

A Tour Through the Divine Library  
(2 Kings)

Introduction

**Joshua** → **Judges/Ruth** → **1 Samuel–2 Chronicles**  
(Entrance into Canaan) (Israel after Joshua) (Monarchy; Exile from Canaan)

I. General Introduction to 2 Kings

-Title: second half of 'Kings' (Hebrew Bible); 4 Kingdoms (Greek LXX); 2 Kings (Later Latin Bible)

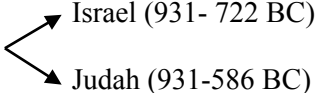
-Author/Date: chs. 1-23 compiled sometime before the exile (586 BC); chs. 24, 25 compiled sometime between 560 and 550 BC (2 Kings 25:27), all from various historical sources (1:18; 8:23; Is. 36-39 → chs. 18-20; 24:18-25:30 and Jer. 52 from a common source)

-Theme/Purpose: explain why the exiles were in captivity (17:6-23; 21:11-13; 23:25-27)

-Structure:

- I. The Divided Kingdom (chs. 1-17): ministry of Elisha; reigns of several kings; fall of Israel
- II. The Surviving Kingdom (chs. 18-25): reigns of several kings; fall of Judah

II. General Overview of 2 Kings

Saul (1043 -1011 BC) → David (1101-971 BC) → Solomon (971-931 BC) 

-Jehoiachin released 560 BC (25:27); Judah favored over Israel; ministry of Elisha (chs. 1-8): commission (see 1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 2), miracles (chs. 4-7); chs. 8-17: ten kings of Israel, eight kings of Judah; chs. 18-25: eight kings in Judah (two exceptional kings: Hezekiah, Josiah)

III. Prominent People and Themes in 2 Kings

-People: Elijah; Elisha; the Shunammite woman; Naaman the Syrian; Jehu; Hezekiah; Josiah; Isaiah the prophet; Manasseh; Nebuchadnezzar

-Themes: God's Character and Ways [Wrath (19:28, 35, 37; 22:17); Compassion (13:22, 23); Covenant Faithfulness to David (8:16-19)]; The Sinfulness of Idolatry; The Importance of Obedience to God

IV. Christ in 2 Kings

-Elijah → John the Baptist (1:8 with Matt. 3:4; Mal. 4:5; Matt. 11:14; Luke 1:17); Elisha → Jesus (chs. 4-7 with Matt. 11:5)

-Christ is present in 2 Kings by His relative absence. God remembered His covenant promise to David though it appeared otherwise (11:1, 2; 25:27-30).

V. Practical Lessons in 2 Kings

1) Be faithful in the midst of prevailing unfaithfulness.

2) God's faithfulness to His promises in the past are tokens of His faithfulness to His promises in the future.