

2 Kings

As the King Goes

So Goes the Nation

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Scope of Events

- The first half of 2 Kings (chs. 1-13) is largely a record of Elisha's ministry of 66 years, following Elijah's last days and ascension (1:1-2:12)
- The second half is an account of events leading up to the fall of Samaria and captivity of Israel (chs. 14-17) and Judah alone for 135 years, its decline, the fall of Jerusalem and captivity in Babylon (chs. 18-25)

Time & Scope of Events

- Covers about 331 years
- Chs. 1-17: In Israel—Ahaziah to Hoshea, 176 years (897-721 BC)
- Chs. 18-25: In Judah—Hezekiah to Zedekiah, 155 years (2 King closes on events ~566-562 BC)

Time & Scope of Events

- Gives the history of Israel from the death of Ahab (ch. 1) to the captivity of Israel by the Assyrians in 721 BC (ch. 17)
- Records the history of Judah from Hezekiah (ch. 18) to the captivity of Judah by the Babylonians in 586 BC

Time & Scope of Events

- Altogether 1 & 2 Kings covers about 430 years—from the death of David to the fall of Judah
- After the division in 975 BC, Judah had 19 kings—Rehoboam to Zedekiah—all descendants of David
- Israel also had 19 kings—Jeroboam to Hoshea—from seven families

1 & 2 Kings Summarized

- Begins with King David and ends with the king of Babylon
- Opens with the temple built and closes with the temple burned
- Begins with David's successor on the throne and ends with David's last successor, Jehoiachin dethroned, finally released after 37 years in prison

The Kings Assessed

- Judah had four good kings:
 - Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah
- Judah's worst kings:
 - Ahaz and Manasseh
- All of Israel's kings were bad
 - Ahab was the worst

Key Word

- “evil” (24 times)
 - 3:2; 24:19
- The history of Israel and Judah following Solomon’s death was dominated by evil: evil kings, evil worldview, evil religion, rejection of God’s prophets, and loss of God’s Word

Key Phrases

- “man of God” (35 times)
 - 1:9-13; 23:16-17
- “according to the word” (10 times)
 - 1:17; 24:2
- “right in the sight of the Lord” (7 times)
 - 12:2; 22:2

Verses to Remember

- 7:9
- 17:22-23
- 21:12-15
- 23:25-27

Chapters to Remember

- Chapter 5
 - Naaman & Gehazi
- Chapter 21
 - Manasseh's evil
 - Restoration (2 Chron. 33)
- Chapter 25
 - Destruction of Jerusalem and Babylonian captivity

Outline

Ch. 1: Ahaziah, Elijah, and fire

Ch. 2: Elijah taken up by a whirlwind;
Mantle on Elisha

Ch. 3: Jehoram, war against Moab

Ch. 4: Oil, Shunammite, Stew, Bread

Ch. 5: Naaman, leprosy, and lessons

Ch. 6: Chariots of fire (vv. 16-17)

Outline

Ch. 7: Flour and barley for a shekel

Ch. 8: Hazael, King of Aram;
Jehoram; Ahaziah

Ch. 9: Jehu kills Joram, Ahaziah,
Jezebel (v. 35)

Ch. 10: Jehu destroys Ahab's family
and Baal worship; Jehu's
idolatry (vv. 29-31)

Outline

- Ch. 11: Athaliah; young Joash made king of Judah
- Ch. 12: Joash repaired temple
- Ch. 13: Kings Jehoahaz and Jehoash; Elisha dies
- Ch. 14: King Jehoash defeats King Amaziah; Azariah; Jereboam II
- Ch. 15: Many kings; Assyria strikes

Outline

- Ch. 16: Ahaz copies the altar at Damascus
- Ch. 17: Assyria takes Israel into captivity
- Ch. 18: Sennacherib of Assyria challenges King Hezekiah
- Ch. 19: Hezekiah's prayer; the Lord slays 185,000 Assyrians; Sennacherib's death

Outline

Ch. 20: Hezekiah cured, treasures, dies

Ch. 21: Manasseh's wickedness; Amon

Ch. 22: Josiah finds Law

Ch. 23: Josiah's reforms; Jehoahaz;
Jehoiakim

Ch. 24: Nebuchadnezzar defeats
Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin

Ch. 25: Judah in Babylonian captivity

Messages

- Protection from apostasy begins with one's response to God's Word
 - the kings, priests, and people of the divided kingdom rejected God's Word
- All lasting solutions to national problems (political, economic, social, security, religious) begin with the right spiritual solutions—revealed in God's Word

Messages

- God uses prepared people, like Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hezekiah, and Josiah
 - Preparation comes from positive responses to God's Word
- The people and ideas that we spend our time and energy with will eventually influence and control us— for good or for evil

Trivia

Who worked more miracles, Elijah or Elisha?

Memory Verse Review

Judges—1 Kings

- Judges 17:6; 21:25
- Ruth 2:12
- 1 Sam. 16:7b—“The Lord...”
- 2 Sam. 22:47a—“The Lord lives...”
- 1 Kings 22:14—“As the Lord lives...”

Memory Verse for 2 Kings

7:9

“ . . . We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news and we remain silent. . . . ”