

2 Kings - Introduction

Contents

- In the Hebrew OT, these 2 books, 1st & 2nd Kings are one. The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew OT in the 3rd century BC) artificially divided the Book of Kings into 2 books in the middle of the story of King Ahaziah of Israel. Since 1 & 2 Kings were originally 1 book, see my introduction to 1 Kings – author, date of writing, etc.....
- 2nd Kings, therefore, is a continuation of 1st Kings. Continuing where 1st Kings ended, 2nd Kings traces the history & the decline of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah up to the time of their captivity at the hands of the Assyrians (722 BC) and Babylonians respectively (586 BC).
- 2 Kings also records the miracle-filled ministry of the Prophet Elisha, the spiritual successor of Elijah. To this period belongs the ascent of prophecy – writings of the major and minor prophets that have since been canonized.

Major Themes of 2 Kings

- The purpose of the 2 books is not only to record the history of these kings of Israel & Judah. Its purpose is also to teach important spiritual lessons. 3 major themes of 2nd Kings:
 - God's Sovereignty. The writer repeatedly demonstrates that God is the sovereign mover of history (HIS-story). He controls world events, even causing the acts of evil men and kings to serve His purposes.
 - God's Grace and Judgment. Israel's and Judah's failures to keep God's laws, specifically His Covenant, resulted in judgment. God examined the hearts of the kings of Judah and Israel to see how well they conformed to His precepts and commands. The divine law in Gal 6:7 is enforced: *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
 - God's Faithfulness. God does not change. He guaranteed David an eternal dynasty (2 Sam 7) and therefore preserved David's royal line.

Outline of 2 Kings

Chapter 1	The Lord's Judgment on Ahaziah
Chapter 2	From Elijah to Elisha, The Passing of The Mantle
Chapter 3	Victory over Moab
Chapter 4	The Miracles of Elisha
Chapter 5	The Healing of Naaman
Chapter 6	Divine Protection of Elisha
Chapter 7	Divine Deliverance of Samaria
Chapter 8	New Kings in Syria and Judah
Chapter 9	Jehu's Rise to Power
Chapter 10	Judgment on the House of Ahab
Chapter 11	The Reigns of Athaliah & Joash (Jehoash) in Judah
Chapter 12	The Repairs of the Temple
Chapter 13	The Reigns of Jehoahaz & Jehoash (Joash) in Israel
Chapter 14	The Reigns of Amaziah in Judah & Jeroboam II in Israel
Chapter 15	Unstable Monarchy in Israel
Chapter 16	The Reign of Ahaz in Judah
Chapter 17	The Fall of Israel
Chapter 18	The Reign of Hezekiah & Threat of Sennacherib
Chapter 19	Divine Deliverance of Jerusalem
Chapter 20	Hezekiah's Illness, Recovery, Failure & Death
Chapter 21	The Reigns of Manasseh & Amon
Chapter 22	The Reign of Josiah & Discovery of God's Word
Chapter 23	The Reforms of Josiah and Reigns of Jehoahaz & Jehoiakim
Chapter 24	Subjection by Babylon and Reigns of Jehoiachin & Zedekiah
Chapter 25	The Fall of Jerusalem & Captivity of Judah