

2 Kings

"From Division to Exile"

Background Information

(for background info, see handout on 1 Kings)

Time Covered and Outline

Because of the exacting chronology of the royal records, we can be fairly certain that this book covers almost exactly 434 years. It begins with the death of King Ahab of Israel and ends with Judah (the southern kingdom) being carried into Babylonian captivity.

A simple outline would be

- I. Final works of Elijah the prophet (1-2)
- II. The works of Elisha the prophet (3-13)
- III. Israel's decline and captivity (14-17)
- IV. Judah's decline and captivity (18-25)

Six Well-Known Accounts from 2 Kings

Elijah's translation (2)
Naaman healed (5)
Jezebel's awful fate (9)
Sennacherib's army destroyed (19)
Hezekiah is healed (20)
Josiah's reforms (22-23)

A more specific outline would follow the individual kings (see chart at bottom of page).

Major Themes

- God's judgment of sinful nations
- God's prophets and their faithful work
- God's faithfulness to His covenant with David
- The power of evil in every level of society (kings and commoners)

The Kings of Second Kings

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51-53; 2 Kings 1:1-18)
Jehoram, or Joram (2:1-8:15)
Jehu (9:1-10:36)
Jehoahaz (13:1-9)
Jehoash, or Joash (13:10-25)
Jeroboam II (14:23-29)
Zechariah (15:8-12)
Shallum (15:13-15)
Pekahiah (15:23-26)
Pekah (15:27-31)
Hoshea (17:1-41)

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Joram, or Jehoram (8:16-24; 2 Chron. 21:1-20)
Ahaziah (8:25-29; 2 Chron. 22:1-9)
Queen Athalia (11:1-16; 2 Chron. 22:10-23:21)
Joash, or Jehoash (11:17-12:21; 2 Chron. 23:1-24:27)
Amaziah (14:1-22; 2 Chron. 25:1-28)
Uzziah, or Azariah (15:1-7; 2 Chron. 26:1-23)
Jotham (15:32-38; 2 Chron. 27:1-9)
Ahaz (16:1-20; 2 Chron. 28:1-27)
Hezekiah (18:1-20:21; 2 Chron. 29:1-32:33)
Manasseh (21:1-18; 2 Chron. 33:1-20)
Amon (21:19-26; 2 Chron. 33:21-25)
Josiah (22:1-23:30; 2 Chron. 34:1-35:27)
Jehoahaz (23:31-33; 2 Chron. 36:1-4)
Jehoiakim (23:34-24:7; 2 Chron. 36:1-4)
Jehoiachin (24:8-16; 2 Chron. 36:9-10)
Zedekiah (24:18-25:21; 2 Chron. 36:11-21)

God’s Character in 2 Kings

Compassionate (13:23)

The One God (19:15)

Wrath (19:28-37; 22:17)

Jesus in 2 Kings

The Jewish remnant spared in Babylonian captivity preserved the royal line of David to the Messiah who was to come and deliver the nation.

Also, God’s judgment on His people is a hint at the judgment Jesus would bring.

Key Words in 2 Kings

Anger (Hebrew *’aph*), can also mean “nostril.” 13:3; 17:11; 21:6; 21:15; 22:17; 23:26; 24:20

High places (Hebrew *bamah*); 12:3; 14:4; 15:4; 17:9; 23:8; 23:15; 23:20

Elsewhere in the World...

In about 800 BC, Homer composes *The Iliad*.

Near 750 BC, the city of Rome is founded.

668 BC, boxing is added to the Olympic games in Athens (see 1 Corinthians 9:26)

Elsewhere in Scripture...

(See chart on front page for how much of 2 Chronicles expands on 2 Kings)

Many of the prophetic books occur during the time of 2 Kings. Here is where they seem to best fit:

Joel	2 Kings 11-12	Jeremiah 52	2 Kings 25
Amos	2 Kings 15	Lamentations	2 Kings 25
Jonah	2 Kings 15	Psalms 74 & 79	2 Kings 25
Hosea	2 Kings 15		
Isaiah 1-35	2 Kings 16		
Isaiah 36-39	2 Kings 19-20		
Nahum	2 Kings 19		
Zephaniah	2 Kings 22		
Jeremiah 1-12	2 Kings 22		
Habakkuk	2 Kings 22		
Jeremiah 13-20	2 Kings 23		
Daniel 1-2	2 Kings 23		
Jeremiah 48-49*	2 Kings 24		
Ezekiel 1-25	2 Kings 24		

*other later chapters in Jeremiah also may fit here.