

2 KINGS WEEK ONE – January 6, 2022

Background – 2 Kings is the second half of a larger work that began in the book of 1 Kings. This section will focus on 2 Kings which covers the ministry of Elisha and ends with the disintegration of Israel and Judah.

Date, Theology, and Authorship – The Books of Kings is considered “Deuteronomic History” in English Bibles, but in Jewish traditions it fits under prophetic works. Either way, the books of Kings continue to warn readers of what happens when a nation fails to be faithful to Yahweh. The Books of Kings was compiled around 550 BCE during the Babylonian Exile. The books have some serious chronological discrepancies with other books that chronicle the history of Israel such as 1 and 2 Chronicles and other prophetic works.

Schedule -

January –

6 – Re-cap and Chapters 1 – 3 “Elijah and Elisha: Superhero Prophets”

13 – Chapters 4 - 6 “Did the Axe Head Float?”

20 – Chapters 7 – 9 “The End of Jezebel’s Reign of Terror”

27 – Chapters 10 – 12 “The Good, the Bad, and the Clueless”

February –

10 – Chapters 13 – 15 “A Prophetic Tradition Ends”

17 – Chapters 16 - 18 “Finally! Hezekiah!”

24 – Chapters 19 – 20 “Time for Reform”

March –

4 – Chapters 21 – 25 “Too Little Too Late”

Questions for 2 Kings 1-3

1. What was the fallout of King Ahab's death?
2. Who or what was "Baalzebub?"
3. Why did Elijah denounce King Ahaziah, and what was Ahaziah's response? How did Ahaziah's response to Elijah work out for him?
4. How do you feel about how King Ahaziah's messengers died? What is the lesson the reader is supposed to take away from this?
5. What is the "mantel" of the prophet and what are the similarities between the mantle and other holy objects wielded by prophetic figures in the Old Testament?
6. Why did Elisha ask for a "double share" of Elijah's spirit? What is the significance of this request in the larger narrative of these two heroic prophets?
6. Why do you think Elijah was taken away in such a dramatic manner? What does this say about Elijah's relationship to God?
7. Does it seem that Elisha is a little too sensitive about his lack of hair? What is the lesson of the boys being mauled by the bear?
8. Who was Jehoram and what sets him apart from other Kings of Israel? What did he do to distance himself from the previous reign of Ahab and Jezebel? What policies and practices of Ahab did Jehoram keep and why was this a problem?
9. Who was Jehoshaphat and what was his feelings about prophets? Is there any evidence that you can find that would indicate he likes to "jump?"
10. Why did Elisha agree to help Jehoram and what miracle did he perform to assist? What role did music play in this miracle?
11. Why did King Mesha of the Moabites sacrifice his oldest son? Why did this cause the Israelites to withdraw their troops and go home?