

Bible Reading Notes  
**2 Kings**

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## 2 Kings 1

1:2 – **Baal-zebug** = Lord of the flies. This was a derisive revision of the name of Baal-zebul (Baal is exalted) made by the Jews.

1:3 – **Elijah** = My God is Yahweh. Once again Elijah will testify to the uniqueness of the Lord as the only true God.

1:10 – **fire came down from heaven** - Just as the Lord had manifested his superiority over Baal at Mt. Carmel.

## 2 Kings 2

2:14 – **the water was parted** – This was the sign that God had designated to confirm that Elisha was the successor to Elijah.

2:23-25 – From the context, the boys' mocking of Elisha was really a mocking of the Lord who had called him.

## 2 Kings 3

2 Kings 3 is very similar to the account of Ahab and Jehoshaphat seeking guidance from Micaiah in 1 Kings 22.

3:27 – **great wrath** – Not the Lord's wrath but the wrath of Edom which was motivated by the king's action.

## 2 Kings 4

**2 Kings 4** recounts a series of miracles done by Elisha. These serve to demonstrate his calling by the Lord.

**4:23, 26 – All is well** – This was a statement of faith by the Shunammite woman.

## 2 Kings 5

The author of Kings continues with his long section on Elisha with an emphasis on his mighty works.

**5:1 – but he was a leper** – Naaman had a skin condition but it may not have been what we think of as modern leprosy, since he still had contact with the king (v. 4).

**5:17 – loads of earth** – So Naaman could build an altar in Syria to worship the Lord.

**5:27** – An ironic judgment upon Gehazi.

## 2 Kings 6

**6:16** – This is always true for the believer.

**6:17 – horses and chariots of fire** – The heavenly hosts sent by God to protect Elisha.

**6:19** – This was about a ten-mile journey.

**6:28-29** – This is one of the curses of the covenant that the Lord promised on unfaithful Israel (Deuteronomy 28:52-57).

## 2 Kings 7

**Chapter 7** continues the account of the Syrians' siege of Samaria.

**7:6 – chariots and horses** – the same ones that Elisha saw in 6:15.

**7:13 – five of the remaining horses** – the siege had been devastating to the city of Samaria.

## 2 Kings 8

**8:1-6** does not appear to be chronologically in place. This conversation likely occurred in the context of 2 Kings 4:38.

**8:7-15** – Elisha fulfilled the Lord's command in 1 Kings 19:15 in declaring Hazael to be king of Syria.

**8:15** – Hazael reigned for about 40 years and was one of Israel's fiercest enemies.

## 2 Kings 9

**9:1-3** – This is the final aspect of fulfilling the Lord's command from 1 Kings 19:15.

**9:13 – garments** – This was behind the spreading of garments for Jesus on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:8).

**9:36** – This was in fulfillment of the Lord's word in 1 Kings 21:23.

## 2 Kings 10

10:10 – said by his servant Elijah = 1 Kings 21:21.

10:30 – Jehu was a violent man, but he earned the Lord's praise for being the Lord's instrument of judgment on Ahab's house and on the worshippers of Baal.

## 2 Kings 11

11:1 – son was dead – The death of Ahaziah is recorded in 1 Kings 9:27.

11:1 – Athaliah – Was a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel who was given in marriage to Jehoram, king of Judah (2 Kings 8:18).

11:12 – testimony – This is probably a copy of the law as ordered in Deuteronomy 17:18-20.

## 2 Kings 12

12:4 – Jehoash – In the account in Chronicles his name is Joash.

12:4ff – Jehoash's original plan was for the priests to take the money gathered and repair the temple. The priests collected the money but did not use it to start the repairs. Jehoash then ordered that outside contractors be hired to do the work (v. 11).

## 2 Kings 13

13:7 – Jehoahaz’s army has been decimated and would be unable to stop a Syrian invasion.

13:10 – **Jehoash** – This is not the same man as in chapter 12. This Jehoash is the king of the northern tribes.

## 2 Kings 14

14:6 – This law is given in Deuteronomy 24:16.

14:8 – **look one another in the face** – This was an invitation to battle, as seen in Jehoash’s response.

14:25 – **Jonah** – This is the Jonah who was sent by God to Nineveh (Jonah 1:1-2).

## 2 Kings 15

15:1 – **Azariah** is named Uzziah in 2 Chronicles.

15:2 – **fifty-two years** – While Judah enjoyed the peace and security of a long reign, Israel had six different kings during Uzziah’s reign, many for very short periods of time.

15:12 – The Lord’s promise is recorded in 2 Kings 10:30.

## 2 Kings 16

16:5 – This is the same war we read about in Isaiah 7.

16:7 – Another example of Ahaz's unfaithfulness.

Instead of trusting the Lord, like Isaiah called on him to do, he made a treaty with Assyria for help.

16:11 – Now the priest has joined with Ahaz in his great sin by changing the altar from the Lord's design to the design of a pagan altar in Syria.

## 2 Kings 17

17:7 – The reason for the destruction of Samaria and the exile. God used the Assyrians as his instrument of judgment. The verses that follow will give details of their sin.

17:14 – **But they would not listen** – The Lord's judgment only came after generations of prophets were sent to warn them. But they would not listen to the Lord's messengers.

17:19 – It would only be 136 years later that Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians.



## 2 Kings 18

**18:3 – did what was right** – Hezekiah did not follow the path of his father, Ahaz, who led Judah significantly astray in their worship (2 Kings 16:10-18).

**18:4 – bronze serpent** – The one made by Moses to secure healing for those bitten by the fiery serpents sent by the Lord to discipline Israel for their rebellion (Numbers 21).

**18:9** – This occurred in 722 BC and marked the end of the northern kingdom.

**18:13ff** – This account reflects a new king over Assyria and took place in 701 BC.

**18:17ff** – Even though Hezekiah gave them the silver and gold that was demanded, the Assyrians did not keep their word.

**18:17** – The first two mentioned were military leaders. The Rabshakeh was the king's chief cupbearer.

**18:33-35** – The Assyrians made the mistake of thinking that the LORD is no different than the false gods of the other nations. They will soon learn otherwise.

## 2 Kings 19

This is the third account of Hezekiah and Sennacherib in the Old Testament, reflecting the great significance of the event. This is the account by Ezra.

**19:25-28** – The Lord had determined to give Assyria the victories she boasts about. Because of her arrogance, the Lord will bring Assyria to an end.

## 2 Kings 20

**Chapter 20** is a parallel passage to Isaiah 38-39.

**20:7** – God was the one who healed but uses the medicine of the day to accomplish that healing.

**20:13** – This act of pride will lead to the destruction of Jerusalem about 120 years later.

## 2 Kings 21

**21:3-9** – Manasseh not only undid the reforms that Hezekiah had put in place, but he went even further being more pagan than the pagans around Israel (v. 9).

Other than a bright spot during Josiah's reign, the rest of Judah's history will be characterized by sin and evil rulers.

## 2 Kings 22

**22:5 – repairing the house** – It has been 46 years since Israel had a king that supported the worship of the Lord in the temple.

**22:8 – Book of the Law** - A copy of the book of Deuteronomy. It is called the Book of the Covenant in 23:2.

## 2 Kings 23

23:16 – **predicted these things** – This prediction is found in 1 Kings 13:2.

23:25 – **no king like him** – Josiah's reforms were more extensive than any other king and showed the genuineness of his faith and repentance.

## 2 Kings 24

Our reading today is Ezra's account of the final years and fall of Jerusalem.

24:3 – **sins of Manasseh** – The sins of Manasseh continued to plague Judah and brought the wrath of God upon Judah because she continued in the same sin.

