

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

2 Kings: Redemptive History is a Royal Mess—Part 2 (16)

OVERVIEW

Samuel and Kings

2 Kings is the second part of 1-2 Kings and the fourth part of Samuel & Kings
 Makes up the final section in the monarchy of Israel = Honest, Theological, and based on Deuteronomy
 Tells the tale of Israel's final defeat = Israel by Assyria (722 BC) and Judah by Babylon (586 BC)

People

1-2 Samuel-1 Kings Built on Key Figures: Samuel & Saul (1 Sam); David (2 Sam); Solomon (1 Kings)
 2 Kings Developed Through a Series of Kings: Over 30 and most are wicked
 The pervasive wickedness of the kings shows the unreliability of human leaders
 Hezekiah & Josiah stand out as exceptions to the rule and reinforce God's messianic promises

Place

Moved from Entrance into the Land (1 Samuel) to Exit from the Land (2 Kings 25)
 God's dwelling w/ Israel & Israel's possession of the land depends on Covenant loyalty (**Deut 28:15ff**)

Rule

Wickedness prevails in 2 Kings, with only rare exceptions
 The Word of God is a central theme in 1-2 Kings – *sadly it is often a theme that the characters reject*

ELIJAH & ELISHA (1:1–10:36)

Elijah

2 Kings begins w/ Elijah's powerful ministry (**1:1-18**) – *Calling down fire and pronouncing judgment*
 - As in 1 Kings, his mission is to call the kings back to covenantal faithfulness (**1:15-16**)
 - Elijah is taken into heaven and Elisha receives his mantle (**2:9-12**)

Elisha

Like Elijah, Elisha calls Israel's kings to repent and return (**3:1ff; 6:24ff; 8:7ff**)
 Elisha receives a double portion (**2:9-12**) – *more miracles, more powerful, more merciful*
 Elisha : Elijah :: Joshua : Moses (**2:13-14; cf. 2:8**) – *This pair also prefigures the Baptist & Jesus*
 Miracles – *Elisha's improbable and supernatural miracles foreshadow the greater work of Jesus*

<u>Elisha</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
○ Multiplies food: oil (4:1-7); bread (4:42f)	Feeds 5,000 + 4,000 (Matt 14:13-21; John 6:1-14)
○ Purifies deadly stew (4:38f)	
○ Healed Naaman of leprosy (5:1f)	Heals Lepers (Matt 8:1-4; 10:8; 11:5)
○ Raises the dead (4:18f)	So Jesus (Lk 7:11-17; Jn 11:17-44; Rom 6:1-8)
○ Makes an axe-head float (6:1f)	Transforms Water (Jn 2:1-11)
	Walks on Water (Matt 14:22f)
○ Shows the chariots of fire (6:8-23)	Opens blind eyes (John 9:35-41; 12:37-41)
○ Elisha's death results in life (13:20-21)	Jesus is the Resurrection & the Life

A ROYAL MESS (2 Kings 9:1-17:41)

Jehu (9:1-10:36)

The only “good” king in Israel’s history – that is said with great qualification

Good: He is anointed to strike down the house of Ahab (9:6-7; 10:11-17)

Bad: He is not a qualified leader (10:28-31; cf. 1 Sam 9:16:17; 2 Sam 24:2-3)

The Fall of Israel

Joash (11:1–12:21) – Joash (J) repairs the temple; also compromises his trust in YHWH (12:17f)

Jehoahaz and Jehoash (13:1–25) – Jehoahaz repents and the Lord listens; Jehoash (I) made Israel sin

Amaziah, Jeroboam II, and Azariah (Uzziah) (14:1–15:7) - Civil War in Israel (14:12-15)

Israel's Last Days (15:8–31) – Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah

Jotham and Ahaz (15:32–16:20) – Ahaz “upgrades” the Temple in Jerusalem w/ fashions from Assyria

The End of Israel (17:1–41)

- Israel is dragged into exile by the Assyrians (17:6)
- The reason for the exile (17:7-18) – Covenant breaking and idolatry that goes back to Jeroboam

THE END OF JUDAH (18:1-25:30)

Hezekiah (18:1–20:21; cf. Isaiah 36-39)

Set in juxtaposition to Israel’s idolatry and demise (17:1-41)

Sennacherib attacks (18:1ff) – sieges Jerusalem but foolishly challenges Israel’s God

Turns to the Lord (19:14-19; 20:3) – *Demonstrates a heart of faith*

Foolishly allows Babylon into Jerusalem (20:12-15) and disregards Isaiah’s warning (20:19)

Manasseh (21:1-26)

Worst of all the kings of Judah (21:1-9) – *Evangelist for idolatry*

Blamed for Israel’s exile (23:26; 24:3-4)

Josiah (22:1–23:30)

Repairs the Temple (22:1-7)

Finds the Books of the Law (22:8-20) – responds with repentance and reform

Josiah’s Reforms (23:1-27)

Purifies Israel from Idols (23:4-20, 24-25) – *More than 14 actions vs. idols*

Renews Covenant (23:3, 21-23) – *“No Passover since the days of the judges”*

God’s Wrath Remains (23:26-30)

The Fall of Judah (23:28-25:30)

Josiah dies in battle (23:28-30)

A quick demise – Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah (23:31-24:20)

Jerusalem Captured and Leaders Deported (24:10-17) – 597 BC

Jerusalem is razed (25:8-13) – 586 BC

Judah’s exile is more than the competition of the nations – it is YHWH’s covenantal judgment

There is a glimmer of hope left in 2 Kings 25:27-30 – *God’s promises will not fail*