

Book 12: 2 Kings

The 270 Years from the Prophet Elisha to the End of the Kingdom

- Like 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings were originally one book called simply *the Book of Kings*.
- Tradition says they were written by Jeremiah the prophet.
- He would have had both the information and the motivation needed to do the work.

- This book tells the story of the blessings that come from serving God faithfully and the trouble that comes from disobedience.
- It ends with the nation turning from God entirely and being taken off into captivity.

2 Kings: The Facts

- This book tells of the second and last person in the Bible who did not die – the prophet Elijah.
- It tells of the only man in the Bible that we know for a fact to be bald – the prophet Elisha.
 - Half the book tells the story of his life and ministry.

- 2 Kings tells us about Manasseh, the king with the longest reign in Scripture – 55 years.
 - He was also the worst king Judah ever had.
- This book also tells of the only woman to rule in Judah – a wicked queen named Athaliah.

- In 2 Kings we find 17 times when the kings “did evil in the sight of the Lord”.
- By contrast only 6 times do we read that a king “did what was right in the sight of the Lord.”

- The time period of 2 Kings overlaps the time of the Prophets:
 - All the Major Prophets (at least the beginning of Ezekiel and Daniel).
 - All the Minor Prophets, except for Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi - who wrote after the return from captivity.

2 Kings: Key People

- **Elisha** – the prophet who succeeded Elijah
- **Jehu** – the army commander who destroyed the family of Ahab and became king.
- **Joash** – the only descendant of David to survive the murderous plots of his grandmother Athaliah. He became a godly king.
2 Kings: Key People
- **Hezekiah** – the good king of Judah who called upon God when the Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem. God intervened and defeated their vast army.
- **Josiah** – the last godly king. In his time the Law was rediscovered and revival broke out in the kingdom.

2 Kings: The Falls

- **The Fall of Israel** – 722 B.C.
 - (2 Kings 17) Taken captive by the Assyrians. The northern kingdom had not a single godly king.
- **The Fall of Jerusalem** – 586 B.C.
 - (2 Kings 25) Taken captive into Babylon. The good kings Judah had could not keep the nation from eventually going down the same slippery slope.

2 Kings: Outline

- The Ministry of Elisha
 - 2 Kings 1 – 9
- The Decline and Fall of Israel
 - 2 Kings 10 – 17
- The Decline and Fall of Judah
 - 2 Kings 18 – 25

2 Kings: Quotes

“Of Israel’s nineteen kings, none was a true worshiper of Jehovah; of the twenty kings of Judah that succeeded Solomon, only seven were godly. Although the kingdom of Judah experienced periodic revivals ... the people always returned to their wicked ways.”

– *Tim LaHaye*

“In 2 Kings dependence on other gods led to death for both individuals and nations. If our security rests on our own wealth or military might, we are trusting in a house built on sand. The failures of the kings of Israel and Judah remind Christians to fix their trust on God alone.”

– *The Holman Bible Handbook*

“Elisha had requested a double portion of the Spirit God had given to Elijah. ... Interestingly, we have records of Elisha’s performing twice as many miracles as Elijah. I would settle for half a portion!”

– *Chuck Smith*

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2 Kings 22

King Josiah’s Servants Rediscover the Book of the Law

- 22:1-2 Introducing Josiah
- 22:3-7 Repairing the Temple
- 22:8-10 Hilkiyah Finds the Book
- 22:11-13 Josiah’s Tender Heart
- 22:14-20 God Speaks through Huldah the Prophetess