

2 KINGS WEEK FIVE – February 17, 2022

Questions for 2 Kings 16-18

This week we'll continue our evaluation of Judah and Israel's kings using the following criteria –

- Did they worship the God of Israel?
- Did they worship the God of Israel *only*?
- Did they rid their kingdom of idolatry?
- Did they remain faithful to the Davidic covenant? (God will establish a permanent home for Israel, God will bless the house of David and raise up offspring to carry it on, God will raise up a messianic/forever king.)
- Were they corrupt or unjust?

The twist this week is that from now until the end of our time in 2 Kings, one of those kingdoms will be out of the picture while the other remains. This period in history has a LOT of support from extra-biblical sources. It was a good time in history to be an Assyrian, and when a kingdom has that much success, there's going to be a lot written about it.

1. The Deuteronomic historian criticizes King Ahaz for “walking in the ways of the kings of Israel.” What does that mean and what were some the specific transgressions listed in the first few verses of the chapter that Ahaz committed to support this critique?
2. What sort of alliances were taking place between Aram and Israel? What did they hope to accomplish by teaming up? How did that work out?
3. How did Edom fare in this tumultuous “game of thrones” and what kind of alliances did King Ahaz form to deal with the conflicts?
4. What was the result of Ahaz's compromise with Assyria? How would you judge Ahaz based on those solutions?
5. What part did the priest Uriah play in the aftermath of Ahaz's compromise with Assyria? How did the King of Assyria help or hinder God's agenda and how was Ahaz judged at the end of his 16-year reign?

6. Of the kings of Israel, what was significant about Hoshea and his reign?
7. Were there any improvements in Hoshea's reign compared to the kings before him?
8. Who was Shalmaneser V and what kind of relationship did he have with King Hoshea of Israel?
9. What was Hoshea's plan to deal with Shalmaneser V and what kind of alliances did he try to make in this plan? Was there anything you found problematic about Hoshea's plan?
10. How and why did Israel fall and what did this do to upset the balance of power in that region?
11. Who did the Deuteronomic writer fault for Samaria's downfall and do you think it's a fair evaluation?
12. How is Judah judged for being the "last one standing?" What are some specific examples of what they were doing well and how they were falling short?
13. What were some specific reasons the writer gave for Israel's downfall? When you see their transgressions all lined up and listed together, where do you see similarities between Israel and modern-day "kingdoms?"
14. If you were a modern-day prophet, what kind of warnings would you proclaim to the nations today?
15. How did the Assyrian King (likely Sargon II) deal with the deported Israelites? How did the Israelites fit in? Was there anything good that came out of their presence in Assyria?
16. Who was Hezekiah and how did the Deuteronomic writer judge him?
17. What were some of the good things that Hezekiah accomplished? Did he live up to the ideals of the Davidic model? Where did he fall short?
18. What kind of a relationship did Hezekiah have with King Sennacherib of Assyria?

19. What role did the gods of the nations in this region play in the outcome of their conflicts?

20. Who was Isaiah and what was his purpose? How did his presence change the dynamic of Judah's conflicts with other nations? What did Hezekiah think of Isaiah?