

Second Kings

Mike Bonner

The Kings and Chronicles could be summarized in this phrase “are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of...”. This phrase is used, some thirty seven times in the Old Testament, thirty three times in the Kings alone. The God of heaven gives us the records of the Kings of Judah and Israel. The Lord allows the kingdom to be united until the death of Solomon, and then it divides asunder with Jeroboam and Rehoboam at the helm (1 Kings 11.41-43; 12.1-33). The kingdom of God would have nineteen kings in Israel and twenty in Judah.

Israel divides, and this was a time when the nation of Israel would have two lines of kings and Jesus’ saying proved to be true; “a house divided against itself cannot stand” (Mark 3.25). After Israel divided into two separate nations, they would eventually fall and be taken into captivity. The nation of Israel would fall into the hands of the Assyrian Empire and most of the nation of what is known as the Northern Kingdom, would be taken captive. The Southern Kingdom, or Judah, would survive much longer, but in time they too would fall into idolatry and disobedience. Judah, the Babylonian Empire would take years later into captivity for seventy years, yet God would bring them out to establish His people once more.

Key figures are brought to our attention in the second book of Kings. Figures such as Elijah and Elisha, who would occupy half of the book and the second half would be surrounded by others. In the second half of Kings we notice Amaziah and Jeroboam II, Ahaz and Hoshea, Hezekiah and Isaiah, Josiah and the fall of Judah after his death (15-25). The Kings have so much information to take in concerning the people of God and worthy of our observation for sure as we study the book.

Elijah is esteemed as “a man of God” in chapter one when Ahaziah sends three sets of captains and fifty men to inquire of the god of Ekron, whether he would live from his injury or not (1.1ff). They finally realized after fire came down and consumed the captain and his fifty men on two occasions. The third captain came with a different attitude and approached him in a humble manner and was able to retain his life and the fifty, yet he had to return to Ahaziah with a message of doom. The message was, you will not get off of your bed and you will die (1.16).

Elijah is taken up in a whirlwind by a chariot of fire with horses of fire, and separated the two (2.10-12). It’s interesting to note, Jesus went up on a cloud, and Enoch was just taken by the Lord, can we see this from a spiritual perspective for the Christian according to Luke sixteen. Those who are worthy of resurrection to life will be raised one day never to die again. Jesus would use the spirit of Elijah concerning John the Baptist and his preaching, what a great man of God. Elisha would have a double portion of Elijah’s spirit (2.9) and perform great things for the Lord. One observation, we must make, in 2.13-14, the mantle left to Elisha is truly a demonstration of his commitment to the cause and we must be fully vested ourselves too, in the work of God (1 Kings 19.20).

Great stories filled with application reside in this book. Stories like Elisha and his raising the widow’s son (4.1ff) or Naaman the leper and his prideful heart that needed to be humbled in order to be cleansed (5.1ff). The faith building floating axe head occasion. Can you imagine steel floating up to the surface? These stories are designed to build our faith and teach us that nothing is impossible with God. The things written

beforetime were written for our learning for sure, these stories should captivate our attention and demonstrate how God worked through Elisha.

Let’s focus on Jehu for a few paragraphs and the zeal he had for the Lord. Jehu was instrumental in ridding idolatry, the worship of Baal out of Israel in 2 Kings 10. He destroyed the seventy sons of Ahab, cutting their heads off and stacking them at the entrance of the gate (10.1-8). This was a fulfillment of what Elijah said and the scripture said, “know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the Lord which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the Lord has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah” (10.10). Great zeal for the Lord demonstrated and again, he kills Ahaziah’s forty-two brothers, then he kills the rest of Ahab’s family. All of this was done because of the actions of Ahab.

Finally, Jehu has all of the Baal worshippers killed in the temple of Baal. Jehu made absolutely sure there were not any worshippers of the Lord in their midst (10.23). He charged the men to make sure none of the Baal worshippers escape the temple. He and his eighty men destroyed them after the offering was made and Jehu burned the pillars, tore down the temple and Baal was destroyed from Israel that day (10.24-29). Yet one problem was still lurking, God acknowledged Jehu’s zeal to do His will, he failed to refrain from walking in the sins of Jeroboam. He took no heed to walk in the Law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart.

The second book of Kings teaches us many stories and truths, but I believe the one that stays in the author’s mind is this, one can do what is right and still have a place in his heart that is not converted to the Lord. Let us be like our Master and be fully persuaded in our minds to do the will of the Lord.



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Reading Tree:

We are doing another excellent job with our reading tree this year. Our reading will help us gain knowledge to be able to impart God’s word from one generation to another. (Psalm 145:4).

Coffee for Cherokee:

We are collecting coffee for the home. They have requested 1 lb cans, but will take any size. Our challenge is 52 cans in total. We currently have 12. These are needed by May 5th. If you would like to donate financially, please see Jerry.

We are building for eternity by speaking where the Bible speaks and being silent where the Bible is silent, by calling Bible things by Bible names and doing Bible things in Bible ways.

H.O.T. Forms:

This year’s camp forms are available on the back foyer tables. If you need assistance with the forms, please see Rick.

Lads to Leaders:

We have several participants that will be traveling to Dallas on March 29th. Please pray for their events and for their safe travels.

Vacation Bible School:

Our VBS this year is scheduled for June 4-8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00. Please see Randy Scott if you would like to help teach a class. Also, cookie bakers we will be needing your assistance shortly.

YMDC:

The Young Men’s Development Conference is scheduled for May 23-28 at the BCS Church of Christ in College Station, TX. Registration is now open at www.bcschurchofchrist.com/yfdc-registration. For more information, please see Rick Popejoy.

First Week

Matthew (28)
Hebrews (13)
Galatians (6)
Ephesians (6)
Colossians (4)
1 Peter (5)
2 Peter (3) [65]

Second Week

Mark (16)
Romans (16)
1 Corinthians (16)
2 Corinthians (13)
Philippians (4) [65]

Third Week

Luke (24)
Acts (28)
1 Timothy (6)
2 Timothy (4)
Titus (3) [65]

Fourth Week

John (21)
1 John (5)
2 John (1)
3 John (1)
1 Thessalonians (5)
2 Thessalonians (3)
Philemon (1)
James (5)
Jude (1)
Revelation (22) [65]