

An Old Testament Glance

The History Books – 2 Kings

Written	550 BC	Period*	850-575 BC	Author	Unknown
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*Dates are sometimes hard to know. They can vary depending on scholars & sources of information.

2 Kings 1-10	The Journeys of Elijah & Elisha
2 Kings 11-17	Israel's History to the Assyrian Invasion in 722 BC
2 Kings 18-25	Israel's History to the Babylonian Invasion in 586 BC

So, the divided Nation of Israel continues.

The ministry of the prophet Elijah was coming to an end (2 Kings 2). The ministry of Elisha was just beginning. He would not leave Elijah even when Elijah told him to. They crossed over the Jordan River on dry ground due to a miracle by Elijah.

1. What did Elijah ask Elisha? (2 Kings 2:9)

2. What did Elisha reply? (2 Kings 2:9)

Elijah, then, was taken away in a chariot alive. He never died. Elisha began ministering to Israel (2 Kings 2:19).



He had asked Elijah for a double blessing of power from God. It appears that God answered that prayer. Some have counted the miracles of the two prophets; Elijah had approximately 16 and Elisha had approximately 32. Interesting.

3. In an ungodly society of evil leaders and no hope for the Jewish people, why would God send a prophet around the countryside preaching, predicting, and doing incredible miracles? (2 Kings 4:1 – 8:15)

Maybe, the Lord was just following through on His promises of the past.

4. Deuteronomy 20:1 – “Do not be _____ of them, for the Lord your God is _____, who brought you up from _____.”

5. Deuteronomy 31:6 – “For the Lord your God, He is the _____ who _____
With you. He will not _____ you nor _____ you.”
6. Joshua 1:9 – “For the Lord your God is _____”.
7. Judges 6:16 – “Surely _____”.

THE DIVIDED NATION TO THE NORTH - ISRAEL

Evil Reigns Continue – There are 11 more evil kings recorded in 2 Kings here. It starts with King Joram (852 BC) & winds down to King Hoshea (732 BC).

THE NATION OF ASSYRIA WAS BECOMING A HUGE & OVERWHELMING ENEMY.

8. What happened at the end of King Hoshea’s 12-year reign? (2 Kings 17:1-6).

Now, there is no longer a nation of Israel in the north. It is not mentioned anymore.

THE DIVIDED NATION TO THE SOUTH – JUDAH

Mostly Godly reigns continue – There are 8 more kings recorded in 2 Kings here. It starts with King Hezekiah (715 BC) & winds down to King Zedekiah (598 BC).

THE NATION OF BABYLON WAS BECOMING A HUGE & OVERWHELMING ENEMY. THEY DEFEATED THE ASSYRIANS. NOW THEY WERE COMING FOR JUDAH.

9. What happened at the end of King Zedekiah’s 9-year reign? (2 Kings 25:1-21).

The man who was appointed Governor of Judah by the Babylonian king was murdered (2 Kings 25:22-26).

The last legitimate king of Judah, Jehoiachin, was released from prison and was put under house arrest in the Babylonian king’s house for the rest of his life.

Amos' prophesy demonstrates that God is faithful. He is true to His word. He gave the people of Israel His law through Moses which instructed the people how He wanted them to live their lives. He further warned them of the consequences if they did not. (Amos preached to Israel – the Northern Kingdom).

Jeremiah - His book is intended as a message to the Jews in exile in Babylon, explaining the disaster of exile as God's response to Israel's pagan worship: (Jeremiah preached to Judah – the Southern Kingdom).

10. Can a God that judges & punishes His people still love them? Explain.
