

2 Kings

Introduction:

Second Kings is the story of both kingdoms going into captivity. In Chapter 17, the ten tribes of the northern kingdom (Israel) go into Assyrian captivity from which they never returned. Then, in Chapter 25, the southern kingdom of Judah goes into Babylonian captivity (the temple is burned) from which only a remnant ever returned. The Central message is – Willful sin has disastrous consequences.

Structure and Outline:

- I. The Ministry of Elijah and Elisha (1-8)**
- II. From King Jehu to Fall of Israel (9-17)**
- III. The Journey to the Fall of Judah (19-25)**

Major Events During the Time of the Kings

I. The Sin of Jeroboam - 1 Kings 12:26-33

This incident is mentioned more than 21 times in later chapters as a major factor in the downfall of the nation of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. (see 2 Kings 17:21-23)

This sin was passed on to future generations, and God absolutely hated this! **What was this great sin?** Jeroboam decided that if he allowed the people to return to Jerusalem to worship God that they might be inclined to stay with the leader of the Southern Kingdom. So in order to maintain control of the people Jeroboam changed the **object** of worship to golden calves, the **place** of worship to Bethel and Dan, the **leaders** of worship to men other than the Levites, and the **time** of worship to the fifteenth day of the eighth month.

What can we learn from this costly sin of Jeroboam?

1. God is worthy of our worship, and will not bless a people who twists Him into someone who exists to suit their needs for the sake of convenience. Jeroboam wanted God on His terms and God said NO! Do we want God on our terms?
2. God will not bless leaders who choose fear of the unknown over faith in Him. Had Jeroboam trusted in God he would have prospered in spite of the obstacles. Will we choose faith over fear?
3. This one sin was passed on to 19 kings that followed Jeroboam. He set in motion a sin that would cripple his family and his country for years to come. Will we leave a legacy of spiritual faith or spiritual failure to future generations?

II. The Rise of the Office of Prophet (1 Kings 17 -2 Kings 6)

The ministry of Elijah marks the beginning of the age of the prophets. Elijah was the prophet of confrontation. There was no middle ground with him, no toleration of evil. He saw things as only right or wrong, Jehovah or Baal. Elijah spoke out sternly against evil and called for deadly Divine Judgment. He prayed for and announced a devastating drought for Israel, he ordered 450 prophets of Baal to be slain and he called down fire on 100 defiant soldiers. However, Elijah was

also gentle enough to live with a widow and her son for several years and to raise the widow's son from the dead. He was patient enough to train and inspire Elisha. More is written of him in the New Testament than any other prophet except Moses. And Elijah was one of only two humans to not taste death.

1. The Picture of Prophecy Divine Communication through Human Mediation (Exodus 20:18-21).

God would raise up a man from among the people who would bring the Word of God to the people of God in order to bring the people back to Him!

2. The Profile of the Prophets

- **They walked in the Presence of God (1 Kings 17:1-7)**
 - The most important thing on their lives was their personal relationship with God.
 - The most important time in their lives was the time that no one else saw.
 - Their strength was found while in quiet time with God.
- **They declared the Word of God (1 Kings 18:1-19)**
 - Called troubler of enemy in 18:17 – May it be said that we are on Satan's Most Wanted List!
- **They were utterly dependent on God's power (1 Kings 18:20-38)**
 - The power of prayer is useless (1 Kings 18:26)
 - The power of people who connect with Almighty God is unstoppable (1 Kings 18:38)
You cannot stop the people of God with the Word of God declaring the glory of God!
- **They were devoted to God's Mission (1 Kings 18:39)**
 - They took God-sized risks – 1 man vs. 850
 - They expected God sized results – (1Kings 18:41-46)

3. The Pinnacle of Prophecy – Christ our Prophet (Hebrews 1:1)

Everything that the prophets anticipated was completely fulfilled in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus was raised up by God from among His people and was the Living Word of God sent to the people of God in order to forever reconcile the people of God to Himself!

- Jesus is the Presence of God – (Heb. 1:3) He perfectly represents God to man. He is the perfect mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
- Jesus is the Word of God (John 1:1) – He doesn't just speak for God, He speaks as God!
- We are utterly dependent on God's Power - In the Old Testament, there were only a few select men as prophets who could go in and inquire of God. Now, through Christ, we have direct access to God! The most important time in OUR lives is the time no one else sees when we spend quiet time alone with our God.
- We are commanded to be devoted to God's Mission (Matthew 28:18-20)
Through Spirit of Christ, we as the body of Christ are also to take God sized risks and to expect God sized results.

1 & 2 Chronicles

Introduction:

The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles contain much of the same material found in the books of Samuel and Kings. The reason for this is that the books of Chronicles were written at a later time to exiles who had returned to Israel after the Babylonian captivity. Chronicles answers the questions: Is God still interested in us, Are His covenants still in force, and Are God's promises to David still valid? 1 & 2 Chronicles have been called the Acts of the Old Testament.

Having gone through the Books of Samuel and Kings we will not need to give more than an overview of Chronicles. They are a chronicle, which arranges in order the events from the time of Adam to Nehemiah, giving us the main genealogies of Israel and the main events of the Southern Kingdom to the time of Babylonian captivity. These books are filled with genealogies because of their goal of preserving the racial purity, the priesthood, and worship. The books deal almost exclusively with Judah and Jerusalem because that is the kingdom and the city where the temple was built.

Key Verse: - 2 Chronicles 7:14 – *“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”*

The Book of Chronicles in Relation to Samuel and Kings:

Samuel and Kings

Royal
King
Throne
Political
Biographical
Personal
Human Standpoint
As Man Ruled History

Chronicles

Religious
Priest
Temple
Ecclesiastical
Statistical
Official
Divine Standpoint
As God overruled History

Practical Application:

Chronicles goes back and reviews the history of a people to apply a vital lesson for them and for us – a nation's response to God is the decisive factor in its history. God is in control and the future success of any nation is directly related to their obedience and commitment to God.