



1ST & 2ND KINGS

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KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

UNITED KINGDOM

1040-1000 Saul

1000-961 David

961-922 Solomon

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

<i>Dates</i>	<i>ISRAEL (Northern)</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>JUDAH (Southern)</i>
922-901	<i>Jeroboam I – 22 yrs – Evil</i>	922-915	<i>Rehoboam – 7 yrs – Evil</i>
		915-913	<i>Abijah – 3 yrs – Evil</i>
		913-873	<i>Asa – 40 yrs – Good</i>
901-900	<i>Nadab – 2 yrs – Evil</i>		
900-877	<i>Baasha – 23 yrs – Evil</i>		
877-876	<i>Elah – 2 yrs – Evil</i>		
876	<i>Zimri – 1 Week – Evil</i>		
876-869	<i>Omri – 12 yrs – Evil</i>	873-849	<i>Jehoshaphat – 24 yrs – Good</i>
869-850	<i>Ahab – 19 yrs – Evil</i>		
850-849	<i>Ahaziah – 2 yrs – Evil</i>		
849-843	<i>Joram (Jehoram) – 6 yrs – Evil</i>	849-843	<i>Jehoram (Joram) – 6 yrs – Evil</i>
843-815	<i>Jehu – 28 yrs – Evil</i>	843	<i>Ahaziah – 1 yr – Evil</i>
		843-837	<i>Athaliah (Queen) – 6 yrs – Evil</i>
		837-800	<i>Joash (Jehoash) – 37 yrs – Evil</i>
815-802	<i>Jehoahaz – 13 years – Evil</i>		
		800-783	<i>Amaziah – 17 yrs – Good</i>
802-786	<i>Jehoash (Joash) – 16 yrs – Evil</i>		
786-746	<i>Jeroboam II – 40 yrs – Evil</i>		
		783-729	<i>Uzziah (Azariah) – 54 yrs – Good</i>
746-745	<i>Zachariah – 6 months – Evil</i>		
745	<i>Shallum – 1 month – Evil</i>		
745-737	<i>Manahem – 10 yrs – Evil</i>		
737-736	<i>Pekahiah – 2 yrs – Evil</i>		
736-716	<i>Pekah – 20 yrs – Evil</i>	729-714	<i>Jotham – 15 yrs – Good</i>
716-708	<i>Hoshea – 8 yrs – Evil</i>	714-694	<i>Ahaz – 20 yrs – Evil</i>
708	FALL OF SAMARIA		
		694-666	<i>Hezekiah – 28 yrs – Good</i>
		666-621	<i>Manasseh – 45 yrs – Evil</i>
		621-619	<i>Amon – 2 yrs – Evil</i>
		619-588	<i>Josiah – 31 yrs – Good</i>
		588	<i>Jehoahaz – 3 months – Evil</i>
		588-577	<i>Jehoikim – 11 yrs – Evil</i>
		577-576	<i>Jehoiachin (Jeconiah, Coniah) – 3 months – Evil</i>
		576-566	<i>Zedekiah (Mattaniah) 10 yrs – Evil</i>
		566	FALL OF JERUSALEM

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture, while another is rolled up. A thick, old book with a worn cover lies next to them. The entire scene is set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 1

READINGS

1 KINGS 1-2

FROM THE TEXT

1. Describe David's relationship with Abishag (1:1-4).
2. How did Adonijah become "king" (1:5-10)? How did David stop this (1:11-40)?
3. What was David's charge to Solomon (2:1-4)?
4. How long did David reign as King over Israel?
5. Why would Bathsheba ask if Adonijah came peacefully (2:13)?
6. Explain Solomon's remarks in 2:22.
7. Why was Joab killed and where (2:28-35)?
8. What order did Solomon decree to confine Shimei (2:36-38)?
9. Why does 2:12 and 2:46 both tell us the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why did Solomon tell Adonijah to “go to your house” (1:53)?
2. How was Abithar’s dismissal connected to God’s word to Eli (2:26-27)?
3. Why was Shemei killed (2:39-46)?

1. David’s wish for Solomon to revenge him (on Joab and Shemei, 2:1-9) doesn’t seem to agree with letting God have revenge (Deut. 32:35). How does this statement agree with the heart of God since David is a man after God’s own heart?
2. Discuss the role of chapters 1-2 in the context of chapters 1-11 and the whole scheme of “the book of the Kings” (1 Samuel -2 Kings).

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a light gray, textured style.

LESSON 2

FROM THE TEXT

1. Why did Solomon marry Pharaoh's daughter (3:1)? Where did Solomon learn this attitude about marriage?
2. What was Solomon's request and why did he make this choice (3:6-9)?
3. What was God's response to this request (3:10-13)?
4. What was God's conditional promise to Solomon (3:14)?
5. How did Solomon judge who was the child's mother and what was the response in the nation (3:16-28)?
6. Briefly describe how Solomon organized his kingdom (4:1-19).
7. What mental gifts did God give Solomon (4:29-34)? What was his reputation?
8. What alliance did Solomon make with Hiram (5:1-12)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We are repeatedly told how Solomon had peace on all sides (4:20-25). How does this compare with the reign of his father David? What changed that peace now existed (5:4)?
2. How did Solomon accomplish the building of the Temple to Jehovah (5:13-18)? Compare with 1 Kings 12:4.
3. Who were the Gebalites (5:18) and what was their task for Solomon?

1. Why would God appear to Solomon in a dream at Gibeon where he had been offering sacrifices at the high places (3:1-5)?
2. How is the alliance with Hiram connected to Solomon's gift of wisdom (5:12)?



READINGS

1 KINGS 6-8

FROM THE TEXT

1. On another piece of paper, try to create a floorplan from the description of the Temple (6:1-10).
2. What conditional promise does God again give to Solomon (6:11-13)?
3. Describe the construction of the Holy of Holies (6:14-36).
4. How long did it take for Solomon build the Temple (6:38)?
5. What other construction project followed the completion of the Temple (7:1-12)?
6. What was Hiram's specific skill and what did he build for Solomon (7:13-45)?
7. In Solomon's address to the people, what is he praising God for (8:14-21)?
8. What did Solomon do to dedicate the temple (8:62-66)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The glory of the Lord filled the house (8:11). Compare this to other occasions when the glory of the Lord was manifested. How did they know this was from God?
2. What attributes and attitudes of God are rightly described by Solomon's prayer (8:22-53)?
3. What attributes and attitudes of God's people are rightly described by Solomon's prayer (8:22-53)?

1. What lessons are remembered from David's debacle (2 Samuel 6) about moving the Ark of the Covenant (8:1-11)?
2. What was Solomon's main point in his speech to the people (8:55-61)? Describe how it is true for us today and how men fail to do this today.
3. From Solomon's attention to the details in construction and worship to Jehovah, what do we learn about how to please God?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 4

FROM THE TEXT

1. How did God consecrate the Temple (9:3)?
2. God has previously made promises to Solomon. What punishments are now included (9:4-9)?
3. Hiram did not like the 20 cities given to him by Solomon. So why did he send Solomon 120 talents of gold? How much was this? (9:14)
4. What other building projects did Solomon complete (besides the Temple and Palace) (9:15-23)?
5. What became of Israel's former enemies (9:20-23)?
6. What joint naval conquest is relayed (9:26-28)? Where is Ophir?
7. Based on Solomon's reputation, the Queen of Sheeba visited. What did she determine (10:1-13)?
8. Why did Solomon's heart turn away from God (11:4-8)?
9. Why was God angry with Solomon (11:9-10)?
10. What consequences did Solomon suffer (11:11-40)?
11. What message did Ahijah bring to Jeroboam (11:26-40)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why would Solomon give 20 cities to the king of Tyre (9:10-12)? Wouldn't this create a problem of sovereignty?
2. What was the Millo (9:15, 24; 11:27)?
3. How would God keep a descendant of David on the throne through Jeroboam?

1. How did God fulfill His promise of wealth to Solomon (10:14-29)? How do we benefit from seeing this promise fulfilled?
2. Did Solomon violate God's commands in having multiple wives, even foreign wives (11:1-3)?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 5

READINGS

1 KINGS 12-13

FROM THE TEXT

1. What did the people request of Rehoboam (12:1-5)?
2. What counsel did Rehoboam receive:
 - A. From the elders:
 - B. From the young men he grew up with:
3. Why is Jeroboam specifically mentioned (12:2-3, 12)?
4. Why did these events happen (12:15)?
5. How was the nation's rebellion demonstrated to Rehoboam (12:18)? What did he plan to do about it (12:21)?
6. How did God stop this plan (12:22-24)?
7. What was Jeroboam's sin (12:25-33)?
8. What was the message of the "man of God" (13:1-10)? What was the response to this message?
9. How did God use the death of the "man of God" to teach the "old prophet" (13:26-32)?
10. How did these events effect Jeroboam (13:33-34)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Compare Jeroboam's sin with God's warning (12:25-33 and 11:31-35). Discuss how our own reasoning sometimes dismisses godly knowledge to allow sin. Try to provide your own example.
2. Why did the "old prophet" lie to the "man of God" (13:18)?
3. Why did the "old prophet" desired to buried with the "man of God" (13:32)?

1. Was it God's plan that the nation of Israel divide? (12:15; 11:31-37) What might be His intended purpose?
2. What was the state of spirituality in the nation of Israel and Judah as conveyed in chapter 13? How does this relate to the greater context of 1 Kings?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 6

FROM THE TEXT

1. Since Jeroboam had turned to the idols, why would he send his wife to see the prophet Ahijah (14:1-3)?
2. What did Ahijah reveal would happen to Jeroboam's son (14:7-12)? Why would this happen?
3. What punishment does God pronounce upon the house of Jeroboam and the nation of Israel (the northern 10 tribes) (14:13-16)?
4. What kind of attitude did Rehoboam have about serving God and where did he learn this (14:21-24)?
5. What were two consequences of Rehoboam's foolish decision which divided the nation (14:25-31)?
6. Abijam ruled Judah for three years. Describe what he learned from his father Rehoboam (15:1-7).
7. How did Nadab die (15:25-31)?
8. What poor attitudes of Rehoboam and Jeroboam are continued in their descendants and in their nations (15:32-34)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How did Jeroboam “make” Israel sin (14:16)? Was the nation punished for Jeroboam’s sin or for their own?
2. What was different in the attitudes toward God evidenced from Abijam and Asa?
3. How does Asa’s attitude toward God change (2 Chronicles 26:7-14)?

1. If the son does not bear the guilt of the father’s sin (Ezekiel 18:20), why did Jeroboam’s son die?
2. What is meant by God’s actions being “for David’s sake” (15:4-5)?
3. How does Asa exemplify a proper attitude toward family members who are not faithful (15:9-13)?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture and a dark binding. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 7

READINGS

1 KINGS 16-17

FROM THE TEXT

1. How did Baasha come to be leader of Israel (16:2)?
2. What did God think of Baasha (16:1-5)?
3. How did God's word prove to come true against Baasha (16:8-14)?
4. How long did Zimri reign as king over Israel (16:15-20)?
5. How did Omri become king of Israel (16:21-24)? How long did he reign?
6. What was a "light thing" (KJ) or "trivial thing" (NAS) to Ahab (16:31-33)?
7. How are we introduced to the great prophet Elijah (17:1)?
8. How does the widow of Zarephath demonstrate trust in God (17:10-16)?
9. What was the purpose in raising the widow's son from the dead (17:21-24)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What “word of the Lord” about Jericho is referred to in 1 Kings 16:34?
2. What was the widow’s angry claim (17:18)? Please explain why she might make such a connection.
3. How does the widow further demonstrate trust in God (17:17-24)? How did her past experiences help or hinder her faith?

1. From the readings in chapter 17, discuss how Elijah demonstrates trust in God.
2. Plainly God holds the power of our physical life and death (17:20-22). How does Elijah display an appropriate attitude toward God at this time when compared with some who display an inappropriate attitude toward God over the death of a loved one?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a monochromatic, textured style.

LESSON 8

READINGS

1 KINGS 18-20

FROM THE TEXT

1. What good thing had Obadiah done (18:3-4)?
2. What message did Elijah expect Obadiah to take to Ahab (18:8)? What did Obadiah think of this?
3. What contest did Elijah propose (18:19-24)?
4. How long did Elijah allow the priests and prophets of Baal to carry on (18:25-29)?
5. Why did Elijah employ the extreme measure of water (18:34-36)?
6. Why did Elija “put his face between his knees” (18:42)?
7. What miracles are related about Elijah?
 - A. 1 Kings 18:46
 - B. 1 Kings 19:5-8
8. How do we see God’s involvement in foreign nations (19:15)?
9. What was Elisha’s attitude when chosen (19:19-21)?
10. What instructions did God give Ahab about the battle with Aram (20:13-14)? Why would God do this with such an evil king (20:28)?
11. Describe the battle with Aram (20:29-30).
12. How did Ben-hadad gain mercy from Ahab (20:31-34)?
13. What was God’s message to Ahab (20:42)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why would Ahab agree to call all Israel together when Elijah requested it (18:19-20)?
2. What do we learn of Elijah's character:
 - A. 1 Kings 18:37
 - B. 1 Kings 18:4, 9-10
3. When experiencing a spiritual "low," how did God help bring Elijah out of it (19:15-18)? How does this help us when we are in a spiritual "low"?
4. How does the un-named prophet serve as an example to us in obedience (20:35-43)?

1. Describe the two mindsets of Ahab and Elijah as stated in 1 Kings 18:17-18.
2. "What are you doing here" was God's question of Elijah (19:9, 13). Why did He ask this when God knows everything? Discuss how we might profit from God asking us a similar question.

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture and a dark binding. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 9

READINGS

1 KINGS 21-22

FROM THE TEXT

1. What kind of character is seen in Ahab (21:1-7)?
2. Why wouldn't Naboth sell the vineyard to Ahab (21:3)?
3. How did Jezebel have Naboth killed (21:8-10)?
4. Who does God blame for Naboth's death (21:17-19)?
5. What punishments are given by God for Ahab and Jezebel (21:20-24)?
6. Because of Ahab's positive reaction to God's message, how did God change the punishment (21:27-29)?
7. What prophets were consulted and why (22:5-15)?
8. Why did Ahab not believe Micaiah but said speak the truth (22:16)?
9. What was the deceiving message sent from God to Ahab (22:19-23)?
10. What was Ahab's brilliant strategy and how might this have worked to his advantage (22:29-33)?
11. What took Ahab out of the fight (22:34-37)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why are the two liars referred to as “worthless fellows” (NAS) when everyone else in the story seems to be still be considered upright citizens (21:11-16)?
2. Should Jehoshaphat be praised for working for peaceful relations with the nation of Israel and for working with Ahab (chapter 22)?
3. Why did Zedekiah rise up against Micaiah (22:24-28)? Were they not both prophets of God?
4. How does God’s prophetic word come true (22:37-40)?

1. Ahab’s dispicable attitude is seen again in 21:25-26, yet he humbled himself before God (21:27-28). Discuss God’s patience with sinful men. Is it possible to return from a spiritual position like Ahab found himself in?
2. How does God continue to demonstrate His authority and rule in Israel and Judah?

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LESSON 10

READINGS

2 KINGS 1-2

FROM THE TEXT

1. Who was Ahaziah (1:1; 1 Kings 22:51-52)?
2. Who did Ahaziah turn to when ill (1:2)? What does this tell us of his mindset and the spiritual state of Israel?
3. Why did God have Elijah meet Ahaziah's messengers, and what message was given to them (1:3-4)?
4. What means of destruction was used by God (1:9-12)? Why did Elijah call for this specific means?
5. Who became king after Ahaziah died (1:17-18)?
6. Who were "the sons of the prophets" (2:3, 5, 7)?
7. Why did Elisha demand to stay with Elijah (2:2, 4, 6)?
8. What is significant about the miracle in 2:8?
9. How did Elijah die (11, 15-18)?
10. What two miracles of Elisha are recorded in chapter 2?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What was Elijah's reputation? How well was he known? (1:6-8)
2. Describe the relationship of Elijah and Elisha (2:1-14).
3. In days when "word from the Lord" was rare (1 Sam. 3:1), Samuel presided over the company of prophets (1 Sam. 19:20). Has Elisha now taken a similar position (2 Kings 2:15-22)?

1. Why did God destroy 102 men of Judah (1:9-12) and not destroy the third emissary (1:13-14)?
2. What was Elisha's final request of Elijah, and was it granted (2:9-25)?
3. Why is the event in 2:23-24 recorded for us?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture and a dark binding. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover lies to the left. The items are set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 11

READINGS

2 KINGS 3-4

FROM THE TEXT

1. How did Jehoram differ from Ahab in his spiritual beliefs (3:1-3)?
2. Why did Jehoram want to go to war with Moab (3:4-5; 1:1)?
3. Who joined Jehoram against Moab (3:6-9)?
4. What does Elisha say was a slight thing for God (3:15-18)?
5. How would the good pices of land be marred with stones (3:19,25)?
6. Why did the Moabites attack (3:20-24)?
7. Why did the widow appeal to Elisha and not another man (4:1)?
8. What miracle occured in the widows house at Elisha's direction (4:1-7)?
9. What gift did the Shunamite woman receive for her hospitality? Was this from Elisha or God (4:13-17)?
10. What New Testament miracles echo what is done through Elisha in 4:42-44?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What was Elisha's reputation (3:11-12; 4:8-10)?
2. What evidence is seen to demonstrate the widows faith (4:1-7)?
3. How does the Shunamite woman demonstrate her faith (4:18-37)?
4. How does Elisha demonstrate his faith (4:18-37; 38-44)?

1. What was Elisha's attitude toward Jehoram (3:13-20)? Does this teach us something of what our attitude should be toward those living in sin?
2. Did Mesha's sacrifice of his son work in giving Moab an advantage in the battle (3:26-27)?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture and a dark binding. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 12

READINGS

2 KINGS 5-6

FROM THE TEXT

1. What was Elisha's reputation (5:3)?
2. What did Naaman bring with him to Samaria (5:5, 10, 13)?
3. What was the King of Israel's response to the Aramean's letter, and what was Elisha's response (5:6-8)?
4. How can we be helpful to someone struggling with a decision to obey God (5:13)?
5. Describe Gehazi's sin (5:20-25).
6. Why was Elisha involved in a building project (6:1-4)?
7. Are the miracles in 6:5-7 performed for selfish reasons? What was the purpose of the miracles?
8. How was the King of Aram troubled by the word of God through Elisha (6:8-12)?
9. Is Elisha caught unaware of Aram's plot to capture him (6:13-16)? What was shown to his attendant (6:17)?
10. Why does the woman on the wall complain to the king of Israel (6:24-29)?
11. Why is the king's wearing of sack-cloth recorded for us (6:30)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How does God's instructions through Elisha test Naaman's faith (5:10)?
2. What was Naaman's spiritual concern? Explain Elisha's response. (5:17-19)
3. Why did Elisha say it was not a time to receive gifts (5:26-27)?
4. Describe the King of Israel's attitude toward Elisha (6:21).
5. Why does the king of Israel place blame on Elisha for the Aramean siege (6:24, 31, 33)?

1. How does Naaman's response to the instruction teach us about reactions some have to the gospel (5:11-12)?
2. Why did Elisha's actions convince the Arameans to not come again into the land of Israel (6:18-23)?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 13

FROM THE TEXT

1. What message of hope did Elisha give to the King of Israel about the siege? What message of doom was given to the king's messenger (7:1-2)?
2. Why did the lepers decide to turn to the Arameans (7:3-4)?
3. Why were the Arameans gone (7:5-6)?
4. Why did the lepers feel guilty (7:7-10)?
5. What convinced all the inhabitants to plunder the Aramean camp (7:11-16)?
6. Why was the royal officer trampled at the gate (7:17-20)?
7. Why would the king desire for Gehazi to relay every great thing Elisha had done (8:4)?
8. Why was the Shunamite's land restored to her (8:4-6)?
9. What did Ben-hadad want to know from Elisha? Is this surprising? (8:7-8)?
10. Why did Elisha weep before Hazael (8:11-13)?
11. How did Ben-hadad die (8:14-15)?
12. What kind of king was Ahaziah (8:25-28)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The royal servant asked “why should I wait for the Lord any longer?” (6:33). What do we learn from the events in chapters 6 and 7 about perseverance and trust?
2. How does the Shunamite woman again demonstrate her faith (8:1-3)? How did she come to have such great faith? How do we come to have such great faith?
3. What significant event is relayed about the life of Jehorm, King of Judah, that indicates how low he had sunk in turning away from God (8:16-18)?

1. Though little is relayed about God speaking through Elisha, what evidence is found that he has obvious foreknowledge of events.
2. Why did Elisha go to speak with Hazael? What was the purpose of this encounter? (8:10-15)?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a grayscale, textured style.

LESSON 14

READINGS

2 KINGS 9-10

FROM THE TEXT

1. Give three points of importance from the words of the prophet to Jehu (9:4-10).
2. What was the reaction of Jehu and his friends (9:11-14)?
3. Please explain the following statements:
 - A. "If this is your mind" (9:15). Whose mind?
 - B. "Is it peace?" (9:17, 19)
 - C. "What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me." (9:17-19)
4. How did Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah die (9:20-28)?
5. How did Jezebel die (9:32-37)?
6. Who did Jehu kill from the house of Ahab (10:7-11, 17)?
7. How did Jehu remove Baal out of Israel (10:18-28)?
8. What aspect of idolatry remained in Jehu's life and in Israel (10:29-31)?
9. Who ruled in Israel after Jehu (10:35-36)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What is significant about Jehu meeting Joram at the property of Naboth (9:25-26)?
2. Why does Jezebel call Jehu “Zimri” (9:31)?
3. What does Jehu proclaim about the people of Jezreel (10:9)?
4. Describe Jehu’s attitude toward God (10:16, 29-33).

1. What point is strongly made in this reading about God’s word (9:26, 36-37)? What should we learn from this?
2. From the actions of Jehu in chapter 10, what became his attitude about the words of the prophet in 9:6-10?
3. By killing Joram and Ahaziah, did Jehu reunite the country becoming ruler of the North and South (consider 10:4-5)

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover is also visible. The items are rendered in a light, textured style.

LESSON 15

READINGS

2 KINGS 11-13

FROM THE TEXT

1. What horrible act did queen Athalia commit (11:1)? Who was not included (11:2-3)?
2. Describe the righteous actions of Jehoiada the priest (11:4-12:3).
3. How old was Jehoash when he became king (11:21)?
4. Why was the Temple in need of repair (12:5; 2 Chronicles 24:7)?
5. How did Jehoash arrange for the repairs to be paid (12:4-5)?
6. When the King of Aram turned his army toward Jerusalem, what did Jehoash do (12:17-18)?
7. How did Joash (Jehoash), king of Judah, die (12:19-21)?
8. What was Joash's (King of Israel) concern when he came to Elisha (13:14)? What was Elisha's last recorded prophecy (13:14-19)?
9. What miracles occurred after Elisha's death (13:21)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How was Joash hidden in the house of the Lord for seven years (11:3)? Where in the Temple did he live?
2. What was the state of spirituality within the priesthood (12:6-8)? What provision did Jehoida make to ensure the repairs be done (12:9-12)?
3. Why was God angry with Israel, and why did His attitude change (13:1-5)? What hope does this give us?

1. Why did Athalia destory her grandsons (11:1)? (Consider 11:14)
2. From 11:17-19 discuss the importance of making a covenant (such as we have done with God) and what actions should result.
3. What is seen in these chapters about how a person's upbringing works to mold his spirituality as an adult?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture, while another is rolled up. A thick, old book lies to the left. The items are rendered in a monochromatic, textured style.

LESSON 16

FROM THE TEXT

1. What Scripture does Amaziah King of Judah apply to his father's murderers (14:5-6)?
2. Why did Judah get defeated by Israel (14:9-12)? What was the result (14:13-14)?
3. How did Amaziah die (14:17-21)?
4. How does God demonstrate He had not forgotten His people in Israel (the northern kingdom) (14:23-27)?
5. Was Jeroboam a good king or an evil king (14:24, 26-27)?
6. What do we know about Azariah's 52 year reign over Judah from chapter 15?
7. Why did Hoshea strike down Pekah king of Israel (15:27-31)?
8. What good statement is made about Jotham king of Judah (15:32-38)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What was the difference in serving God like David versus like Joash (14:3)?
2. Explain the message from Jehoash King of Israel (14:8-10).
3. What word of the Lord came true (15:12)?
4. Why is Jeroboam continually brought back up (15:9, 18, 24, 28)?

1. What is the state of spirituality in Israel (the northern kingdom) as evidenced in the succession of kings in chapter 15? Why have things become this way?
2. How do chapters 14 and 15 demonstrate the “book of the kings” is a divine message, and not merely a history written by men?

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture, while another is rolled up. A thick, old book with a worn cover lies next to them. The entire scene is set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 17

READINGS

1 KINGS 16-17

FROM THE TEXT

1. How was Ahaz a more evil king than his father Pekah (16:1-6)?
2. What agreement did Ahaz make with the Assyrians (16:7-9)?
3. What changes did Ahaz institute in how to serve God at the Temple (16:14-18)?
4. How did Hoshea do evil in the sight of God that was different than the kings before him (17:1-2)?
5. What was the result of Hoshea's conspiracy (17:3-6)?
6. What was the consequence of not completely removing the inhabitants when the land of Canaan was captured in the time of Joshua (17:7-8, 15).
7. Though the punishment on Israel was from God, what does He do to those who occupied the former Israelite cities (17:24-25)?
8. What did the priest of Israel teach the new inhabitants (17:27-41)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What is the spiritual state of Judah under the reign of Ahaz (16:10-16)?
2. From 17:7-23, summarize why God brought about Israel's captivity to the Assyrians. Try to reduce to three or four points.
3. Why were the cities of Israel filled with people from other nations (17:24)?

1. Why did Ahaz have a new alter constructed? What was it to be used for? Was this wrong?
2. Understanding the importance of the role of the prophets (17:13), what are we to learn about God's warnings?
3. What should Judah have learned from Israel's punishment? (Consider 17:19; Jeremiah 3:6-10)

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture and a dark binding. Another scroll is partially unrolled. A thick, old book with a worn cover lies to the left. The items are set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 18

FROM THE TEXT

1. What kind of king was Hezekiah? What things are recorded of him to demonstrate this (18:1-6)?
2. Why did Israel go into the Assyrian captivity (18:9-12)?
3. What payment was made to get Assyria to withdraw from the fortified cities of Judah (18:13-16)? What was the result?
4. What was the message Sennacherib sent to Hezekiah (18:19-25)?
5. What evidence is presented by Sennacherib's spokesman to demonstrate God would not save Judah (18:28-35)? What was the result of this speech (18:36-19:1)?
6. What was Hezekiah's reaction to a second envoy with a letter from Sennacherib (19:11-14)?
7. Why does Hezekiah think the gods of the other nations did not stop Sennacherib (19:17-18)?
8. Why did Sennacherib withdraw from sieging Jerusalem (19:35-37)?
9. Why did God heal Hezekiah (20:1-7)?
10. What miracle was given as evidence of God's promise of Hezekiah's recovery (20:8-11)?
11. What word of prophecy was given to Hezekiah after he showed all that he possessed to men from Babylon (20:12-19)? What was Hezekiah's response?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why were the people worshipping the bronze serpent made by Moses (18:4)? What does its destruction indicate about Hezekiah's view of idolatry, especially when compared with the other kings?
2. Though this is the first mention of Isaiah in Scripture (19:2), he obviously had a reputation from his work with Israel (as recorded in the book of Isaiah). From Isaiah's response (19:6-7), what is God's attitude toward Sennacherib and his claims?
3. Why does Hezekiah want God to deliver them (19:19)? What does this indicate about his faith?
4. What will the zeal of the Lord perform (19:31)? How and when is this fulfilled?
5. What "conduit" or "tunnel" is referenced in 20:20? Why is this an important mention in Scripture?

1. Did the Lord speak to the Assyrians about destroying Judah (18:25)?
2. Consider what God reveals about His knowledge of the sin of Assyria (19:20-28). Discuss God's awareness of our sin and His attitude.

An illustration of ancient scrolls and a book. One scroll is unrolled, showing its texture, while another is rolled up. A thick, old book with a worn cover lies next to them. The entire scene is set against a dark background with horizontal bars.

LESSON 19

READINGS

2 KINGS 21-23:30

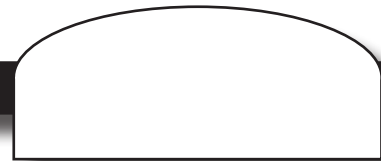
FROM THE TEXT

1. Manasseh was an evil king in Judah. What evidence is given to demonstrate this (21:1-9, 16)?
2. What was God's reaction to Manasseh's evil ways (21:10-15)?
3. How did Amon die (21:19-26)?
4. What evidence is given to demonstrate Josiah as a good and righteous king (22:1-7)?
5. What was Josiah's reaction to hearing the book of the Law (22:11-13)?
6. From the reforms Josiah implemented, describe the spiritual state of the nation (23:4-20)?
7. What festival did Josiah reinstate (23:21-23)?
8. What was the basis for all Josiah's reforms (23:24-26)? Why should this be our basis of reform?
9. What was the "last straw" that caused God to not relent in His plan of destruction of Judah (23:26-27)?
10. How did Josiah die (23:28-30)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How long had the book of the law been lost even to the priests (22:8-13)? How did this happen?
2. What messages did Huldah the prophetess give to Hilkiah and Josiah (22:14-20)? Why the differences in the messages?
3. Compare Josiah with King David (see 23:25).

1. Why do some not serve the Lord when they have godly parents? Discuss the great differences of faith between Ahab (chapter 16) and Hezekiah, Hezekiah and Manasseh, Manasseh and Amon, and Amon and Josiah (all fathers and sons).
2. How did Josiah personally lead the nation in righteousness (23:1-3)? Include the extent of his reforms (23:4-20). Discuss how this is a great example for men today.



FROM THE TEXT

1. What kind of King was Jehoahaz, and what happened to him (23:31-34)?
2. What evil is recorded about Jehoiakim (23:35-37)?
3. Why did Judah come to be under attack (24:1-5)?
4. How did Jehoiachin come to be a captive of Nebuchadnezzar (24:10-12)? What happened to him (25:28-30)?
5. What kind of king was Zedekiah (24:17-25:7; 2 Chronicles 36:11-14)?
6. How did Nebuzaradan destroy Jerusalem (25:8-12; 2 Chronicles 36:15-21)?
7. What happened to the Jewish leaders (25:18-21)?
8. How does Gedaliah prove himself to be the servant of Babylon (25:22-24)?
9. Why did the remaining Jews flee to Egypt (25:25-27)?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Compare 2 Kings 24:13-16 with Jeremiah 22:24-30 and Daniel 1:1-4. Why was Daniel taken into the Babylonian captivity? Discuss why bad things sometimes happen to good people.
2. Specifically how was the Temple looted by the Babylonians (25:13-17)? What became of these items (see Daniel 1:1-5 and Ezra 1:5-11)?
3. What was the state of Jerusalem after the captives were taken to Babylon and the remaining Jews left for Egypt? (see also Ezra 2:68, 3:6, 3:10-13; Nehemiah 2:17)

1. What, in your mind, is the main theme of the “book of the kings” (1 Samuel - 2 Kings)?
2. From our study of 1-2 Kings, provide three lessons we must apply to our own lives.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.