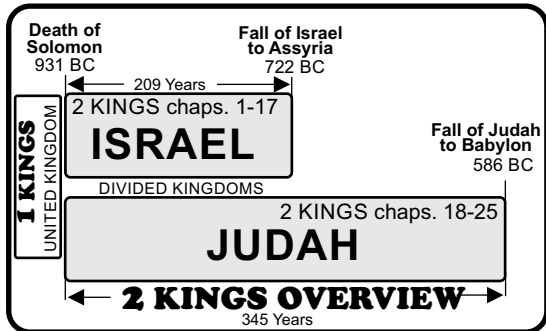


Outline of 2 kings
 1-17 **Divided Kingdoms (I & J)**
 18-25 **Surviving Kingdom (Judah)**

First Kings: One nation becomes two
Second Kings: Two nations become none

Introduction

The books of Kings were named because they record and interpret the lives of Israel's and Judah's kings. The title "Kings" comes from Jerome's Latin translation called the Vulgate. He called them "The Book of the Kings." First and Second Kings were divided because of the size of the scroll, to make them more manageable, not because there was a natural narrative break.



The books of First and Second Kings is a narrative history of God's Covenant people. It is considered by many to be the saddest book of all Jewish history. While First Kings covers about 150 years, Second Kings covers about 300 years. During this 300 year period, God raised up many Prophets. In the north (Israel) there were Hosea, Amos, and Jonah. In the south (Judah) the Prophets

2 KINGS

God shows the results of disobedience in history in the lives of representatives, namely the kings.

were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Nahum, Habbakkuk, and Zephaniah. These were the pre-exilic Prophets. Many would end up in exile from the land. The fact that God sent prophets to warn the wicked demonstrates His love for them. God promised that in the future, they or their children would return home. The people did not perceive national setbacks as divine discipline. The Prophets constantly tried to teach the people this lesson. As the people departed from God the Prophets would call them back to trust and obedience. During the divided kingdom the writer shows each king by his allegiance to God's covenant. The same principle that applies to the kings also applies to the people's lives.

Elijah and Elisha

Elisha requested to have a double portion of the Spirit of God as Elijah had. It appears God granted that request. God performed through Elijah 7 recorded miracles. He used Elisha to perform 14 miracles. Elijah's departure in a whirlwind provides questions about a possible prophetic future (Re.10-11). Because Elijah did not die, could mean God had a future plan for him back on the earth. Elisha ministry extended beyond the borders of Israel. Nathan, the captain of the host of the king of Syria, had leprosy. This dreaded disease degenerated its victim and proved to be fatal. There was no known cure for it. The Syrian king sent a letter to Israel's king

HISTORY

BOOK 12
2Ki.
 2 KINGS
 25 CHAPTERS

Jehoram to have Naaman healed. Jehoram was concerned that Syria wanted to pick a fight though they were at peace. Jehoram did not consider Elisha. He did not like Elisha because he opposed him, and wanted to avoid him. This showed that a Gentile king had more faith than the king of Israel.

- 2 KINGS THEMES**
- 1. The Lord will judge His people when they disobey.**
 - 2. The word of God's Prophets always come to pass.**
 - 3. The Lord is faithful remembering His promise to David.**

Foreshadowing

Jesus referred to two examples from 2 Kings which involved God's gracious dealings with a woman and a Gentile believer (Lu.4:25, widow of Zarephath, and Naaman the Syrian, Lu.4:27). These had more faith than they did. Jesus used these examples in the context of "No prophet is accepted in his own country." That is, the Jews of His day were already rejecting him.

CHRIST IN 2 KINGS

- Christ is the gracious God who sent Prophets, including Himself as the "angel of the LORD", to encourage His people.

[chart]

1 kings- United kingdom David, Solomon

2 kings- Divided kingdoms Israel and Judah divided (many kings); Downfall of divided kingdom

ISSUES OF CHRONOLOGY

The chronologies of Judah can be difficult. Some of the explanations include periods that had two kings that ruled at the same time, or co-regency. Also the kings would use different means of establishing when their rule began. However, there are high-level dates that are well established.

[chart]

931BC the division of the kingdoms

722BC the fall of Israel

586BC the fall of Judah

SUMMARY CONCLUSION