

*From the Garden to Glory*

# 2 Kings & 2 Chronicles

*Since 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles are parallel texts, we will be studying both of them together.*

## 2 Kings

**Author:** Unknown

**Timeline:** c. 853 - 587 B.C.

**Location:** Israel and Judah

**Category:** Historical

**Theme:** God's Warnings are not to be Ignored

### Overview:

2 Kings gives the account of the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah until their fall and captivity. It demonstrates God's pursuit of His people through the message of His prophets.

## 2 Chronicles

**Author:** Unknown

**Timeline:** c. 970 - 609 B.C.

**Location:** Judah

**Category:** Historical

**Theme:** A Look at the Kings of Judah

### Overview:

The book of 2 Chronicles parallels the books of 1 and 2 Kings. The focus of 2 Chronicles is on the Southern Kingdom of Judah where some of the kings patterned their lives and reigns after the life and reign of King David. The kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel are mentioned only

as they relate to the history of Judah. The emphasis of 2 Chronicles is *spiritual* while that of Kings is *historical*. In 2 Chronicles there are details which are not found in 2 Kings, and many of the passages are enlarged upon.

### **Introduction:**

As we begin our study of the book of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. According to Jeff Lasseigne, the theme of 2 Kings is, "Sin Brings Discipline." When has this been true in your own life? How did this impact you?
2. The books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles focus on the tragic consequences of sin. What are some of the tragic consequences of sin that you see in our world today? How do you avoid these in your own life?
3. 2 Chronicles begins and ends with the building of a temple. What are you "building" at this point in your life?
4. Some of the kings in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles patterned their lives after King David. Think about someone who has influenced your life in a positive way. What were the qualities you admired in this person? How have you emulated these qualities in your own life?

### **Ministry of Elisha**

Read 2 Kings 2 and 4-5

1. Look at 2:9. What was Elisha's request? How would your life be changed if you had a "double portion" of the *Lord's* Spirit upon you?

2. Summarize each of the following miracles found in chapter 4. Note any similarities you notice with miracles which were performed by our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The increase of the widow's oil
  - Raising the Shunammite's son
  - Purifying the pot of stew
  - Feeding one hundred men
3. Look at 5:1-14. According to Pastor Damian Kyle, "Elisha treated Naaman like a *leper* and Naaman didn't like it... Naaman was more concerned with his dignity; Elisha was more concerned with his disease." Ask the Lord to search *your* heart. Is there an area of your life where you are more concerned with protecting your dignity than with being cleansed from your sin? If so, confess it, repent and walk in the purity of forgiveness.

The following explanation of the Divided Monarchy in Israel is from So That's Why! Bible:

*Israel was more united under the monarchy than ever before, but the old tribal loyalties remained, at least under the surface. Saul from the tribe of Benjamin, had surrounded himself with other Benjamites (1 Samuel 22:7), as had David members of his own tribe of Judah. These two tribes remained rivals throughout the united monarchy. While resentment over the forced labor imposed by Solomon precipitated the division of Israel into different parts (1 Kings 12:1-17), the divisions were there already.*

*The division of Israel into two kingdoms led to some resentment and even threat of war; but war was averted and before long the two new nations were diplomatic allies. However, the glory years of Solomon's united monarchy were ended, replaced by a divided monarchy--a northern kingdom, which from this time on assumed the old name "Israel," and a southern kingdom of Judah.*

*The division of the kingdom left David's empire in shambles. Not only was Israel split, but the other nations that David had conquered soon achieved independence. The continuing weakness of the Egyptian and Assyrian empires allowed the weakened land of Israel to survive, but Aram-Damascus (Syria) just to the northeast was a growing threat.*

## **The Divided Kingdom: The Kings of Israel**

1. There were twenty kings who ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel between 930 B.C. and 722 B.C. We will look briefly at ten of them. Note what you learn about each of these kings.
  - 930-909 B.C. Jeroboam I (1 Kings 12:25-33)
  - 908-886 B.C. Baasha (1 Kings 15:25-16:6)
  - 885-874 B.C. Omri (1 Kings 16:21-28)
  - 874-853 B.C. Ahab (1 Kings 16:29-34, 21:17-29, 22:37-40)
  - 853-852 B.C. Ahaziah (1 Kings 22:51-2 Kings 1:18)
  - 852-841 B.C. Jehoram, also known as Joram (2 Kings 3:1-3)
  - 814-798 B.C. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1-9)
  - 793-753 B.C. Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23-29)
  - 752-742 B.C. Menahem (2 Kings 15:16-22)
  - 732-722 B.C. Hoshea (2 Kings 17:1-4)
2. What is the most important lesson you learned as you studied the lives of these kings who reigned in Israel hundreds of years ago? How can you apply this lesson in a practical way in *your* life today?

## **Fall of Israel**

Read 2 Kings 17

1. Look at verse 4. According to Walvoord and Zuck, "In view of (God's) miraculous liberating redemption of the nation from Egyptian bondage, their sin was even more serious. How ironic that the last king Hoshea had sought help from Egypt (v. 4) when 724 years earlier (1446 B.C.) Israel had finally escaped from Egypt." Is there an area of

sin or bondage in your life from which you "escaped", but that you are now looking at or even moving back toward? What can you do to "flee"? Be specific.

2. Look at verses 5-23. Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians. What were the causes of Israel's captivity?

- verses 7-8
- verses 9-12
- verses 14-16
- verse 17
- verses 19-23

3. Look at verse 24. When Assyria conquered an enemy, they would *deport* the leading citizens out of the land and then *import* influential Assyrians into the conquered land. Why would this be an effective strategy? How might *your* enemy attempt to use this technique in your life?

## **The Divided Kingdom: The Kings of Judah**

1. There were twenty kings who ruled over the Southern Kingdom of Judah between 930 B.C. and 586 B.C. We will look briefly at ten of them. Note what you learn about each of these kings.

- 930-913 B.C. Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 9:31-10:19; 12:1-16)
- 913-910 B.C. Abijah (2 Chronicles 13)
- 910-869 B.C. Asa (2 Chronicles 14:1-11; 15:1-19; 16:1-14)
- 872-848 B.C. Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 19:1-7; 20:1-37)

- 792-740 B.C. Azariah, also known as Uzziah (2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26:1-23)
- 735-715 B.C. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles 28:1-27)
- 715-686 B.C. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles 29:1-2; 2 Chronicles 32:20-33)
- 697-642 B.C. Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-18; 2 Chronicles 33:1-20)
- 640-609 B.C. Josiah (2 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 34; 35:20-27)
- 597-586 B.C. Zedekiah (2 Chronicles 36:11-13)

2. List one important lesson you learned as you studied the lives of these kings who reigned in Judah hundreds of years ago. How can you apply this lesson in a practical way in *your* life today?

## **Fall of Judah**

Read 2 Kings 23:26-25:30 and 2 Chronicles 35:20-36:21

1. Look at 2 Chronicles 36:13. King Zedekiah is described as having "stiffened his neck and hardened his heart". The New Believer's Bible translates this passage, "Zedekiah was a hard and stubborn man, refusing to return to the Lord, the God of Israel." Is there an area of your life where you are being hard or stubborn? Is there an issue in your life where you are refusing to turn to the Lord and, instead demand to have your own way? Ask the Lord to search your heart. Confess anything He reveals and *purpose* in your heart to follow the Lord God.
2. Look at 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. What was the condition of the nation at this time? What was the Lord's response?

3. Look at 2 Kings 25 and/or 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 and summarize the fall and captivity of Judah. Consider this comment by John Mac Arthur:

*The dismantling and destruction of Jerusalem was accomplished by the Babylonians in an orderly progression...First, Jerusalem's most important buildings were burned...Second, the Babylonian Army tore down Jerusalem's outer walls, the city's main defense... Third, Nebuzaradan organized and led a forced march of remaining Judeans into exile in Babylon...Fourth, the items made of precious metals in the temple were carried away to Babylon...Fifth, Nebuzaradan took Jerusalem's remaining leaders to Riblah, where (he) had them executed. This insured that they would never lead another rebellion against Babylon.*

How has the enemy attempted to come against *you* in an "orderly progression"? What did you do (or could you have done) to protect yourself?

## **Summary**

As you conclude your study of the books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of these books? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
2. What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
3. List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: