

2 Kings

AUTHOR: Unknown. Possibly Jeremiah or a group of prophets.

TIME WRITTEN: Most of 1 & 2 Kings probably was written just prior to 586 B.C.. However, chapters 24 and 25 were written after Jehoiachin's release, perhaps about 550 B.C.

POSITION IN THE BIBLE: • 12th Book in the Bible

- 12th book in the Old Testament
- 7th of 12 books of History
- 11 has preceded it. 54 to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 25

VERSES: 719

WORDS: 23,532

KEY WORD: Captivities of the Kingdom

TWO KEY PASSAGES:

1. **2 kings 17:22-23** - For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.
2. **2 Kings 23:27** - the LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"

KEY CHAPTER: 2 Kings 25

1. The last chapter of 2 kings records the utter destruction of Jerusalem and its glorious temple.
2. Only the poor of Israel are left, and even some of them flee for their lives to Egypt.
3. Hope remains alive with the remnant in Babylonian Captivity as Evil-Merodach frees Jehoiachin from prison and treats him kindly.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT 2 KINGS:

1. 2 Kings continues the drama begun in 1 Kings.
2. The majority of 2 Kings was written before the Babylonian Captivity (2 Kings 17:34-45). However, the last two chapters (24-25) were added to the book after the Babylonian Captivity was over and were written by someone other than Jeremiah.
 - a. The last recorded event in 2 Kings is the release of Jehoiachin (2 Kings 25:27-30) which takes place in 560 B.C.
 - b. The prophet Jeremiah was forced to flee to Egypt (Jeremiah 43:1-8)
 - c. It is interesting to observe that 2 Kings 24:18 is almost the same as Jeremiah 52.
3. Time frames in 2 Kings include:
 - a. Chapters 1-17 cover the 131 years from 853 B.C. (King Ahaziah) of Israel) to 722 B.C., the Assyrian Captivity of Israel.
 - b. Chapters 18-25 cover the 155 years from the beginning of Hezekiah's reign in 715 B.C. to the release of Jehoiachin in Babylon in 560 B.C.
4. Kingdom Facts:
 - a. The United Kingdom of Israel lasted for 120 years (1053-933 B.C.)
 - b. The Northern Kingdom of Israel existed for another 210 years (931-721 B.C.) before being taken captive by the Assyrians. Total length was 210 years.

5. The Southern Kingdom of Judah continued for an additional 135 years (721-586 B.C.) before entering Babylonian captivity. Total length was 345 years.
6. The total kingdom period lasted some 467 years (1053-586 B.C.)
7. The Northern Kingdom (Israel)
- Nine different dynasties (Family line of kings) came to power over its 210 year history. All but one of the 19 dynasties were created by murdering the previous king.
 - Nineteen kings reigned. See Chart: **KINGS OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM**

• Jereboam	• Ahaziah	• Zechariah
• Nadab	• Jehoram	• Shallum
• Baasha	• Jehu	• Menahem
• Elah	• Jehoahaz	• Pekahiah
• Zimri	• Jehoash	• Pekah
• Omri	• Jeroboam II	• Hoshea
• Ahab		
 - The character of each of the nineteen kings was bad.
 - Prophets in the Northern Kingdom.

• Elijah	• Amos
• Elisha	• Hosea
8. The Southern Kingdom (Judah)
- The twenty kings of Judah reign as one continuous dynasty in spite of the efforts of Athaliah, Jezebel's daughter, to kill all the descendants of David. Only Joash survived.
 - Twenty kings reigned during the 345 year period of the Kingdom of Judah. See Chart: **KINGS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM**

• Rehoboam	• Joash	• Amon
• Abijah	• Amaziah	• Josiah
• Asa	• Uzziah	• Jehoahaz
• Jehoshaphat	• Jotham	• Jehoiachim
• Jehoram	• Ahaz	• Jehoiachin
• Ahaziah	• Hezekiah	• Zedekiah
• Athaliah	• Manasseh	
 - Eight of the twenty kings had good character.

• Asa	• Uzziah
• Jehoshaphat	• Jotham
• Joash	• Hezekiah
• Amaziah	• Josiah
 - Prophets in the Southern Kingdom.

• Obadiah	• Nahum
• Joel	• Zephaniah
• Isaiah	• Jeremiah
• Micah	• Habakkuk
- See Chart: **HISTORICAL SETTINGS & APPROXIMATE DATES OF THE PROPHETS (Parts 1 & 2)**

SUMMARY OF 2 KINGS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Without interruption 2 Kings continues the narrative of 1 Kings.
- B. The twin kingdoms of Israel and Judah pursue a collision course with captivity as the glory of the once united kingdom becomes increasingly diminished.
 - 1. Division has led to decline and now ends in double deportation with:
 - a. Israel captured by Assyria.
 - b. Judah captured by Babylon.
- C. 2 Kings traces the history of:
 - 1. The Divided Kingdom. (1-17)
 - 2. The Surviving Kingdom. (18-25)

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM. (1-17)

- A. Chapters 1-17 record the story of Israel's corruption in a relentless succession of bad kings from Ahaziah to Hoshea. The situation of Judah during this time (Jehoram to Ahaz) is somewhat better, but far from ideal.
 - 1. This dark period in the northern kingdom of Israel is interrupted only by the ministries of such godly prophets as Elijah and Elisha.
 - 2. At the end of Elijah's miraculous ministry, Elisha is installed and authenticated as his successors.
 - a. He is a force for righteousness in a nation that never served the true God or worshiped at the temple in Jerusalem.
 - b. Elisha's ministry is characterized by miraculous provisions of sustenance and life.
 - c. Through him God demonstrates His gracious care for the nation, and His concern for any person who desires to come to Him.
 - d. However, like his forerunner Elijah, Elisha is basically rejected by Israel's leadership.
- B. Elisha instructs one of his prophetic assistants to anoint Jehu king over Israel.
 - 1. Jehu fulfills the prophecies concerning Ahab's descendants by putting them to death. He killed:
 - a. Ahab's wife, Jezebel.
 - b. Ahab's sons.
 - c. The priests of Baal.
 - 2. However, Jehu does not depart from the calf worship set up by Jereboam.
- C. The loss of the house of Ahab means:
 - 1. The alienation of Israel and Judah.
 - 2. The weakening of both Israel and Judah.
- D. Israel's enemies begin to get the upper hand.
 - 1. Meanwhile in Judah, Jezebel's daughter Athaliah kills all the descendants of David, except for Joash, and usurps the throne.
 - 2. Jehoiada the priests eventually removes her from the throne and places Joash in power.
 - 3. Joash restores the temple and serves God.
- E. Syria gains control over Israel.
 - 1. There is no response to God's chastisement.
 - a. The kings and people in Israel refuse to repent.

- b. Nevertheless, there is a period of restoration under Jereboam II, but the continuing series of wicked kings in Israel leads to its overthrow by Assyria.

THE SURVIVING KINGDOM. (18-25)

- A. Of Israel's 19 kings:
 - 1. Not one is righteous in God's sight.
 - 2. All but one of its nine dynasties (family line of kings) are created by murdering the previous king.
- B. In Judah, where there is only one dynasty (the house of David), 8 of its 20 rules do what is right before God.
 - 1. Nevertheless, Judah's collapse finally comes, resulting in the Babylonian exile.
 - 2. Chapters 18-25 of 2 Kings read more easily than chapters 1-17 because alternating the histories of the northern and southern kingdoms is no longer necessary because only Judah remains.
- C. Six years before the overthrow of Israel's capital of Samaria, Hezekiah becomes king of Judah.
 - 1. Because of Hezekiah's exemplary faith and reforms;
 - a. God spares Jerusalem from Assyria.
 - b. God brings a measure of prosperity to Judah.
 - 2. However, Hezekiah's son Manasseh is so idolatrous that his long reign leads to the downfall of Judah.
 - a. Even Josiah's later reforms cannot stem the tide of evil.
 - b. The four kings who succeed him are extremely wicked. They are:
 - 1. Amon.
 - 2. Josiah.
 - 3. Jehoahaz.
 - 4. Jehoiakim.
 - 3. Judgment comes with three deportations to Babylon, some 900 miles away.
 - a. The third comes in 586 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem and the temple.
 - b. Still, the book of 2 Kings ends on a note of hope with God preserving a remnant for Himself.