

2 Kings

Authorship: Unknown, perhaps Jeremiah (see 1 Kings: Author). It is possible that Jeremiah had much to do with recording the final decades of the southern kingdom, especially since he enjoyed a good relationship with Josiah. Some scholars think Jeremiah wrote all of 1 and 2 Kings though he could not have written the final chapter of 2 Kings, since he was not in exile in Babylon.

Date: (See 1 Kings Date).

Location: (See 1 Kings Location) Chapter 25 was probably recorded in Babylon, within 30 years after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. The Jews were allowed to maintain scribal activities while in captivity.

Overview and Background: 2 Kings details the final years of Israel's divided kingdom, from 852 to about 560 B.C. Despite periodic revivals, spiritual conditions in both kingdoms grew steadily worse until both eventually fell – the north in 722 B.C. (17), followed 136 years later by the south in 586 B.C. (25). (See 1 Kings background).

Purpose: (See 1 Kings purpose).

Outline:

I. The Splintered Kingdom: Northern Kingdom of Israel and Southern Kingdom of Judah (1-17)

- A. Elijah (and Ahaziah, eighth northern king) (1)
- B. Elisha's ministry begins (2)
 - 1. Authority passed; Elijah taken up (2:1-18)
 - 2. Authority proven (2:19-25)
- C. Elisha and Joram (Jehoram), ninth northern king (3:1-8:15)
 - 1. Elisha provides water (3)
 - 2. Elisha provides resurrection (Shunammite's son) (4)
 - 3. Elisha provides healing (Naaman) (5)
 - 4. Elisha provides deliverance (chariots of fire) (6:1-23)
 - 5. Elisha provides deliverance again (6:24-7:20)
 - 6. Elisha provides a prediction (8:1-15)
- D. Jehoram (Joram), fifth southern king (8:16-24)
- E. Ahaziah, sixth southern king (8:25-29)
- F. Jehu, tenth northern king (9-10)
- G. Athaliah, seventh southern ruler (queen) (11)
- H. Joash (Jehoash), eighth southern king (12)
 - i. Jehoahaz, 11th northern king (13:1-9)
- J. Jehoash (Joash), 12th northern king (13:10-13, 22-25)
- K. Death of Elisha (13:14-21)
- L. Amazaiah, ninth southern king (14:1-22)

Key Verse

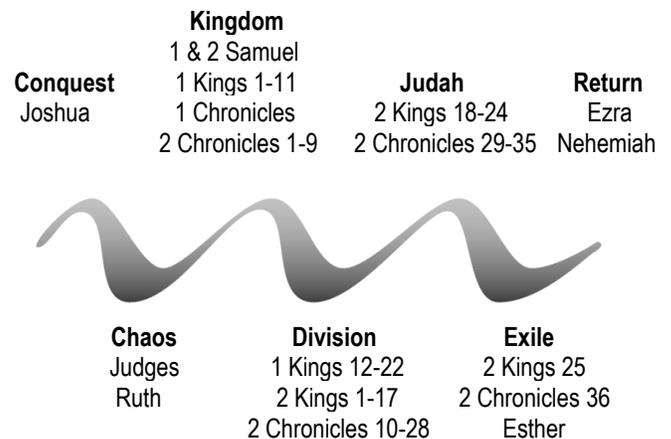
"In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.'" (2 Kings 20:1 ESV).

- M. Jeroboam II, 13th northern king (14:23-29)
- N. Uzziah (Azariah), 10th southern king (15:1-7)
- O. Zechariah and Shallum, 14th, 15th northern kings (15:8-16)
- P. Menahem, 16th northern king (15:17-22)
- Q. Pekahiah and Pekah, 17th, 18th northern kings (15:23-31)
- R. Jotham, 11th southern king (15:32-38)
- S. Ahaz, 12th southern king (16)
- T. Hoshea, 19th northern king; fall of northern kingdom (17)

II. The Surviving Kingdom: Southern Kingdom of Judah (18-25)

- A. Hezekiah, 13th southern king (18-20)
 - 1. His helplessness against Sennacherib (18)
 - 2. His helper against Sennacherib (19)
 - 3. His healing (20)
- B. Manasseh, 14th southern king (21:1-18)
- C. Amon, 15th southern king (21:19-26)
- D. Josiah, 16th southern king (22:1-23:30)
 - 1. Discovers the Word of God (22)
 - 2. Discovers the work of God (23:1-30)
- E. Jehoahaz, 17th southern king (23:31-34)
- F. Jehoiakim, 18th southern king (23:35-24:5)
- G. Jehoiachin, 19th southern king (24:6-16)
- H. Zedekiah, 20th southern king, begins reign (24:17-20)
- I. Fall of southern kingdom (25)

Peaks and Valleys of Historical Books



Sources:

Journeying with God: A Survey of the Old Testament, Purposeful Design Publications.
 Wilmington, Harold L. *Wilmington's Bible Handbook*, Wheaton, Ill: Tyndale, 1997.