

2 Kings: An Overview

As we study the book of 2 Kings together, I will remind you that we are basically gaining simple insight about the book and who the main characters are and what the purpose was. Also, how does it apply to us in our modern context? (Our lives today.) I am keeping it simple so that anyone should be able to answer the questions and learn. God bless you as you work through the Bible with me.

Last time we learned that 1 Kings and 2 Kings was originally one book. We learned an overview of the life of Solomon, Israel's _____ king. Solomon was known for his _____ and his _____. Solomon was the King that God used to build the _____. Solomon's reign was Israel's most fruitful days. Later in life, the kingdom begins to decline because of Solomon's foolish practices with his many wives. Solomon had taken his eyes off Yahweh God.

After Solomon died, the nation of Israel divided into 2 parts, _____ and _____. During this time, a great prophet arose named _____. Elijah deals with King _____ and his wife, _____. He performed great miracles. Elijah prayed for a drought, which happened. It did not _____ for three and half years. The widow that Elijah stayed with had a barrel that never ran out of _____. Elijah also raised her boy from the dead. Maybe Elijah's' greatest event was the defeat of the prophets of _____ on Mt. Carmel. Elijah had another great prophet that began to follow him. His name was _____.

The book of 2 Kings begins with the reign of a good king, _____, in Judah. _____ is reigning in Israel. God judges Ahaziah and Israel right away by _____ Moab to come against them.

In Chapter 2, we see the end of Elijah! But he does not die. Instead he is taken to Heaven in a _____ by a _____. Then, _____ becomes the great prophet of God's people. His first miracle is a lesson to all that we should respect our elders. When young people called him a "Bald head," it did not go well for them. Two _____ mauled 42 youth! Elisha performed a similar miracle to Elijah. He helped a widow by multiplying her _____. Then he raised her _____ from the dead! When you study the miracles of Elijah and Elisha, they often resemble miracles that we see Jesus performing in the New Testament.

In Chapter 4, he feeds a miraculous amount of people with a pot of stew. In Ch. 5, Naaman's leprosy was healed. In Ch. 6, the Syrians make war across the land.

_____ seized the land and people were starving to death! It got so bad that a _____ head was expensive! Two women cooked a baby and ate him. When the king heard this story, he called for the head of Elisha! Israel was living in opposition to God and to His will.

In Chapter 7, the tables are turned! 4 _____ discover that the Syrian invaders had fled and left everything! Suddenly, there was much food in Israel! The king did not get to enjoy it because he was trampled at the gate.

For the reader, the story of the Kings is disheartening. There is much death and destruction as most Kings try to lead a nation without the influence of Yahweh! It covers the time of Ahaziah in Israel and Jehoram in Judah, up to the time of captivity. It shows that degenerate rulers and sinful people end in trouble! In the case of God's people, their rebellion landed them in slavery in Babylon. Judah lasted longer than Israel because they had a few good kings in the mix. _____ and _____ are the most important characters of the Books of the Kings. 2 Kings is more focused on Elisha and his illustrious career as a prophet of Yahweh!

There is much death, heartache, and pain in this book. Much of it might have been avoided if it had not been for the wicked hearts of the kings and the people of God. God allowed the hardship to get the people to repent and return to a right relationship with Him. He has the same goal for us today!

What is your favorite story from the book of 2 Kings?

How can we apply the book of 2 Kings to our lives today?