

“Historical Books Of The Bible”
2 Kings 1-2
Wednesday October 5, 2016

2 Kings 2:23-25

2 Kings Presents “Two Nations On A Collision Course With Captivity.”

The Author – It is not stated but the general consensus is that Jeremiah wrote **1, 2 Kings** and **1, 2 Chronicles**.

When Written – Just prior to Babylonian captivity. 560-550 BC.

2 Kings 1-17 – Israel, to Deportation, to Assyria, 131 years, 853-722 BC.

2 Kings 18-25 – Judah, to Deportation, to Babylon, 155 years, 715-560 BC.

Where it was Written – Probably in Israel just before the captivity.

Purpose – The kingdom divided in **1 Kings** became the kingdom dissolved in **2 Kings**.

1 Kings – Is Primarily Dealing With The Northern Kingdom Of Israel: Covers 100 years.

2 Chronicles – Covers the story of the Kings of Judah.

2 Kings – Covers 300 years; Most crucial to follow.

1 Kings – Finished with unfulfilled prophecies; Ahab and Jezebel, 1 Kings 21:17-24, 28-29; Elijah’s successor 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21.

1 Kings – ends with Israel in apostasy – 1 Kings 22:52-53.

Theme – “The Tale of Two Kingdoms”

Key Words – “according to” – 38X, “evil” – 29X, “sin” – 18X, “heart” – 12X, “walked” – 12X, “covenant” –10X

Key Chapter – 2 Kings 25

Key Passage – 2 Kings 17:22-23

2 Kings 23:27

Outline – The Kingdom Taken Captive, 2 Kings 1-25.

2 Kings 1-17 – Israel’s Captivity

2 Kings 18-25 – Judah’s Captivity

2 Kings 1-17 – Israel’s Captivity

1. 2 Kings 1 – God Judges Sin

2. 2 Kings 2 – Elisha Replaces Elijah

1. 2 Kings 1 – God Judges Sin:

2 Kings 1:1 – “Now Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.”
– 1 Kings 22 the death of Ahab and his replacement.

1 Kings 22:51-53

“Moab rebelled against Israel” – 2 Kings 3:4-5: Years before, David had defeated Moab, 2 Samuel 8:2.

2 Kings 1:2-4 – Idolatry: 2 Kings 1:2.

Ahaziah was an evil man, 1 Kings 22:10, 51-53.

“Baal-zebub,” – Philistine god. Name means “Baal is prince”; “Baal-Zebel” means “lord of the dung” and “Baal-Zebub means “lord of the flies”, a sun god who controlled diseases brought by flies. A name placed on Jesus, Matthew 10:25.

“Baal of flies” – This is usually explained as the god who expels or destroys flies; though it may also mean the patron or controller of flies.

2 Kings 1:3-4

2 Kings 1:4 – “you shall surely die.” – This is said 3X, verses 4,6,16.

2 Kings 1:5-12 – Pride: 2 Kings 1:5-7.

Elijah was Ahab’s enemy 1 Kings 21:20 and Ahaziah was Ahab’s son

2 Kings 1:8

The phrase “a hairy man” (KJV) suggests his garment rather than his appearance. The (NIV) “with a garment of hair”, Like John the Baptist, Matthew 11:7-10.

Contest Between Royalty And Deity: 2 Kings 1:9-12 2 Kings 1:9.

2 Kings 1:15 – “do not be afraid of him.”

“O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’” – This is a command with contempt; Trying to show force!

2 Kings 1:10 – “If I am a man of God” – was a common synonym for “prophet.” Elijah’s reply meant, “Since you called me a man of God, let me prove it to you. My God will deal with you according to your own words.”

Elijah ran away in fear when he received Jezebel’s threat. 1 Kings 19.

2 Kings 1:11-12 – These two judgments reminded them that the God of Israel was “a consuming fire”, Deuteronomy 4:24 9:3; Hebrews 12:29.

2 Kings 1:13-18 – Disobedience & Death: 2 Kings 1:13-18.

Acts 17:30

2. 2 Kings 2 – Elisha Replaces Elijah:

Ministry of Elisha: 2 Kings 2:1-8:15.

2 Kings 2:1 – Gilgal: 2 Kings 2:1.

“Elisha” – “my God saves”; Elijah’s servant and apprentice for probably 10 years.

2 Kings 2:2-3 – Bethel

“As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” – He made an oath to Elijah and to the Lord.

“Bethel,” – about 15 miles west of Gilgal.

2 Kings 2:4-5 – “Jericho”: 2 Kings 2:4 – “So they came to Jericho” – 15 miles west.

2 Kings 2:5

2 Kings 2:6-8 – Jordan River

2 Kings 2:9-14 – Elijah Taken To Heaven: 2 Kings 2:9.

A greater degree of the inner spirit that motivated the great prophet.
Deuteronomy 21:17

2 Kings 2:10-12

2 Kings 2:13-14 – Crossing The River.

1 Kings 19:20 – Elisha had promised to follow Elijah faithfully; and this he did in spite of opportunities to depart.

2 Kings 2:15-18 – Elisha Succeeds Elijah.

2 Kings 2:19-22 – Healing Bad Water: 2 Kings 2:19 – the city was under a curse, Joshua 6:26.

2 Kings 2:20 – The Old Testament Jew thought of salt in terms of God's covenant, Numbers 18:19.

2 Kings 2:21-22

To disobey His law meant to forfeit His blessings. Deuteronomy 28:15.

2 Kings 2:23-24 – Forty-Two Mockers Mauled By Bears.

Leviticus 26:21-22

"he cursed them in the name of the LORD." – This was not personal revenge, "May Yahweh repay you according to your deeds."

"young lads" – not children, "little youths"; It refers to people from twelve to thirty years old.

Bethel was a headquarters for idolatry, 1 Kings 12:28-33.

The young men were actually ridiculing God's Word and God's servants.

The fact that forty-two of them met together could suggest an organized plan.

Calling the prophet "baldhead" was one of the lowest forms of insults. Adults were respected, especially strangers; he was insulted. Exodus 21:17

The words "go up" point to their ridicule of Elijah's transport to heaven, or going up past the town.

The bears mauled them, but we do not know if any of the young men were killed.

2 Kings 2:25

Application:

1. God hates sin and He will not allow it to continue indefinitely. If we belong to Him, we can expect His discipline when we disobey Him.
2. Elijah is a good model for the certainty of one day leaving this earth. He didn't sit around and do nothing, but instead ministered and kept busy until the very moment the Lord called him.
3. As Christians, we have God's Word to guide us and warn us when we go astray from His path. Like the prophets of old, His Word is trustworthy and always speaks truth. God's faithfulness to His people will never fail, even when we do.