

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 2-12-12 PM NOTES
2 KINGS
#14 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

Deuteronomy 7:6-8a (NKJV) ⁶For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸but because the Lord loves you..."

God Chose the Jews:

1. To write down His words to man
2. To preserve and protect the Scriptures
3. To be the human family for the Messiah
4. To be a channel through which the world could be blessed by knowing the one true God

I. The Decline of Israel (Chapters 1-10)

A. Elisha

Matthew 17:1-3 (NKJV) ¹Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ²and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him."

Elisha's Miracles:

- Dividing the Jordan (2:14)
- Healing the poisoned waters (2:19-22)
- Cursing the forty-two young men (2:23-25)
- Filling the country with water (Chapter 3)
- Multiplying the jars of oil (4:1-7)
- Promising a son to a barren woman (4:10)
- Restoring a child to life (4:8-37)
- Making poisoned soup harmless (4:38-41)
- Feeding 100 men with an inadequate amount of food and having leftovers (4:42-44)
- Healing Naaman's leprosy (Chapter 5)
- Causing iron to float (6:1-7)
- Causing an army to flee (6:8-7:20)
- Various predictions and judgments (Chapter 8-10)

1. The Cursing of the Young Men (2 Kings 2:23-24)

2. The Healing of Naaman's Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14)

B. The Reign of Jehu

II. The Decline of Israel and Judah (Chapters 11-16)

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

III. The Deportation of Israel to Assyria (Chapter 17)

IV. The Decline of Judah (Chapters 18-22)

V. The Deportation of Judah to Babylon (Chapters 23-25)

VI. Lessons Learned

- A. **Proverbs 13:15b (NKJV)** "...but the way of the unfaithful is hard."
- B. People Seldom Rise Higher Than Their Leaders
- C. There Comes a Time for a Nation When Repentance Is too late

Kings of Israel and Judah

Saul	1050-1010 BC
David	1010-970
Solomon	970-930

Judah (and Benjamin)					Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)				
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Abijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
					6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah Micaiah
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	Elisha
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good		14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	2 years	Bad		18. Pekah	740-732*	20 years	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad		722 BC Fall of Samaria to Assyria				
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah	* Co-regency				
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									

(taken from Idolphin.org/kings.html)

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2 KINGS

#14 in Series, "The Glory of God in the Old Testament"

The book of 2 Kings is one of the saddest books in the Bible. It follows the decline of both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom until the Northern Kingdom is defeated by Assyria and most of the surviving citizens are taken captive back to Assyria and the Southern Kingdom is defeated by the Babylonians and most of the surviving Judeans are taken captive to Babylon. The movement of the book is downward like an avalanche. Never in history has a people had so many blessings from God and yet fallen so far because of their disobedience. By way of introduction, let's ask a very basic question. Why did God choose the Jews? Well it certainly wasn't because of some merit He saw in them. **Deuteronomy 7:6-8a (NKJV)** ⁶ "For you *are* a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the Lord loves you..." God chose the Jews because God chose the Jews. It was His sovereign choice. What I want us to examine is His purpose in choosing them. The "why" is a mystery to us; the "what" is clear. God chose the Jews for four purposes:

1. To Write Down His Words to Man

The Jews succeeded in this purpose. The Old Testament Scriptures were written by Jews. In fact, with the exception of Luke and Acts, the New Testament Scriptures also were written by Jews.

2. To Preserve and Protect the Scriptures

The Jews succeeded in this purpose also. The Jewish scribes zealously protected the Scriptures from error. Until the invention of the printing press in the 15th century, all of the Scriptures were printed by hand. The Scribes had procedures in place to insure accuracy in the copies. They would count the words in the pattern copy and then make sure that the copy they were working on had the same number of words. Next, they would count the words and find the middle word and make sure the copy matched the pattern. The Jews gave us accurate Scriptures!

3. To Be the Human Family for the Messiah

The Jews succeeded in this purpose also. Jesus, the Messiah was according to the flesh a descendent of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, and of the line of David. The Jews succeeded in giving us the accurate written Word of God and they were the human family for the promised Messiah and Savior of the world. But there was a final purpose that they failed horribly in.

4. To Be a Channel through Which the World Could Be Blessed by Knowing the One True God

Here is where the Jews failed. They saw themselves as a bucket for God's blessings instead of a channel. Over the centuries, there was an arrogance that developed so that by the time we get to New Testament times we have writings by some Rabbis who said the God created Gentiles to fuel the fires of Hell. This arrogance led to such blindness that they rejected their own Messiah and actually crucified Him. Because of their rejection of the promised Messiah (which certainly didn't take God by surprise), the Jews have been temporarily set aside and the chosen channel to reach the church in this age is the church. When we get to the prophets of the Old Testament, we will see that God isn't through with the Jews, and even in their blindness and rebellion He has preserved them for a coming day when He will fulfill all the promises that He made to their forefathers.

Because of their unwillingness to obey God, the history of the Jews is one that is filled with tragedy. 2 Kings shows us the tragedy of their defeat and resulting captivity as they were dispersed to Assyria and Babylon.

The book of 2 Kings is almost impossible to outline. It can also be confusing because it jumps from kings in the Northern Kingdom to kings in the Southern Kingdom and doesn't tell you in advance. Another confusing factor is that some of the Kings had the same name. The book will generally move in chronological order which helps us to see the downward movement of the two Kingdoms. A summary of the book is that in the first 10 chapters we see what is happening in the Northern Kingdom (Israel) with

only incidental reference to the Southern Kingdom (Judah). In Chapters 11-17 we see alternating accounts of events in the two kingdoms. Finally, in chapters 18-25 we have the history of Judah until they go into captivity. We will focus on some of the key characters and events in each section. The theme that runs through the book of 2 Kings could be summarized by this sentence: “Willful sin brings a woeful end”. That is still true of individuals and nations.

I. The decline of Israel (Chapter 1-10)

All 12 of the kings of Israel covered in 2 Kings were labeled as bad by the writer. Here is how “good” and “bad” were determined by the author of 2 Kings. It was not based on their political prowess, their military competence, or their leadership abilities. The determination of “good” or “bad” was based on the fact that they continued to allow the counterfeit worship of the first King over the Northern Kingdom, Jeroboam. He had set up alternate places of worship to the temple in Jerusalem that involved golden calves such as the ones that Aaron (Moses’ brother) had made after Israel left Egypt in the Exodus. Into the vacuum created by Israel’s refusal to worship God in God’s way stepped the prophets. It was the prophets that gave Israel the only spiritual direction they had. Elijah was the first and greatest of these prophets. We looked at his life and message and miracles last week. In 2 Kings, Elijah’s successor, a man he trained, took up the mantle. His name was Elisha.

A. Elisha

Even though Elisha was trained and received the anointing of Elijah, these men were very different. Elijah was a rugged outdoorsman. He was bold and somewhat cantankerous it seems. In the New Testament Elijah is compared to John the Baptist. Jesus said that John came “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17). John the Baptist even resembled Elijah in what he wore. Both John and Elijah thundered out the judgment of God with unmatched boldness. Let’s look at the last time Elijah was seen in the Old Testament in 2 Kings 2:11-12 [Read]. I said that was the last time Elijah was seen in the Old Testament, but we do see him again in the New Testament. **Matthew 17:1-3 (NKJV)** “¹ Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. ³ And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.”

Starting in 2 Kings 2:14, the focus turns to Elisha. The thing you notice immediately about Elisha is the miracles. Many more miracles are attributed to Elisha than to Elijah. The thing that strikes you about his miracles is the grace that is manifested by them. There are 13 miracles recorded in 2 Kings that Elisha performed. Many of the miracles were God graciously meeting a person or group’s need through Elisha. Grace brings God’s mercy, kindness and compassion to those in need. Look at some of the miracles Elisha performed:

- Dividing the Jordan (2:14)
- Healing the poisoned waters (2:19-22)
- Cursing the forty-two young men (2:23-25)
- Filling the country with water (Chapter 3)
- Multiplying the jars of oil (4:1-7)
- Promising a son to a barren woman (4:10)
- Restoring a child to life (4:8-37)
- Making poisoned soup harmless (4:38-41)
- Feeding 100 men with an inadequate amount of food and having leftovers (4:42-44)
- Healing Naaman’s leprosy (Chapter 5)
- Causing iron to float (6:1-7)
- Causing an army to flee (6:8 – 7:20)
- Various predictions and judgments (Chapter 8-10)

Let’s look at a few of the miracles.

1. The Cursing of the Young Men

[Read 2 Kings 2:23-24] The term “youths” included all ages through young adulthood. These were not little children as the KJV translates it. The fact that 42 of them met together suggests an organized plan. Calling the prophet “baldhead” was one of the lowest forms of insults. The phrase “Go up” was ridiculing Elisha’s account of the taking up of Elijah to heaven in the chariot. The Bible says that the bears mauled them, but it doesn’t say that any of them were killed. The message is that God does not take kindly to His prophets being treated with flippancy or ridicule.

2. The Healing of Naaman’s Leprosy

This miracle is special because it presents a beautiful picture of salvation [Read 5:1-5].

a. Naaman Was Hopeless in His Condition

In spite of all his earthly honors and victories, he was a dead man because he had a disease that man could not cure. What a picture of sin. No amount of good deeds can erase our sin which has as its wages, death. Every person who has not been reconciled to God is hopeless.

b. Naaman Heard a Witness

A Jewish girl taken captive told Naaman of one that could heal his deadly disease. Even so God uses one who is available with a witness to the saving power of Christ to bring others to Christ.

c. Naaman Tried to Save Himself

Naaman made the mistake of trying to buy or earn his healing. Elisha could not be bought.

d. Naaman Resisted the Simple Way of Healing

[Read 5:9-12] If he had been commanded to do a hard thing, he would have done it. Simple obedience in faith struck a blow at his pride. It is even so with salvation. Until we humble ourselves and admit that we are sinners without the capacity to save ourselves, and come like a little helpless child to God, we cannot be saved.

e. Naaman Was Cured by Obedient Faith

[Read 5:13-14] As his leprosy was cleansed even so the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. We are by faith in Christ declared to be right with God.

B. The Reign of Jehu

[Read 9:1-3; 6-10] In 1 Kings we learned that the most wicked of the kings of Israel was Ahab. His wickedness was exceeded only by that of his wife, Jezebel. God chose one of Israel’s military leaders, Jehu, to be His instrument of judgment on the line of Ahab. The facts of the reign of Jehu are not for the squeamish. It was probably the bloodiest reign of any of the Israelite kings. Yet what he did, he did as an instrument of judgment obeying God’s command. Ahab had been killed in battle by what seemed like a random arrow (1 Kings 22:34). Dr. R. G. Lee in his famous sermon, “Payday Someday” called the man who killed Ahab, “The nameless, aimless archer”. God chose Jehu to wipe out the lineage of Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab’s son Joram was on the throne. Jehu killed him and fulfilled the prophesy that God had made earlier through Elijah in **1 Kings 21:21-24 (NKJV)** “²¹ Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. ²² I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked *Me* to anger, and made Israel sin.’ ²³ And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ ²⁴ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.” In 2 Kings 10:1-17 some 70 of Ahab’s descendents were slain at Jehu’s command. How about Jezebel, Ahab’s widow? [Read 2 Kings 9:30-37].

In spite of Jehu’s obedience in being the instrument of God’s justice with Ahab and Jezebel, he had the same sin that the rest of the kings of Israel had [Read 10:31]

II. The Decline of Israel and Judah (Chapter 11-16)

Because of time constraints, we will only look at one of the kings in this section. His name was Joash and he is called “the boy king”.

I believe that Satan understood the first prophesy given in Scripture in **Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall bruise your

head, and you shall bruise His heel." Satan knew that the one God said would defeat him was a seed of the woman and he knew that the seed would be of the line of David. That is one reason that Satan worked so hard to wipe out the Jews and especially the line of David. From a human perspective of history, he almost succeeded through a wicked woman named Athaliah. Here is the account. Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Judah's King Jehoshaphat arranged a marriage of his son Jehoram to Athaliah. After Jehoram died his son Ahaziah became king and that left Athaliah as the Queen Mother. Ahaziah of Judah was killed by Jehu of Israel (I told you it would get confusing). Let's see what this wicked daughter of Ahab and Jezebel did when her son, the king of Judah died [Read 2 Kings 11:1]. At this point, things look bleak. The descendants of David are killed and the promises of a deliver through the line of David have been made impossible to fulfill. But wait a moment! [Read 11:2-3]. It is impossible that God's promises will ever be thwarted! Joash (also called Jehoash) is raised and cared for by the godly priest, Jehoiada. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada led a revolt against the illegitimate reign of Athaliah and Joash became the king at seven years of age and sat on the throne for 40 years and so the line of David continued to reign.

III. The Deportation of Israel to Assyria (Chapter 17)

This chapter reveals the last gasps of a corrupt government to salvage their independence from the world power of that day – Assyria. Israel turned for help to Egypt, but they did not turn to God. In 722 BC after a three year siege of the capital of Israel, Samaria, the Assyrians were victorious. They took much of the population captive to Assyria and brought in people they had captured from other nations to settle in Samaria. These non-Jews intermarried with the Jews left in the land and a hybrid religion was developed and these people became known as the Samaritans who were hated by the Jews even in New Testament times 700 years later.

IV. The Decline of Judah (Chapter 18-22)

We will skim quickly over this section since much of the same time period is covered in 1 & 2 Chronicles. In this section that focuses on the kings of Judah, we find that there were the good kings and bad kings. The main thing that made the good kings good was that they did away with the "high places". An example of a good king would be Hezekiah. We read in 2 Kings 18:3-5 [Read]. An example of a bad king is Manasseh. We read of him in 2 Kings 21:2-3 [Read]. The high places were the mountains where idols were worshipped as alternatives to the true God. Only Hezekiah and Josiah were perfect in this. Several other kings did well in obeying God except they did not get rid of the high places. Those kings included Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, and Jotham. The few good kings slowed down the decline of Judah, but the pattern was a downward slide away from God and toward idolatry. A great account of God's deliverance is found in 2 Kings 18-19 when Assyria sought to move on from capturing Israel to capture Judah. The difference is that there was a godly king on the throne of Judah. The account is exciting, but in the end, God sends one angel to deal with them [Read 19:35-37]. It was however under the 55 year reign of Hezekiah's son Manasseh that the downward slide became an avalanche [Read 21:10-12].

V. The Deportation of Judah to Babylon (Chapter 23-25)

After Assyria's weakening, the dominant power was Babylon. God used the Babylonians as His instrument of judgment against His idol loving people. Babylon's defeat of Judah was actually carried out in three stages with three deportations. The first one was in 605 BC (probably the one that Daniel and his three friends were taken). The second deportation was in 597 BC, and the final defeat was in 587 BC. The Babylonians tore down the walls, destroyed the temple that Solomon had built, and carried away all but a few of the poorest people to Babylon. Israel and Judah had reaped what they had sown

CONCLUSION

I see at least three valuable lessons from the fall of Israel and Judah.

1. As we read in **Proverbs 13:15b (NKJV)** "...but the way of the unfaithful *is* hard." When God and His word are rejected, the way of an individual and a nation is hard.
2. People seldom rise higher than their leaders.
3. There comes a time for a nation when repentance is too late. Even though King Josiah of Judah tried to institute reforms in the land, it seems that it was too late to avoid God's judgment. The prominent prophet in the last days of Judah was Jeremiah. God said to Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 14:11-12 (NKJV)** ¹¹ "Then the Lord said to me, 'Do not pray for this people, for *their* good. ¹² When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.'"

As we picture the tribes of Israel being dragged behind the wagons and chariots of the Assyrians and the Babylonians, we are reminded that willful sin brings a woeful end. (3140)