 1 Kings and concluded in 2 Kings.)

### **The Message of 2 Kings**

Though people fail God, God will not fail people. This is a foundational to the doctrine of Eternal Security, which the NT expounds on more fully.

2 Kings also focuses on the victory of God. There is much evidence of this as well. The reason for God's victory is traceable to His promise, with an oath, to bless Abraham's descendants (Gen. 22:16-18). He will allow nothing to keep Him from fulfilling that promise. His covenant with Abraham underlies all of His dealings with the Israelites that this book documents. The Davidic Covenant grew out of the Abrahamic Covenant. God's covenants rested on His love.

The method by which God accomplished victory was by using the prophets as His messengers to communicate with His people, and by using direct intervention to control their history.

The evidence of God's victory is the continued existence of the physical seed of Abraham. The Jews still exist today. Arnold Toynbee, the historian, called the Jews a "fossil race." But God has preserved them to fulfill His purposes on the earth. So even though they failed Him, He has not failed them.

## Dates of the Rulers of Judah and Israel

Adapted from Edwin R. Thiele, *A Chronology of the Hebrew Kings*, p. 75.

<b>Judah</b>		<b>Israel</b>	
Rehoboam	930-913	<i>Jeroboam I</i>	930-909
Abijah	913-910	Nadab	909-908
Asa	910-869	<i>Baasha</i>	908-886
Jehoshaphat, coregency with Asa	872-869	Eiah	886-885
Jehoshaphat, total reign	872-848	<i>Zimri</i>	885
Jehoram, coregency with Jehoshaphat	853-848	Tibni	885-880
Jehoram, total reign	853-841	<i>Omri</i> , overlap with Tibni	885-874
Ahaziah	841	Ahab	874-853
Athaliah	841-835	Ahaziah	853-852
Jehoash	835-796	Jehoram	852-841
Amaziah	796-767	<i>Jehu</i>	841-814
Azariah, overlap with Amaziah	792-767	Jehoahaz	814-798
Azariah, total reign	792-740	Joash	798-782
Jotham, coregency with Azariah	750-740	Jeroboam II, coregency with Jehoash	793-782
Jotham, official reign	750-735	Jeroboam II, total reign	793-753
Jotham, total years	750-732	Zachariah	753
Ahaz, overlap with Jotham	735-732	<i>Shallum</i>	752
Ahaz, official years	732-715	<i>Menahem</i> , overlap with Pekah	752-742
Hezekiah	715-686	Pekah, overlap with Menahem and Pekahiah	752-732
Manasseh, coregency	697-686	Pekahiah, overlap with Pekah	742-740
Manasseh, total reign	697-642	<i>Hosea</i>	732-723
Amon	642-640		
Josiah	640-609		
Jehoahaz	609		
Jehoiakim	609-598		
Jehoiachin	598-597		
Zedekiah	597-586		

The rulers in italics above began new dynasties.