

## 2 Kings “Kingdoms Collapse”

### I. Introduction to 2 Kings

- A. 2 Kings picks up where 1 Kings ended.
  - 1. The two books were originally one book
  - 2. They were divided due to the size of the scroll.
  
- B. 2 Kings Begins
  - 1. The reign of Ahaziah (850 B.C.)
    - a. The story follows the northern tribes to their end in 722 B.C.
  - 2. The Reign of Jehoshaphat
    - a. The story follows the southern tribes to their end in 587 B.C.
  
- C. 2 Kings tells the story of what will kill a nation
  - 1. The same thing that destroyed the northern tribes of Israel, also destroyed the southern tribe of Judah
  - 2. Those same sins will destroy any nation.
  
- D. 2 Kings lists:
  - 1. 11 kings of Israel over 130 years
  - 2. 17 kings of Judah over 260 years
    - a. Seven of Judah’s kings were godly
    - b. These seven account for 222 years of their history
      - i. Jehoshaphat - 25 years
      - ii. Joash - 40 years
      - iii. Amaziah - 29 years
      - iv. Uzziah - 52 years
      - v. Jotham - 16 years
      - vi. Hezekiah - 29 years
      - vii. Josiah - 31 years
    - c. It was the godly practices of these men and the revivals that took place during their reigns that preserved the nation of Judah for 135 years after the collapse of Israel.
  
- E. All in all 2 Kings covers a period of 260 (plus or minus) years and records the collapse of two nations.
  - 1. J. Sidlow Baxter declares the main theme to be: “Willful sin brings a woeful end”.
    - a. “Sinning despite warning brings ruin without remedy. Inexcusable wrong brings inescapable wrath. Abused privilege incurs increased penalty. The deeper the guilt, the heavier the stroke. Correction may be resisted, but retribution cannot be evaded. . .All these thoughts crowd in upon our minds when we read 2 Kings. As we see the battered broken tribes of Israel dragged behind the chariots of their heathen conquerors, we surely cannot fail to see that the central message of this book is that *willful sin brings a woeful end.*”
    - b. Two verses to keep in mind as we study 2 Kings:
      - i. Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.”
      - ii. Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

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### II. Why Study 2 Kings

- A. 2 Kings continues the unbroken storyline of the history of Israel.
  - 1. 2 Kings will record the downfall of both Israel (the northern tribes) and Judah (the southern tribes which include the tribe of Benjamin)
  
- B. 2 Kings gives the backdrop for the majority of the Prophetic Books.
  - 1. Of the 16 prophetic books, ten are dated
  - 2. Of the ten dated, eight fit within the time frame of 2 Kings
  - 3. Of the six undated, four clearly fit during the time period of 2 Kings
    - a. Although undated by its author, Jonah is a character in 2 Kings
    - b. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Micah and Zephaniah are dated for us
    - c. From content we can also include Joel, Nahum and Haggai
  - 4. A good understanding of 2 Kings will help give you a better understanding of the prophetic writings.
  - 5. The era of 2 Kings could be called the Age of the Prophets
    - a. The word ‘prophet’ is used 30 times in 2 Kings
    - b. There are two kinds of prophets
      - i. Speaking prophets: Elijah and Elisha
      - ii. Writing prophets
    - c. The role of the prophet:
      - i. Tell the future
      - ii. Reveal God
      - iii. Remind people of the Word of God
        - 1. School of Prophets were men trained in the Word of God
  
- C. A third reason to study 2 Kings is its emphasis on the value of the Word of God.
  - 1. “Thus says the Lord” is used 20 times in 2 Kings.
  - 2. Over and over again the promises of God are held up against the circumstances of life, and the Word never fails. Let’s take a look at a few:
    - a. 2 Kings 2:19-22 Bitter Water
      - i. Problem: Jericho’s water source has been contaminated. This spells disaster for the people
      - ii. Solution: Fill a bowl with salt and pour it into the source of the water  
2 Kings 2:21 “Thus says the Lord, I have healed this water.”
      - iii. Resistance: Salt will not fix contaminated water. Concerning salt water:  
“Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink.”
      - iv. Yet we read: 2 Kings 2:22 “So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.”
    - b. 2 Kings 3:9-20 Battle in the Desert
      - i. Problem: Three kings traveled seven days into the desert and pools of water have dried up
      - ii. Solution: Call Elisha and a worship leader.  
2 Kings 3:16-17 “thus says the Lord”. Dig ditches and water will come without rain.
      - iii. Result: 2 Kings 3:20 Flash flood fills ditches
    - c. 2 Kings 4:42-44 Multiplying Bread
      - i. Problem: Too little food to feed the people

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- ii. Solution: 2 Kings 4:43 But his servant said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?" He said again, "Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says the LORD: "They shall eat and have some left over.' "
- iii. Result: 2 Kings 4:44 "So he set it before them; and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD."
- d. 2 Kings 7 A Great Famine
  - i. Problem: Samaria is under siege and famine has set in.
    - 1. Donkey heads sold for food for 80 shekels
    - 2. Dove dung sold for food for 5 shekels
  - ii. Solution: 2 Kings 7:1 "... hear the word of the Lord."
  - iii. Resistance: 2 Kings 7:2 Even if heaven opened, this can't happen
  - iv. Result: 2 Kings 7:6-7 "For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses--the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us! Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact--their tents, their horses, and their donkeys--and they fled for their lives."
- e. Chapter 19 Jerusalem Under Siege
  - i. Problem: After conquering Israel, Assyria comes against Judah; many cities have fallen.
  - ii. Solution: Call Isaiah. 2 Kings 19:6-7 "And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, "Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." ' "
  - iii. Result: 2 Kings 19: 35-37 "And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, whom his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

### III. Outline of 2 Kings

An outline for 2 Kings is a little difficult because the subject is two distinct kingdoms. For our purposes, we will look at the Book of 2 Kings in light of three main events:

- Section 1 Chapters 1 – 9a The Ministry of Elisha
- Section 2 Chapters 9b – 17 The Fall of Israel
- Section 3 Chapters 18 – 25 The Fall of Judah

#### A. Section 1 The Ministry of Elisha Chapters 1 – 9a

1. We are first introduced to Elisha in 1 Kings 19
  - a. After the earth, wind and fire, God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice (1 Kings 19:12)
  - b. He was told to anoint Elisha as Prophet (1 Kings 19:16b)
  - c. Later in 1 Kings 19:19 we read of the decision of Elisha to follow the Lord
    - i. Using his farming equipment, he sacrificed his oxen and fed his family
    - ii. With nothing holding him back, he presses on after the Lord.

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- d. 2 Kings 2:9-13 Elijah’s mantle is placed his on Elisha, as well as a “double portion” from the Lord.
- e. 2 Kings 2 – After years of faithful ministry, Elijah is called home.
- 2. Elisha begins his ministry as Israel’s prophet.
  - a. His ministry is marked by the miraculous
  - b. Depending on how you divide them, there are as many as 18 miracles recorded.
    - i. Parts water, heals water, calls bear, provides water, jars of oil, son for a barren women, raised son from the dead, death in the pot, multiplied food, healed leper, leprosy on servant, floating ax, uncovers Syria’s plans, open’s eyes, foresees famine’s end, pronounces famine, prophesies king, dead man raised.
- 3. A sample of his ministry:
  - a. 2 Kings 4:8-37 The Shunammite Woman
    - i. She was barren
    - ii. God provides a son
    - iii. Son becomes ill and dies
    - iv. She seeks Elisha
    - v. She is a picture of persistence
      - 1. 2 Kings 4:22 She violated custom and normal practice
      - 2. 2 Kings 4:26 She has little interest in Gahazi; wants to speak only with Elisha
      - 3. She willingly obeys Elisha
  - b. 2 Kings 5:1-19 Naaman the Syrian
    - i. He was a leper
    - ii. He heard Elisha could help
    - iii. He was told to bathe in the Jordan River
    - iv. He refused because of pride
    - v. He was exhorted to give it a try
    - vi. He found the promise of god to be true
    - vii. 2 Kings 5:17 he commits to the Lord
  - c. 2 Kings 13:20-21 Elisha’s death
    - i. Elisha died and was buried in a tomb
    - ii. Later, during a funeral, raiding bands of Moabites attacked
    - iii. The body was put in Elisha’s tomb and was resurrected
    - iv. Elisha is in many ways a type of Christ
      - 1. His way was prepared by Elijah
      - 2. A ministry of miracles
      - 3. His death brought life.

#### **B. Section 2** Chapters 9 – 17 The Fall of Israel

- 1. Tells briefly the stories of twelve kings of Israel and nine kings of Judah.
  - a. All their stories lead to the fall of Israel recorded in Chapter 17
- 2. The highlights in this section include:
  - a. Chapter 12 Godly King Josiah restores the Temple
  - b. Chapter 14 The godly reign of Amaziah
  - c. Chapter 14:25 The ministry of the prophet Jonah
  - d. Chapter 15 a brief mention of the reign of Uzziah
    - i. This marks the beginning of Isaiah’s prophesies
  - e. Chapter 17 The section climaxes with the fall of Israel
    - i. 2 Kings 17:5-6 Records the tragic facts
    - ii. 2 Kings 17:7-22 Explains the reason for the collapse of a kingdom

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- f. 2 Kings 17:7 “For Israel sinned against the Lord”
  - i. Their sin is described
  - ii. Six specific things are listed
    - 1. 2 Kings 17:7 Feared other gods
      - a. Man is incurably religious and must worship something
      - b. When God is rejected, weak and foolish replacements are made
        - i. Chapter 1 Baal-zebub - fly god
    - 2. 2 Kings 17:8 Walked in statues of other nations
      - a. God has called us to live for His Kingdom and after His Word
      - b. Today, many Christians act just like the world. They use liberty to justify drinking, smoking, movies, music, language, humor.
        - i. We are called to live for Christ!
    - 3. 2 Kings 17:9 Secret high places
      - a. In private, they had sins they did not want others to know about
      - b. And did not want to repent of, either
    - 4. 2 Kings 17:12 They served idols
      - a. The energies that should have been spent on the things of God were given to others
      - b. Where is your time spent?
        - i. If you don’t have time to read the Word, pray, serve, share Christ, what are you doing with your time?
    - 5. 2 Kings 17:13-16 They rejected the Word
      - a. God sent prophets to call the people back to God (verse 13)
      - b. The message was simple and clear
      - c. Included were the greatest preachers the world has ever known
        - i. They were ignored.
    - 6. 2 Kings 17:17 Sons in the fire
      - a. Rejecting God led to the most heinous acts
      - b. Yet, they were justified in the eyes of the people

### **C. Section 3 Chapters 18-25 The Fall of Judah**

- 1. Records the remaining 130 years of the nation of Judah
  - a. We read of the lives of eight kings
  - b. We are introduced to the ministries of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Daniel and Ezekiel
  - c. Their stories are told to explain further
    - i. How to ruin a nation
    - ii. How to preserve a nation
      - 1. The actions of the prophets and godly kings Hezekiah and Josiah preserve the nation
- 2. The highlights include:
  - a. Chapter 18 Hezekiah’s reforms
    - i. He removed, broke down, cut down the false images
    - ii. Including the bronze serpent that Moses had made, reminding the people it was only a thing of brass
    - iii. During his reign God miraculously spared Judah from Assyrian invasion
    - iv. Hezekiah is given 15 extra life of life
  - b. Chapter 22 Josiah’s discovery
    - i. While remodeling the Temple they found the Word of God
    - ii. Reading of the Word led to national repentance
  - c. Chapter 21 Manasseh, the cause of the collapse of Judah

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- i. Twice we are told that the fall of Judah was due to the sin of Manasseh
- ii. What was his sin?
  - 1. Much the same as Israel
  - 2. One thing stands out in Chapter 21:3 he rebuilt the high places
  - 3. What was destroyed, he brought back to life.
- iii. Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

#### **IV. Types of Christ**

- A. The brass serpent
- B. Elisha’s ministry