

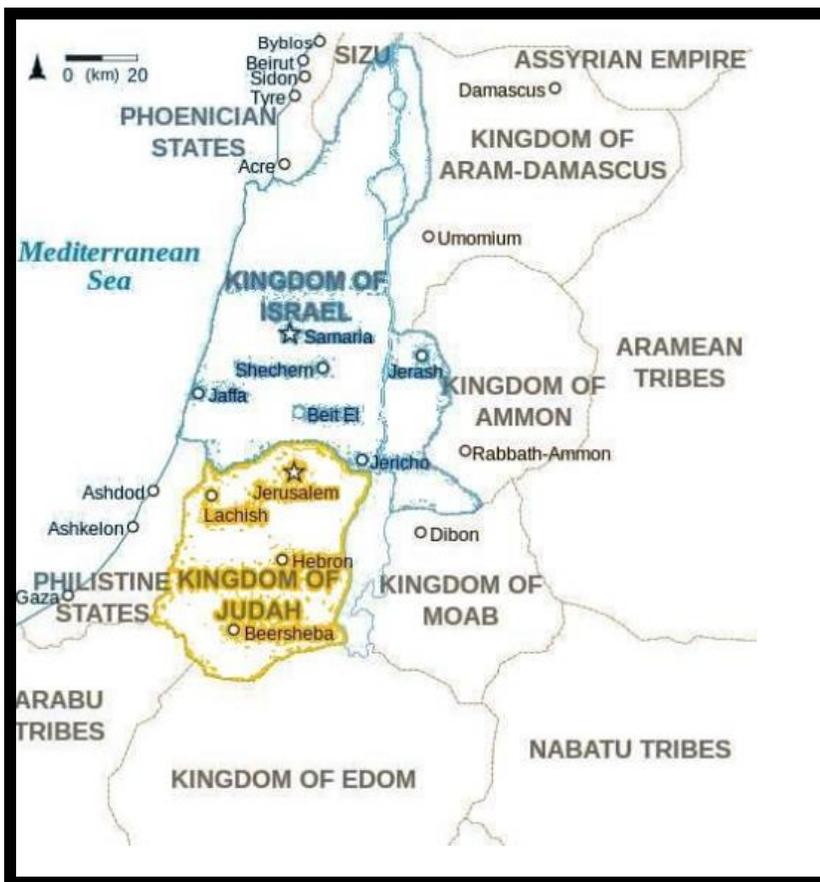
2 Kings 1-2

Introduction:

We remember that 1 and 2 Kings were originally one book. Second Kings continues with the history of the Hebrew kings. Chapters 1-17 describe the period from the reign of King Ahaziah of Israel and Jehoshaphat of Judah until the fall of Samaria and the end of the kingdom of Israel in 721 BC.

Chapters 19-25 describe the story of the kingdom of Judah from 721 (Fall of Israel) until Judah was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.

Second Kings has the same reoccurring themes as First Kings. Evil kings, idolatry, and complacent people all surface during this declining period. In spite of the secular pressures of the time, there was still a minority of people who were faithful to God. God used ordinary people like Elijah and Elisha as his "super heroes" of that day to bring his message of repentance to the people. Out of all the kings in recorded in this book, there were only two faithful kings in Judah. God did some very spectacular things during this era to "shock" the people to their senses in hopes of reminding them of their covenant with God, but they end up self imploding.



Part I---2 Kings 1 Ahaziah and Elijah

1. What happened to King Ahaziah while he was in Samaria?

READ 2 Kings 1:1-2

2. What was the mission of the messengers sent by Ahaziah?

3. What was Elijah's response to these messengers?

READ 2 Kings 1:3-4

4. What made the messenger return to the King without completing this royal assignment?

5. What clues were given to Ahaziah about the strange man his messenger met on the road?

READ 2 Kings 1:5-8

6. What biblical person had a similar description?

READ John 1:19-21 & Matthew 3:4

*John 1:19-21*¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders^(a) in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

Matthew 3:3-4

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' ⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

7. Why did King Ahaziah send 3 groups of 50 men to Elijah? What happened to the first 2 groups?

READ 2 Kings 1:9-12

8. What happened to third captain and his men as they approached Elijah?

READ 2 Kings 1:13-15

9. What was the outcome of Elijah's visit with King Ahaziah?

READ 2 Kings 2:16-18

Part II---2 Kings 2-Elijah's Ascension

10. What was Elijah's "last" task?

READ 2 Kings 2:1-7

11. Why did Elisha insist on accompanying Elijah?

12. What miracle did Elijah do on the way and what does Elisha ask of Elijah?

READ 2Kings 2:8-10

13. What was the significance of the whirlwind, chariot of fire and horses of fire?

READ 2Kings 2:11-13

14. Why did Elisha tear his clothes?

15. What is the significance of Elisha "Picking up " Elijah's mantle?

16. What pattern do you see right off the bat with the ministry of Elisha?

READ 2Kings 2:14-22

17. Why were the youths punished?

Concluding Thoughts:

1. We see the stubbornness of people both in the ancient time and today.
2. We see God's grace in that he provides all kinds of evidence through his messengers, miracles, and life circumstances that he is all power and will support and protect his faithful people. That applies also to us today.
3. We see the many opportunities God provides for people to repent and come into a relationship with him.
4. We see how the forces of evil continually lose when confronted with the power of God. Choose wisely.

Resources:

People's Bible Commentary

Life Application Bible

Oxford Annotated Bible

Enduring Commentary