

# 12 – 2 Kings: Divided Kingdoms Destroyed

The book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings is probably one of the most tragic national records ever written about the decline of a nation. This book, like 1<sup>st</sup> Kings, **alternates back and forth between the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom**, and the kings who reigned in each kingdom. In the first part of the book we read of the northern kingdom, and are given a great deal of information about Elijah and Elisha, both prophets to Israel. As the record goes back and forth, the northern kingdom abruptly ends in their captivity by the Assyrians.

## The Two Kingdoms

- The **northern kingdom of Israel** had **19 kings who reigned for 250 years over 7 different dynasties**. They went into captivity, **conquered by the Assyrians around 721 BC and they never returned to the land of Israel**. The Assyrians had a policy of taking their captives out of their homelands and transplanting them to other parts of the Assyrian empire, mixing them with other peoples so that eventually they would become part of the Assyrians and lose their national identity. This policy led to the Samaritans, which were considered “half Jews.” The Samaritans had a religion that was a strange mixture of Judaism and paganism. We remember Jesus meeting and impressing the woman at the well who was a Samaritan. The Samaritans, and any of these “mixed races” were hated by the Jews.

Israel				
The Northern Kingdom				
1 <sup>st</sup> Kings	975 BC ↑	Jeroboam	Bad 22	
		Nadab	2	
		Baasha	24	
		Elah	2	
		Zimri	(1 wk)	
		Omri	12	
		Ahab	22	
		Ahaziah	2	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings		Jehoram	12
			Jehu	28
250 yrs		Jehoahaz	17	
		Jehoash	16	
		Jeroboam II	41	
		Interregnum	12	
		Zechariah	½	
		Shallum	(1 mo)	
		Menahem	10	
		Pekahiah	2	
		Pekah	20	
		Hoshea	Worse 9	
	721 BC ↓	Assyrian Captivity		

Judah			
The Southern Kingdom			
1 <sup>st</sup> Kings	975 BC ↑	Rehoboam	17
		Abijam	3
		Asa	41
		Jehoshaphat	25
2 <sup>nd</sup> Kings		Jehoram	8
		Ahaziah	1
		Athaliah	6
		Joash	40
		Amaziah	29
		Azariah (Uzziah)	52
		Jotham	16
		Ahaz	16
		Hezekiah	29
		Manasseh	55
		Amon	2
	Josiah	31	
	Jehoahaz	(3 mos)	
	Jehoiakim	11	
	Jehoiakin	(3 mos)	
	Zedekiah	11	
	606 BC ↓	Babylonian Captivity	

- The **southern kingdom of Judah** had **20 kings who reigned for 370 years, a century longer than the kingdom of Israel to the north, but the southern kingdom only had ONE dynasty – the Davidic dynasty**. Even though most of these kings were incredibly evil, the line of David was continued throughout. And just like in the north, they too were taken captive by Babylon (the current world power that had overcome the Assyrian empire). Their captivity lasted 70 years, just as God had prophesied. The prophets always, though, spoke of ultimate restoration, both in the near course of history and the far course.

*This chart shows the kings of both Israel (north) and Judah (south), the length of their reigns, and whether they were considered good kings or bad kings. ALL the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel were evil. The kings seen in green print on this chart are the “good” kings of Judah. (Note: “interregnum” means the time between two reigns. There was no king in Israel for 12 years, between Jeroboam II and Zechariah.)*

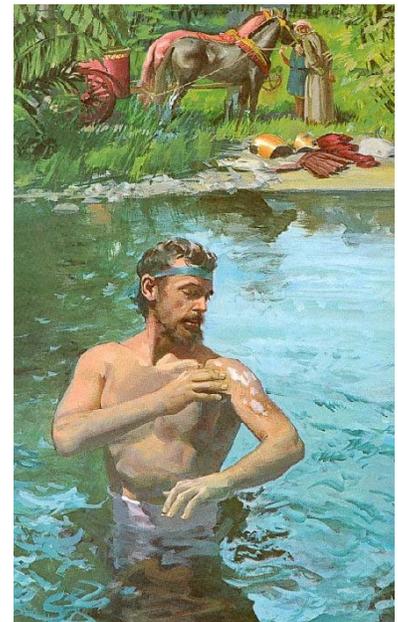
## Highlights

- In chapter 2, **Elijah, prophet to the north, is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind**. His apprentice Elisha receives Elijah’s mantle, symbol of the anointing passing on from Elijah to Elisha. He wants to have a “double portion” which in or twice the ministry Elijah had. We should note that he indeed got this double portion, because the scriptures record 8 major miracles for Elijah, and 16 for Elisha. This is just one more indication of the intricacies of God’s Word that can be easily passed by and missed. Elijah’s ministry more spectacular, more visible, more for the masses, but Elisha’s was greater, at least in number and content.
- There is a strange incident in this chapter (2) about **Elisha and some “youths.”** Elisha went up to Bethel. Bethel was known as the place where the false prophets taught. As he was walking along the road, some youths came out of the town and jeered at him. “Go on up, you baldhead!” they said. He called down a curse on them in the name of the LORD. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled 42 of the youths. These were not “little children” as some translations indicate. The same word in Hebrew (*naar*, or *nahar*) was used of Isaac when he was 28 years old, of Joseph when he was 39, and also for the Sodomites who attacked the home of Lot. This was a crowd of young men, perhaps as old as 30, students of the false prophets.

- This not just a prophet getting mad and waving his hand to bring down a curse on some kids who were bothering him. They were mocking him and Elijah as true prophets of God, and the way Elijah “went up” (God raptured him!). It is a little reminder of what will happen to those who mock God, and the way He intends to remove His people. This entire incident is a reminder that God is not mocked. Elisha was traveling to Bethel, which was named the House of God. It was a place that was remembered because God was there. However, it degenerated into a den of iniquity, a place of pagan idol worship, in the northern kingdom that moved away from God. These students of the false prophets in Bethel, found out that God is not mocked.
- This book is full of seemingly unimportant and somewhat strange or out of place incidents. Chapter 4 of 2 Kings contains one such story. It is about a widow whose husband died and she was in jeopardy of losing her two sons as payment for her dead husband’s debts. Elisha did not add anything to what the woman already had. He simply asked God to multiply it and use it. What a lesson that is for us! We are always wanting something more. We should be asking God to take what we have, to dedicate it completely to Him, and multiply it for His use and our blessing. This is one of the simplest, yet most practical lessons in scripture about how to meet our needs and be blessed by God. ***(What we have + faith) X God = miraculous***

**Other “lessons” for us:**

- the Shunammite woman and her son (obedience, God’s faithfulness and often miraculous provision)
- Naaman healed of leprosy AND pride (but not before he got mad at Elisha)
- Gehazi, Elisha’s servant cursed because of his greed
- a floating axehead that shows that God is interested and cares about every little detail in our lives
- The details of spiritual warfare in 6:8-18 (King of Syria vs Elisha, and “secret” plans)
- A revelation of the amazing spiritual realm around us (6:15-18)
- What happens to one who repeatedly mocks God and pursues evil (death of Jezebel, ch. 9)
- Fulfillment of the prophesied judgment on the house of Ahab (God is NOT mocked!) (ch. 10)
- A very interesting little verse that shows God at work in judgment...”*in those days the LORD began to reduce the size of Israel...*” (10:32)
- The blackness of the human heart and what it will do for power (Queen Athaliah, ch 11)



- The evil reign of Hezekiah’s son Manasseh is referenced a number of times in scripture as being singly responsible for some of God’s judgment. In 2 Kings 23: 26 we read: “Nevertheless the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.” Manasseh’s son Amon was just as bad, if not worse.
- Following Amon, however, there is a bright spot, at least temporarily, with the reign of King Josiah, who was only 8 years old when he took the throne. 2 Kings 22 says of him: ***“He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.”*** The Book of the Law was rediscovered, and Josiah renewed the covenant with God, reinstated all the practices that God ordained and also destroyed the high places of pagan worship. In chapter 23 we hear that the tomb of the man of God was discovered during Josiah’s purging of the land. This was the incident we first read about in first Kings, that strange incident with Jeroboam, the false prophet and the man of God. Josiah did not defile his tomb, so we can see why the false prophet wanted to be buried with him! But this return to God didn’t last long. As soon as Josiah was killed in battle with Pharaoh Neco of Egypt, the southern kingdom again slid into doing evil in the sight of the Lord, and in chapter 25 we read of the fall of Jerusalem and the capture of the people, leading to their 70 year captivity.

- It is important to understand that the **Davidic Dynasty** is the main theme throughout all these narratives (in both the books of Kings and the books of the Chronicles). David was the standard of measure for all the kings. Very few of them measured up to David. Josiah was one. We also see that God intervened over and over and over to protect the line of David. After the death of Azaziah, Joash was going to be killed, but he was preserved by Jehosheba who hid the baby. Joash’s son was Hezekiah, who was also miraculously preserved during the Assyrian seige. God did put a blood curse on the line of Jeconiah, in the Davidic line, but we see how He wonderfully bypassed that later in the New Testament and the birth and lineage of Jesus.

- The phrase we hear often, **the “10 lost tribes of Israel,” is not biblical, and not true.** It is one of those sayings that has become accepted over time just because it’s heard so often, but there are no lost tribes of Israel. This refers to the 10 tribes that made up the northern kingdom of Israel which was conquered and destroyed by Assyria, never to return. The southern kingdom was originally composed of the two remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin. However, when the division of the kingdom occurred during the reign of Rehoboam (Solomon’s son), the Levites who were in the northern territory migrated down to the south, back to Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. All others who were also faithful to Yahweh, the God of the Torah, did the same. On the other hand, all the idol worshippers and the pagans migrated from the south to the north. So instead of division by tribes, we ended up with division by heart and loyalty to God. Those, from all 12 tribes, who were faithful to God, moved to the southern kingdom of Judah. Those who aligned themselves to idols and paganism moved to the northern kingdom of Israel. All 12 tribes were well represented in both places. The New Testament makes reference to “all twelve tribes” a number of times. So, when you hear this phrase, know that it is not biblical, and it is not true.

***This chart shows the prophets God sent to both the northern and the southern kingdoms, under which king. The prophets indicated in bold print are those for whom we have books named. The major and minor books of prophecy are just some of the prophets of God.***

Judah The Southern Kingdom		Israel The Northern Kingdom	
Kings	Prophets	Kings	Prophets
Rehoboam	Shemaiah	Jeroboam I	Ahijah the Shilonite
.	Iddo the Seer	.	Man of God from Judah
.	.	.	Old Prophet at Bethel
.	.	.	Iddo the Seer
Abijam	Iddo the Seer	Nadab	.
Asa	Azariah	Baasha	Jehu, son of Hanani
.	Hanani	Elah	.
.	.	Zimri	.
.	.	Omri	.
Jehoshaphat	Jehu, son of Hanani	Ahab	Elijah
.	Jahaziel	.	Elisha
.	Eliezer	.	Micaiah, son of Imlah
.	.	.	Unnamed Prophets
Jehoram	<b>Obadiah</b>	Ahaziah	Elijah's Translation
.	Elijah	.	Elisha
.	.	Joram	Elisha
Ahaziah	.	Jehu	Elisha
Queen Athaliah	.	.	.
Joash	<b>Joel</b>	Jehoahaz	Elisha
Amaziah	Unnamed Prophets	Jehoash	Death of Elisha
Uzziah	<b>Isaiah</b>	Jeroboam II	<b>Jonah</b>
.	Zechariah	.	<b>Amos</b>
.	.	.	<b>Hosea</b>
.	.	Zechariah	<b>Hosea</b>
.	.	Shallum	<b>Hosea</b>
Jotham	<b>Isaiah</b>	Menahem	<b>Hosea</b>
.	<b>Micah</b>	Pekahiah	<b>Hosea</b>
Ahaz	<b>Isaiah</b>	Pekah	<b>Hosea</b>
.	<b>Micah</b>	.	Oded the Prophet
Hezekiah	<b>Isaiah</b>	Hoshea	<b>Hosea</b>
.	<b>Micah</b>	.	.
Manasseh	<b>Nahum</b>	.	.
.	Unnamed Prophets	.	.
Amon	.	.	.
Josiah	<b>Jeremiah</b>	.	.
.	<b>Zephaniah</b>	.	.
.	Huldah the Prophetess	.	.
Jehoahaz	<b>Jeremiah</b>	.	.
Jehoiakim	<b>Jeremiah</b>	.	.
.	<b>Habakkuk</b>	.	.
.	<b>Daniel</b>	.	.
.	Urijah son of Shemaiah	.	.
Jehoiachin	<b>Jeremiah</b>	.	.
.	<b>Daniel</b>	.	.
Zedekiah	<b>Jeremiah</b>	.	.
.	<b>Daniel</b>	.	.
.	<b>Ezekiel</b>	.	.

Kings Ahaziah through Jehoash (1:1 to 14:16)	Reign of Amaziah in Judah to Assyrian Captivity for Israel (14:1 to 17:41)	Reign of Hezekiah to Babylonian Captivity for Judah (18:1 to 25:30)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ahaziah in Israel (1:1-18)</b>, Son of Ahab/Jezebel, evil, followed mother's pagan ways</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehoram in Israel (2:1 to 8:15)</b>, translation of Elijah, Elisha succeeds Elijah, foul water cured at Jericho, youth and bears, Moabite rebellion, alliance with Jehosaphat of Judah, famine, Elisha and Shunammite woman, Naaman cured of leprosy, Elisha makes iron float, war with Syria, King of Syria tries to kill Elisha, Syria afflicts Israel during a famine, Elisha foretells sudden relief, Hazael kills Ben-hadad of Syria</li> <li>▪ <b>Joram (Jehoram) in Judah (8:16 to 8:23)</b>, Israel and Judah war with Syria, Jehosaphat wicked king (married Ahab's daughter), Joram wars with Edom, Libnah</li> <li>▪ <b>Ahaziah of Judah (8:24 to 9:10)</b>, joined with Jehoram of Israel to fight Syria, Jehoram wounded in battle, Elisha sends servant to anoint Jehu king of Israel</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehu of Israel (9:11 to 10:36)</b>, kills Jehoram and Ahaziah of Judah, kills Jezebel, kills 70 sons of Ahab and all his house, kills 42 brethren of Ahaziah, destroyed Baal out of Israel, Jehu followed sins of Jeroboam, wars with Hazael of Syria</li> <li>▪ <b>Athaliah, mother of Ahaziah, in Judah (11:1-20)</b>, destroyed all royal family except baby Joash (hidden in house of Lord 6 yrs), Jehoiada (priest), anoints Joash king over Judah, Athaliah put to death, Jehoiada destroys Baalism in Judah</li> <li>▪ <b>Joash (Jehoash) in Judah (12:1-21)</b>, restoration of house of Lord in Judah, Joash paid ransom to Hazael of Syria not to invade Judah, Joash killed by servants</li> <li>▪ <b>Ahaziah (Jehoahaz) of Israel (13:1-9)</b>, war with Hazael of Syria, Ahaziah given relief but followed way of Jeroboam</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehoash (Joash) in Israel (13:10-25)</b>, Jehoash and prophet Elisha, Elisha dies and is buried, Jeroboam II, son of Jehoash, becomes king of Israel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Amaziah in Judah (14:1-20)</b>, good, but not like David, idolatry continued, executed those who killed his father, defeated Edom in war killing 10,000 Edomites, defeated by Jehoash and Jerusalem plundered, executed by people and his son, Azariah, becomes king in Judah</li> <li>▪ <b>Jeroboam II in Israel (14:23-29)</b>, extended border of Israel by military conquest, Zechariah (son) reigns in Israel</li> <li>▪ <b>Reign of Azariah (Uzziah), son of Amaziah, in Judah (15:1-7)</b>, good, but allowed idolatry to continue, smitten with leprosy, Jotham (son) judged people</li> <li>▪ <b>Zechariah in Israel (15:8-12)</b>, last king in dynasty began with Jehu, Shallum killed Zechariah, became king</li> <li>▪ <b>Shallum in Israel (15:13-15)</b>, Menahem killed Shallum, became king in Israel</li> <li>▪ <b>Menahem in Israel (15:16-22)</b>, his barbaric acts, bought off an Assyrian invasion, succeeded by son, Pekahiah</li> <li>▪ <b>Pekiah in Israel (15:23-26)</b>, Pekah killed Pekiah and took throne</li> <li>▪ <b>Reign of Pekah in Israel (15:27-31)</b>, Tiglathpileser of Assyria invaded Israel took some territory, Pekah killed by Hoshea</li> <li>▪ <b>Jotham in Judah (15:32-38)</b>, good, but idolatry not removed, Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel war with Jotham</li> <li>▪ <b>Ahaz in Judah (16:1-20)</b>, Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Israel make war on Ahaz, sends to Tiglathpileser of Assyria for help, visits Damascus and built an altar like one he saw in Damascus, gave precious metal from temple to king of Assyria, son, Hezekiah, succeeds</li> <li>▪ <b>Hoshea in Israel (17:1-41)</b>, Shalmaneser of Assyria defeated Israel and took people captive, 722 BC Assyrian Captivity begins for Israel, summary of Israel's wickedness, Israel punished/ removed out of God's sight, Samaria repopulated, Samaritans feared God, but served own pagan gods as well</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Hezekiah of Judah (18:1 to 20:21)</b>, removed idols of Judah, followed God, Sennacherib's invasion, Rabshakeh's hateful message, Hezekiah's fear, Isaiah's assurance of deliverance, Hezekiah's prayer, Isaiah delivers God's answer to prayer, angel of God kills 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night, Hezekiah's sickness and recovery, shows wealth of Jerusalem to Babylonian representatives, died, son Manasseh reigns</li> <li>▪ <b>Manasseh in Judah (21:1-18)</b>, rebuilt idol altars father had destroyed, God threatens punishment due to Manasseh's sins, died, Amon (son) succeeds</li> <li>▪ <b>Amon in Judah (21:19-26)</b>, son Josiah succeeds</li> <li>▪ <b>Josiah in Judah (22:1 to 23:30)</b>, restored temple, book of Law found in temple, inquired of Huldah (prophetess), idolatry obliterated, Passover observed, soothsayers banned, God renews threat to destroy Judah, Josiah killed by Pharaoh Neco, Jehoahaz (son) succeeds</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehoahaz in Judah (23:31-34)</b>, Pharaoh Neco replaced him with brother Jehoiakim, Jehoahaz died in Egypt</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehoiakim in Judah (23:35 to 24:7)</b>, submitted to Pharaoh Neco, became vassal of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (<i>after Babylon defeated Egypt</i>), rebels against Nebu., enemies punish Judah, Jehoikim died, son (Jehoiachin) king</li> <li>▪ <b>Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) and Mattaniah (Zedekiah) in Judah (24:8 to 25:30)</b>, Jehoiachin evil, he and 10,000 captives carried off to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiachin's uncle, Mattaniah, king in Judah while Jehoiachin prisoner in Babylon. Mattaniah's name changed to Zedekiah, rebelled against Nebu., defeated by him, Zedekiah's sons killed, eyes were put out, Temple and Jerusalem destroyed, burned to ashes, temple treasure carried to Babylon, Chief-priest and others killed, rest of Judah carried captive to Babylon, 586 BC Babylonian Captivity (<i>began in 606 BC with first wave of captives, this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last wave</i>), Jehoiachin still regarded as king of Judah while in Babylon</li> </ul>