

2 Kings

Introductory Note

Since 2 Kings merely continues the history recorded in 1 Kings, being these two books were originally one volume, issues pertaining to authorship, date, historical background, and message should be carefully reviewed in the *Introduction section of 1 Kings*.



Message

Continuing where 1 Kings concluded (with Ahaziah of Israel [1 Kgs 22:51-53]), the Book of 2 Kings traces the progressive decline, destruction, and deportation of both Israel (by Assyria in 722 B.C.) and Judah (by Babylon in 605, 597, and 586 B.C.); however, the nations' destruction and deportation were only temporary as the LORD provided a continuing hope and promises to His faithful remnant in order to fulfill His covenant promises to Abraham and David through Judah's last king, Jehoiachin.

Outline

Any attempt to outline 1 and 2 Kings must take into account the fact that these are two volumes of what was originally a single book in the Hebrew Bible. Therefore, the outline of these two books must of necessity reflect a single, continuous, and harmonious presentation of the central theme of the Book of Kings, which concerns the official record of God's evaluation of the reign of King Solomon over the United Kingdom inherited from his father David (1:1–11:43), the reigns of the kings in Israel and Judah during the divided kingdom (Kings 12:1–2 Kings 17:41), which ensued following the death of Solomon, and the reigns of the kings of Judah during the surviving kingdom of Judah in light of their faithfulness or lack of faithfulness to the covenant mandates of Yahweh (Deut 28-30).¹

¹G. Savran ("1 and 2 Kings," in *Literary Guide to the Bible*, 148) provides an interesting chiasm, which highlights the central cause of Israel's and Judah's failure, **the implementation of Baal cult worship**:

- A Solomon/United Monarchy—1 Kgs 1:1–11:25
- B Jeroboam/Rehoboam; division of kingdom—1 Kgs 11:26–14:31
- C Kings of Judah/Israel—1 Kgs 15:1–16:22
 - D. Omride Dynasty**; rise and fall of Baal cult in Israel and Judah—1 Kgs 16:23–2 Kgs 12
 - C¹ Kings of Judah/Israel—2 Kgs 13–16
 - B¹ Fall of Northern Kingdom—2 Kgs 17
 - A¹ [Surviving] Kingdom of Judah—2 Kgs 18–25

Outline of 2 Kings

I. The Divided Kingdom [Continued]: An Evaluation of the History of the Kings of Israel and Judah from the Reign of Ahaziah in the Northern Kingdom Until the Destruction and Deportation of Israel During the Reign of Hoshea in the Northern Kingdom 1:1-17:41

- A. Ahaziah [Evil] of Israel and Elijah's Last Prophecy 1 Kgs 22:51–2 Kgs 1:18

- B. Elijah's Translation and Elisha's Inauguration 2:1-18

- C. Elisha in the Reign of Joram [Evil] of Israel 2:19–8:15
 - 1. Elisha's initial miraculous signs 2:19-25
 - 2. Elisha during the campaign against Moab (chap. 3)
 - 3. Elisha's ministry to needy ones in Israel (chap. 4)
 - 4. Elisha heals Naaman (chap. 5)
 - 5. Elisha's deliverance of one of the prophets 6:1-7
 - 6. Elisha's deliverance of Joram from Aramean raiders 6:8-23
 - 7. Aramean siege of Samaria lifted, as Elisha prophesied 6:24–7:20
 - 8. The Shunammite's land restored 8:1-6
 - 9. Elisha prophesies Hazael's oppression of Israel 8:7-15

- D. Jehoram [Evil] of Judah [**848–841** B.C.] 8:16-24

- E. Ahaziah [Evil] of Judah [**841** B.C.] 8:25-29

- F. Jehu [Evil] of Israel [**841–815** B.C.] 9:1–10:36

- G. Athaliah² [Evil] of Judah [841–835 B.C.] 11:1-20
- H. Joash (Jehoash) [Good] of Judah 835–796 B.C.] 11:21–12:21**
*** Joash’s repair of the temple 12:4-16**
- I. Jehoahaz [Evil] of Israel [814–798 B.C.] 13:1-9
- J. Jehoash [Evil] of Israel [798–792 B.C.] 13:10-25
- K. Amaziah [Good] of Judah [796–767 B.C.] 14:1-22**
- L. Jeroboam II [Evil] of Israel [794–753 B.C.] 14:23-29
- M. **Uzziah (Azariah) [Good] of Judah [790–740 B.C.] 15:1-7**
- N. Zechariah [Evil] of Israel [753 B.C.] 15:8-12
- O. Shallum [Evil] of Israel [752 B.C.] 15:13-16
- P. Menahem [Evil] of Israel [752–742 B.C.] 15:17-22
- Q. Pekahiah [Evil] of Israel [742–740 B.C.] 15:23-26
- R. Pekah [Evil] of Israel [752–732 B.C.] 15:27-31
- S. Jotham [Good] of Judah [750–736 B.C.] 15:32-38**

²Athaliah was the wicked daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.

T. **Ahaz** [Evil] of **Judah** [736–715 B.C.] 16:1-20

U. Hoshea [Evil] of Israel [732–722 B.C.] 17:1-41

1. The conquest of Israel by Shalmaneser 17:1-6

2. The cause of Israel's destruction and captivity 17:7-23

3. The colonization of Samaria with displaced peoples 17:24-41

a. The origin of the Samaritans: interracial mixing of Jews and pagans 17:24-26

b. The syncretistic worship of the Samaritans 17:27-33

c. The continued idolatry of the Samaritans 17:34-41

II. The Surviving Kingdom of Judah: An Evaluation of the History of the Kings of Judah from the Fall of Samaria (722) to the Fall of Jerusalem (605, 597, 586) 18:1–25:30

A. **Hezekiah's Good Reign** [715–686 B.C.] 18:1–20:21

1. Shalmaneser defeats and deports the northern kingdom of Israel (722) 18:9-12

2. **Sennacherib's siege of Jerusalem (701) and defeat by Yahweh** 18:13–19:37

3. Hezekiah's illness and miraculous recovery 20:1-11

4. Hezekiah's foolish disclosure to envoys from Merodach-baladan 20:12-19

B. Manasseh's Evil Reign [695-642 B.C.] 21:1-18

C. Amon's Evil Reign [642–640 B.C.] 21:19-26

D. **Josiah's Good Reign** [640–609 B.C.] 22:1–23:30

E. Jehoahaz's Evil Reign [609 B.C.] 23:31-35

F. Jehoiakim's³ Evil Reign [609–597 B.C.] 23:36–24:7

G. Jehoiachin's Evil Reign [597 B.C.] 24:8-17

H. Zedekiah's Evil Reign [597–586 B.C.] 24:18–25:7

I. **Jehoiachin's Release from Prison in Babylon**⁴ (560 B.C.) 25:27-30

³After the battle of Carchemish in 605 B.C. (in which both Assyria and Egypt were decimated and their rules ended), Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, made Jehoiachin his vassal, and led a limited number of captives (Daniel and his three friends, and others) back to Babylon.

⁴Evil-merodach, King of Babylon, released Jehoiachin, king of Judah, from prison in the 37th year of the exile on the 27 day of 12 month of his reign and honored him by speaking kindly to him, seating him above other kings, changing his clothes, allowing him to dine with him and giving him an allowance.