

2 KINGS INTRODUCTION

With the study of 2 Kings, we observe the consequences of sin – CAPTIVITY - upon the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah. Both kingdoms are taken into captivity in this Book. Assyria takes Israel captive in (722 B.C.), and Judah continues another 135 until she too succumbs to the foreign captivity of the Chaldeans (587-586 B.C.) Picking up where I Kings ends, we observe approximately 270 years of Old Testament history (853 B.C. - 582 B.C.).

2 Kings begins with the death of King Ahaziah, and chronicles the last 11 kings of Israel. Continuing the history of Jehoshaphat as king over Judah, 2 Kings covers the history of the last 16 Kings of Judah. In all, seven dynasties rule over Israel, and one dynasty of David rules over Judah. All eleven kings of Israel do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord (2 Kings 3:2, 10:31, 13:11, etc. - 17:2). Counting Jehoshaphat, seven of the last sixteen Kings Of Judah did what is right in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 12:2, 14:3,15:3, 15:34, 18:3, 22:2, - Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah).

KINGS OF JUDAH	KINGS OF ISRAEL
Jehoshaphat (25 yrs.)	Ahaziah (2 yrs.)
Jehoram (8 yrs.)	Jehoram (12 yrs.)
Ahaziah (1 yr.)	Jehu (28 yrs.)
Athaliah (6 yrs.)	Jehoahaz (17 yrs.)
Joash (40 yrs.)	Jehoash (16 yrs.)
Amaziah (29 yrs.)	Jeroboam II (41 yrs.)
Azariah (Uzziah) (52 yrs.)	Zechariah (1/2 yr.)
Jotham (16 yrs.)	Shallum (1 month)
Ahaz (16 yrs.)	Menahem (10 yrs.)
Hezekiah (29 yrs.)	Pekahiah (2 yrs.)
Manasseh (55 yrs.)	Pekah (20 yrs.)
Amon (2 yrs.)	Hoshea (9 yrs.)
Josiah (31 yrs.)	
Jehoahaz (3 months)	
Jehoiakim (11 yrs.)	
Jehoiachin (3 months)	
Zedekiah (11 yrs.)	

The Book of 2 Kings can be divided into three main sections:

- (1) The Ministry of Elisha (Chapters 1-10)
- (2) History of Israel and Judah up to Israel going into Assyrian Captivity (Chapters 11-17).
- (3) History of Judah ending with Babylonian Captivity (Chapters 18-25).

FEATURES OF BOOK:

1. Ministry of Elisha with numerous MIRACLES (2 Kings 8:4).
2. Dispersion of Israel and Judah into Assyrian and Babylonian captivity are in STAGES (2 Kings 15:29, I Chronicles 5:25,26; 2 Kings 24:1,2; 2 Chron. 36:5-7; 2 Kings 24: 8-16, Ezekiel 40:1; 2 Kings 25:1-12, 2 Chron. 36).
 - a. Two stages for dispersion of Israel in Assyrian Captivity.
 - b. Three stages for dispersion of Judah in Babylonian Captivity.
 - c. Flight of Jews left in Judah to Egypt (2 Kings 25:22-26; Jer. 40-43).
3. Fall of Samaria (2 Kings 17:1-41)
 - a. Immediate cause: Hoshea's conspiracy.
 - b. Underlying cause: persistent sin and rejection of God.
4. Fall of Jerusalem (25:1-26).
 - a. Did not heed the example of why Israel fell.
 - b. Reforms of good Kings Hezekiah and Josiah only temporary (18:1-8, 22:1-23:30).
 - c. The warnings of various prophets of the time go unheeded : Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, Zephaniah and Jeremiah (cf. 2 Chron. 36:16).

Maps of 2 Kings: