

2 KINGS OVERVIEW – SLIDE FROM KINGDOM INDEPENDENCE TO KINGDOM SUBJUGATION AND CAPTIVITY

This morning as we study the book of 2 Kings, we enter into the phase of Israel's history that I am going to call the **boomerang phase**. We all know how a boomerang operates. You launch it into the air only to have it return to its original destination. God gave birth to His elect nation of Israel and delivered them from captivity and subjugation to the nation of Egypt through the amazing events of the Exodus. He blessed them with the leadership of Moses and then Joshua to bring them finally into possession of the Promised Land – all of the time accomplishing victory for them.

Let's review what we have recently covered in the books of 1&2 Samuel and 1 Kings:

- 1 Samuel – Demand for a King – Ministry of Samuel -- Appointment of Saul – Transition from theocracy to monarchy – Introduction of David
- 2 Samuel – Development of the Kingdom under David
- 1 Kings – Disruption and Division of the Kingdom focused around reign of Solomon and division under Rehoboam and Jeroboam and subsequent kings – Ministry of Elijah

Now we get to 2 Kings and we see nation ending back up where they started – **in captivity and subjugation to powerful pagan nations**:

- 2 Kings – Decline and Destruction of the Divided Kingdom -- Spiritual decline due to idolatry leading to Assyrian and Babylonian Captivities (722 B.C. and 586 B.C.) – Ministry of Elisha

God's intention was for His chosen people to be a light to the Gentiles; to be a people that would bear testimony to His holiness and dominion; instead they have declined to the point that they are immersed in the same idolatry and immorality of the nations around them. There is nothing to distinguish them from an ungodly world. What a tragic state of affairs.

J. Sidlow Baxter: The Second Book of Kings, which opens with the translation of Elijah to heaven, and closes with the transportation of the captive Jews to Babylon, is more **tragic** than all which have preceded it. Nay, more than that, it is the most tragic national record ever written. The elect people, through whom the gracious purposes of God were to have been developed for the enlightenment and regeneration of the whole race, become more and more steeped in infidelity and moral degradation, until finally the measure of their wickedness is full, judgment falls, pitiless foes wreak vengeance on them, and drag them from their own land into humiliating captivity.

Second Kings is very different from the previous books we have just studied. They all focused on just a few key figures that were central to the storyline. But as the kingdom has divided into the Northern ten tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes of Judah, we now have a multitude of kings complicating the picture. The narrative jumps back and forth between the two kingdoms. The timeframe of each monarch overlaps the timeframe of multiple monarchs on the opposite side of the ledger. Even the names are confusing. Sometimes in Kings and Chronicles the same

king is referenced under different names or spellings. Occasionally the same name is owned by different kings from both the north and south. The book is almost impossible to follow without having a cheat sheet beside you of a listing of the kings and a timeline for their reigns.

Reign #	Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)	Reign (Years)	Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)	Reign (Years)
1	Ahaziah	~1 year	Ahaziah	~2 years
2	Athaliah (Queen)	6 years	Jehu	28 years
3	Joash (a.k.a. Jehoash)	40 years	Jehoahaz	17 years
4	Amaziah	29 years	Jehoash (a.k.a. Joash)	16 years
5	Azariah (a.k.a. Uzziah)	52 years	Jeroboam II	41 years
6	Jotham	16 years	Zechariah	6 months
7	Ahaz	16 years	Shallum	1 month
8	Hezekiah	29 years	Menahem	10 years
9	—	—	Pekahiah	2 years
10	—	—	Pekah	20 years
11	—	—	Hoshea (last king of Israel)	9 years

12	Manasseh	55 years	— (Israel conquered by Assyria)	—
13	Amon	2 years	—	—
14	Josiah	31 years	—	—
15	Jehoahaz	3 months	—	—
16	Jehoiakim	11 years	—	—
17	Jehoiachin	3 months	—	—
18	Zedekiah	11 years	—	—

- In Northern kingdom; **9 dynasties**; all but one come about thru assassination
- In Southern kingdom, only **1 dynasty**

These kings often come to power in brutal fashion. They are uniformly characterized as evil kings in the northern kingdom and only a few of the kings of Judah receive a good report card for their service. Overall it is a very messy and chaotic situation.

We will not be able to study each of the 25 chapters and look at the reign of each king. We will have to concentrate on some of the major themes and look at a few of the representative kings that illustrate both the good and the bad during this timeframe.

We also will be studying the central role of Elisha the prophet who takes over the mantle from Elijah of being God's spokesman to the kings in the north.

L. M. Grant: The second book of Kings continues the history of the two separated kingdoms, Judah and Israel, with the prophet Elisha replacing Elijah as God's witness -- both of truth and grace. Other prophets also witnessed and suffered for their faithfulness. In the books of Kings special prominence is given to the ministry of prophets, in contrast to the books of Chronicles where the priests and Levites are more often noticed. This is consistent with the fact that Kings deals specially with the government of God as the true Ruler over the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, while the books of Chronicles more particularly emphasise the grace of God. For this reason the ten tribes (Israel) are more prominently seen in the books of Kings, while much more is said of Judah in the books of Chronicles.

Big Idea: SLIDE FROM INDEPENDENCE TO CAPTIVITY –
IDOLATRY AND SPIRITUAL COMPROMISE LEAD TO THE JUDGMENT OF
DISPERSION AND CAPTIVITY FOR BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Key Verse:

Israel -- 2 Kings 17:22-23 *"The sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them until the Lord removed **Israel** from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day."*

Judah -- 2 Kings 23:27 *"And the LORD said, 'I will remove **Judah** also from My sight, as I have removed Israel. And I will cast off Jerusalem, this city which I have chosen, and the temple of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"*

Summary:

Gleason Archer: The **theme** of these two books was to demonstrate on the basis of Israel's history that the welfare of the nation ultimately depended upon the sincerity of its faithfulness to the covenant with Jehovah, and that the success of any ruler was to be measured by the degree of his adherence to the Mosaic constitution and his maintenance of a pure and God-honoring testimony before the heathen. The purpose of this record was to set forth those events which were important from the standpoint of God and His program of redemption. . . His prime concern was to show how each successive ruler dealt with God in his covenant responsibilities.

Structure of the Book:

(Chap.1) – TRANSITION – END OF ELIJAH'S MINISTRY

**I. (2:1 – 8:15) IDOLATRY AND SPIRITUAL COMPROMISE CONFRONTED BY THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF ELISHA –
IMPORTANT LESSONS REGARDING BOTH SALVATION AND JUDGMENT**

II. (8:16 – 17:41) TRACKING BOTH KINGDOMS LEADING UP TO THE FALL OF SAMARIA AND THE ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL

III. (18:1 – 25:21) TRACKING JUDAH'S KINGS LEADING UP TO THE FALL OF JERUSALEM AND THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

**(25:22-30) APPENDIX -- HINT OF HOPE — TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS —
DESPITE JUDAH'S SAD ENDING, ALL IS NOT LOST FOREVER**

A. (:22-26) APPENDIX #1 –

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JEWS WHO REMAINED IN JUDAH?
EXILED TO EGYPT AFTER SLAYING GELALIAH

B. (:27-30) APPENDIX #2 –

WHAT HAPPENED TO JEHOIACHIN IN BABYLON?
ELEVATED TO POSITION OF FAVOR AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM PRISON

2 KINGS: THE DIVIDED KINGDOM TAKEN CAPTIVE						
CONCLUSION OF ELIJAH'S MINISTRY	ELISHA'S MINISTRY	THE PROGRESSION TOWARDS JUDGMENT	THE CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL (722 B.C.)	THE REIGN OF HEZEKIAH	THE REIGN OF JOSIAH	THE CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH
1:1-18	2:1-8:15	8:16-16:20	17:1-41	18:1-21:26	22:1-23:33	23:34-25:30
ONE GODLY PROPHET				TWO GODLY KINGS		
ISRAEL AND JUDAH – A DIVIDED KINGDOM				JUDAH – A SURVIVING KINGDOM		
ISRAEL DEPORTED TO ASSYRIA				JUDAH DEPORTED TO BABYLON		
853-722 B.C. (131 years)				715-560 B.C. (155 years)		
THEME: God demonstrates through the dissolution of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah that success and failure is determined by faithfulness (or unfaithfulness) to God's revealed wisdom.						

Paul House: Prophetic narrative has at least five distinguishing characteristics.

- First, it assesses the past based on God's covenant with Israel.
- Second, it predicts the future by noting how God has blessed or punished Israel in the past and by noting what promises God has made to individuals (e.g., David in **2 Sam 7:7-17**) or to the nation as a whole.
- Third, it creates its plot by emphasizing events that fulfill a prophetic view of the past and future.
- Fourth, it assesses characters based on how they accelerate or retard the blessings or judgments God sends to Israel.
- Fifth, like the prophets did when they preached in Israel, prophetic narrative instructs its audience to turn to the Lord so they can receive blessing instead of punishment.

(Chap.1) – TRANSITION – END OF ELIJAH'S MINISTRY

(:1-8) Don't forget your accountability to God – No escaping it

(1:1-5) "Now Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of **Ahab**. ² And **Ahaziah** fell through the lattice in his upper chamber which was in Samaria, and became ill. So he sent messengers and said to them, '**Go, inquire of Baal-zebub**, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness.' ³ But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, 'Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?' ⁴ Now therefore thus says the LORD, 'You shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but you shall surely die.' Then Elijah departed. ⁵ When the messengers returned to him he said to them, 'Why have you returned?'"

Where do you turn for help?
Weakness reveals the true object of our faith – Ahaziah reveals his desperation
Even powerful kings cannot escape divine accountability

(:9-18) Don't fight against God – Utter Futility

3 Delegations sent by Ahaziah to summon Elijah – trying to exercise control over him
Showing contempt for God's Power and Truth
God is a Consuming Fire – doesn't fare so well for the different delegations

(1:16-17) *"Then he said to him, 'Thus says the LORD, Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron-- is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word?-- therefore you shall not come down from the bed where you have gone up, but shall surely die.' ¹⁷ So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah."*

So here you have an early account of how the narrative records both the kings of Israel and of Judah and how they fail miserably to trust fully in the Lord.

**I. (2:1 – 8:15) IDOLATRY AND SPIRITUAL COMPROMISE CONFRONTED BY THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF ELISHA –
IMPORTANT LESSONS REGARDING BOTH SALVATION AND JUDGMENT**

Comparison between Elijah vs. Elisha:

Tone: Severe vs. Soft

- Confrontational prophet vs. Compassionate shepherd to the people
Fiery reformer; voice against idolatry /

Social Profile:

- Outlier in appearance and social life vs. More normal; Lived among the people
(1:8) *"He was a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins.
And he said, 'It is Elijah the Tishbite.'"*

Message:

- Message of Judgment vs. Grace, Mercy, Comfort
Emphasized repentance, covenant fidelity / healing, hope, ongoing presence of God

Miracles:

- 7 Recorded Miracles vs. 14 Recorded Miracles
Signifying God's judgment and power / met everyday needs and showed compassion
Drought, fire from heaven, raising widow's son, parting the Jordan /
Purifying water, multiplying oil, raising a child, healing Naaman

Death:

- Did not die vs. Died and was buried
Taken up in chariot of Fire (2:11-12) / in death, his bones performed miracle (13:20-21)
(2:11-12) *“Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.”*¹² And Elisha saw it and cried out, ‘My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!’ And he saw him no more.”

(13:20-21) *“And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites would invade the land in the spring of the year.”*²¹ And as they were burying a man, behold, they saw a marauding band; and they cast the man into the grave of Elisha. And when the man touched the bones of Elisha he revived and stood up on his feet.”

Typology:

- Type of John the Baptist vs. Type of Christ
Foretold to return before the day of the Lord (Mal. 4:5-6) / no such eschatological role

*“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.”*⁶ *“And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.”*

A. (2:1-25) AUTHORITY AND POWER FOR PROPHETIC MINISTRY TRANSFERRED FROM ELIJAH TO ELISHA --

(:1-6) Farewell Tour – Loyalty of Elisha to Elijah in preparation for the Prophet’s ascension and transfer of authority and power

Travels from Gilgal (:1) to Bethel (:2) to Jericho (:3-4) to the Jordan River (:5-6)

(:7-14) Authority and Power of Elijah transferred to Elisha

Miraculous crossing of the Jordan River by the authority and power of Elijah (:7-8)

Transporting of Elijah up to heaven (:9-11)

Special request for a double portion of Elijah’s spirit (:9-10)

*“Now it came about when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you.’ And Elisha said, ‘Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’”*¹⁰ And he said, ‘You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.’”

Miraculous Crossing of the Jordan River by the Authority and Power of Elisha (:12-14)

(:15-18) Authority and Power of Elisha to Prophecy the Truth

Disciples of Elijah want to search for his body – Elisha prophecies that they won’t find him

(:19-25) Two Confirming Signs

Authority and Power to **ble**ss and **give life** (:19-22)

Remember how God had cursed Jericho as uninhabitable?

Now Elisha purifies the waters of Jericho to make it possible for people to live once again in the city. Impressive miracle

Authority and Power to curse and destroy (:23-25)

Reminds us of the incident of Shimei cursing King David

“as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and mocked him And said to him, ‘Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!’ ²⁴ When he looked behind him and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of their number.”

Quite the slaughter / Score one for bald-headed men!

B. (4:1 – 6:7) MIRACLES OF ELISHA --

DEMONSTRATING GOD’S ABUNDANT AND GRACIOUS PROVISION FOR HIS PEOPLE – HIS SUPREMACY IN EVERY AREA

(4:1-7) Replenishing of Widow’s Oil – God provides generously for the helpless and vulnerable who trust in him – Supreme over Debt

(4:8-37) Raising Up the Shunammite’s Son – God Provides Life and Restores Life for Those Who Trust in Him – Supreme over Death

(4:38-41) Curing the Death in the Pot – God Provides Healing Where There is Harm for Those Who Trust in Him – Supreme over Danger

(4:42-44) Feeding of the Multitude – God Provides Abundant Sustenance Where There Is Scarcity for Those Who Trust in Him – Supreme Over Deficiency

(5:1-19) Healing of Naaman the Leper – God’s Grace to Heal the Leprosy of Sin Extends to Gentiles Who Turn from Their Pride and Submit to His Simple Plan of Salvation – Supreme over Disease and Disability

(5:20-27) Rebuking Gehazi – Condemnation of Greedy Ministry Exploitation – Supreme over Discernment and Deception

(6:1-7) Recovery of the Floating Axe Head – Ministers of the Word Should Turn to the Master in Crisis Situations Because He Will Show Concern and Exercise Control – Supreme over Disaster and Despair

C. (6:8 – 8:15) MINISTRY OF ELISHA –

FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMING THE PERSON OF GOD AND HIS MESSAGE OF SALVATION AND JUDGMENT

(6:8-23) Opening Eyes to Who God Is

(:8-14) God’s Complete Omniscience and Sovereignty

(:15-20) God’s Awesome Power and Illumination

(:21-23) God's Surprising Kindness and Mercy

(6:24 – 7:20) Proclaiming God's Salvation

(8:1-6) Expecting Remnant Protection and Restoration

(8:7-15) Proclaiming Judgment While Weeping

II. (8:16 – 17:41) TRACKING BOTH KINGDOMS LEADING UP TO THE FALL OF SAMARIA AND THE ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY OF ISRAEL

(9:1 – 10:36) Reforms Under Jehu – Attacking Baal Worship in Israel

(10:1-36) Mixed Reviews as Jehu Purges House of Ahab and Baal Worshipers – Zeal for the Lord without Wholehearted Obedience
Undermines Jehu's Record of Reforms

(10:1-11) Jehu puts all of Ahab's sons to death in Israel – vs. 7; vs. 11

“And it came about when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slaughtered them, seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent them to him at Jezreel.”

“So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his acquaintances and his priests, until he left him without a survivor.”

(10:18-19) **Killing off Supporters of Baal Worship**

“Then Jehu gathered all the people and said to them, ‘Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will serve him much.’¹⁹ ‘And now, summon all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests; let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal; whoever is missing shall not live.’ But Jehu did it in cunning, in order that he might destroy the worshipers of Baal.”

(10:28-31) **Summary of Jehu's Successes and Failure**

“Thus Jehu eradicated Baal out of Israel.”²⁹ However, as for the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin, from these Jehu did not depart, even the golden calves that were at Bethel and that were at Dan.³⁰ And the LORD said to Jehu, ‘Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.’³¹ But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel sin.”

He does not depart from calf worship which was originally set up by Jeroboam at the beginning of the divided kingdom;

(11:1 – 12:21) Reforms Under Joash – Attacking Baal Worship in Judah
(11:1-21) Preserving the Messianic Line from the Jezebel of Judah –
Loyalty to the Messianic Line (Avoiding Extinction) Enthrones
Young Joash While Executing Treacherous Athaliah

(:17-20) Covenant Renewal Sparks Religious Reforms --
Loyalty to the Messianic Line Demands Covenant Fidelity
a) **(:17) Significance of the Covenant Renewal**
b) **(:18a) Smashing the Foundations of Baal Worship**
c) **(:18b) Structuring the Renewal of Temple Worship**
d) **(:19) Seating Joash on the Throne**
e) **(:20) Securing Peace for Judah**

(12:1-21) King Joash – Tragic Example of a Propped Up Faith –
Finishing Strong Requires Being Relentless in the Pursuit of Righteousness

serves God at least all the days of **Jehoiada the priest** but then becomes unfaithful

5 Keys to Finishing Strong

1) **(2 Kings 12:1-3) You Can't Be Careless About Sin –**
You Must Take Sin Seriously and Stamp it Out

2) **(2 Kings 12:4-16) You Can't Be Casual or Neglectful about**
Spiritual Service – You Must Maintain Spiritual Priorities

3) **(2 Chron. 24:17-18) You Can't Consort with Spiritual Idolatry –**
You Must Worship in Spirit and in Truth

4) **(2 Chron. 24:19-22) You Can't Contend against the Word of God**
(and Kill the Lord's Messenger Who Comes with a Word of Warning
and Expect to Escape God's Judgment) –
You Must Listen to the Word of God and Repent

5) **(2 Kings 12:17-18) You Can't Compromise What Is Sacred by**
Forsaking God and Making Alliances with God's Enemies –
You Must Remain Loyal to God and Continue to Walk by Faith

(2 Kings 12:19-21) Conclusion – Sad Ending for Those Who Fail to
Finish Strong – Those Who Turn Away from the Lord Leave a Shameful Legacy
a) **Health Destroyed**
b) **Security Compromised -- Betrayal by Close Confidants**
c) **Dead Body Disgraced**

(17:1-41) END GAME FOR ISRAEL – HOSHEA'S EVIL REIGN IN THE NORTH -
THE FALL OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM AND THE ASSYRIAN

RESETTLEMENT WITH ITS SYNCRETISTIC RELIGION

(17:6) *“In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.”*

Why this severe judgement?

(17:7-18) *“Now this came about, because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.⁹ And the sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right, against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.¹⁰ And they set for themselves sacred pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,¹¹ and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD.¹² And they served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, ‘You shall not do this thing.’¹³ Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets and every seer, saying, ‘Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets.’¹⁴ However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.¹⁵ And they rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them.¹⁶ And they forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.¹⁷ Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.¹⁸ So the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.”*

III. (18:1 – 25:21) TRACKING JUDAH’S KINGS LEADING UP TO THE FALL OF JERUSALEM AND THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

(18:1 – 20:21) Hezekiah’s Righteous Reign in the South

Son of a wicked king; Isaiah the prophet was in his courtyard

Invasion of Judah by Sennacherib, King of Assyria

(18:1-8) Commended for his faith

(18:13-16) Threat from King Sennacherib of Assyria

Assyria moving against Judah; they end up paying tribute; things settle down for a time but you know that Assyria is going to come back to demand more

(18:17-25) Confrontation at Jerusalem with Rabshakeh (Chief Officer)

(18:28-35) Public Argumentation and Taunting by Rabshakeh –
making fun of relying on the Lord

(19:1-37) Judah is delivered but declines further until conquered by Babylonia

(21:1-18) Manasseh's Evil Reign in the South

a. (:1-9) Marks the Height of Apostasy and Idolatry

b. (:12-15) Prophecy of Severe Judgment

b. (:16-18) Concluding Summary of Evil Reign of Manasseh

1) (:16) Overall Evaluation

2) (:17) Recorded Deeds

3) (:18a) Death and Burial

4) (:18b) Succession

(22:1 – 23:30) Josiah's Righteous Reign in the South

Trying to cleanse the temple; Jeremiah was the prophet at this time

(22:1-20) Reforms under Josiah Begin with the Recovery of God's Word as the
Nation Refocuses on Top Level Priorities

(23:1-30) Reformation (Josiah's Covenant Renewal and Widespread Reforms)
without Inward Transformation Can't Divert God's Judgment

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- a. Dealt with sin decisively – destroyed all the idols he found; we are tempted to toy
with previous sin and live close to the edge; dangerous when we get involved with
sin management and become comfortable with a certain level of disobedience; a
dangerous game
- b. Dealt with sin thoroughly – cf. “*only the high places were not taken away*” – what
high places in our life; reveal unconfessed sin; respond decisively
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**Impressive List of Reforms to Purify National Worship –
Josiah's Twelve Step Program**

1) (:4) Removing Pagan Vessels from the Temple

2) (:5) Removing Pagan Priests Who Promoted Idolatry

3) (:6) Burning and Pulverizing the Asherah Image

4) (:7) Destroying the Houses of the Cult Prostitutes

5) (:8-9) Defiling Judah's High Places and Deposing Their Priests

6) (:10) Defiling Topheth = Place of Child Sacrifice

7) (:11) Destroying the Objects Associated with Sun Worship

8) (:12) Destroying the High Profile Altars of Previous Kings

9) (:13) Defiling the Worship Sites Built by Solomon and
Associated with Pagan Gods

10) (:14) Destroying the Images Associated with Fertility Worship

11) (:15-18) Demolishing and Defiling Jeroboam's Bethel Worship Center

12) (:19-20) Purge in Samaria of Pagan Worship Sites and Priests

**(25:1-21) THE FALL OF JERUSALEM AND THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY --
DESTRUCTION, DEPORTATION, DESECRATION, EXECUTION AND EXILE --
GOD TURNS THE LIGHTS OUT ON HIS HOLY CITY AND EXILES HIS APOSTATE
PEOPLE**

3 deportations of Judah to Babylon:

- 1 - 605 B.C. -- included Daniel
- 2 - 597 B.C. -- Jews continued in rebellion; Ezekiel carried off
- 3 - 587 B.C. -- fall of kingdom of Judah

- (:1-7) Subjugation of Jerusalem and the Royal Family
 - (:8-12) Destruction and Deportation
 - (:13-17) Desecration of Yahweh's Temple
 - (:18-21a) Execution of Jerusalem's Prominent Leaders
 - (:21b) Epilogue – Exile into Babylonia
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**APPENDIX: (25:22-30) HINT OF HOPE — TYING UP SOME LOOSE ENDS —
DESPITE JUDAH'S SAD ENDING, ALL IS NOT LOST FOREVER**

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THEOLOGICAL THEMES AND APPLICATIONS:

There are at least five prominent themes we can trace through the Book of 2 Kings.

- First, God is **Sovereign** over nations and history. The Lord will **judge** His people when they disobey and turn their backs on Him. God expected the kings to guide the nation into faithfulness to their covenant obligations. The primary command was to love God wholeheartedly to the exclusion of idolatry. We need to worship God exclusively and

guard against idolatry. Disobedience has consequences. Disobedience to the law of God resulted in judgment (**17:7-23**).

- Second, the word of the true prophets of God including their severe warnings always comes to pass. Because **the Lord always keeps His word**, so too are the words of His prophets always true. God's Word must be taken seriously. It was folly to seek opposing counsel from other sources. We must build our life on the truth of God's promises and warnings.
- Third, Leadership matters. Kings who led the people toward God (like Hezekiah and Josiah) brought blessing, while evil kings led to ruin. We need leaders in the home, in society, in church that model integrity and obedience to God.
- Fourth, **God uses ordinary people** to accomplish His purposes. In 2 Kings, He worked through widows, servants, foreigners, and even lepers. God can use anyone. Your position or status does not exclude you from impactful service. A small faithful remnant (like the few prophets and godly kings) can shine the light of God's glory in the midst of a corrupt society.
- Fifth, the Lord always remains faithful. He remembered His promise to David (**7:10-13; 8:19**). Therefore, despite the disobedience of the people and the evil kings who ruled them, the Lord did not bring David's family to an end. It was important that the line of David continue to exist (**25:27-30**) in anticipation of the coming "seed" of David – the Messiah. The Lord always responds in mercy and forgiveness if we will repent and trust Him. We can count on the Lord's faithfulness.

Big Idea: **SLIDE FROM INDEPENDENCE TO CAPTIVITY – IDOLATRY AND SPIRITUAL COMPROMISE LEAD TO THE JUDGMENT OF DISPERSION AND CAPTIVITY FOR BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH**

CONTRIBUTION TO CHRISTOLOGY:

- 1) Jesus is the Ultimate Prophet --
 - **2 Kings features Elijah and Elisha**, two powerful prophets who perform miracles, raise the dead, and confront evil kings.
 - **Jesus fulfills and surpasses their ministry**—He is the ultimate Prophet (**Deut. 18:15; Luke 7:16**), performing even greater miracles and speaking with divine authority.
 - Like Elisha, Jesus brings healing, multiplies food, raises the dead, and shows compassion to outsiders (e.g., Naaman the Syrian parallels the Gentile centurion in **Luke 7**).
- 2) Jesus is the Ultimate King – Reigning in Righteousness and Peace and meeting our needs forever

- Most kings in 2 Kings lead the people into sin. Even good kings like Hezekiah and Josiah couldn't stop the eventual fall of the nation.
- This reveals the failure of human leadership and creates **longing for a perfect King**—fulfilled in Jesus, the Son of David, who reigns with justice and righteousness forever (**Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:32–33**).

3) Jesus is the Ultimate Presence of God --

- In 2 Kings, God's presence is symbolized by the prophetic word, miracles, and the temple, yet these are often ignored or corrupted.
- Jesus is “**God with us**” (**Emmanuel**)—the full presence of God dwelling among His people (**John 1:14**), fulfilling what the temple and prophets could only point to.

4) Jesus is the Ultimate Savior --

- The kings and prophets occasionally bring **temporary** deliverance, but never lasting salvation.
- 2 Kings ends with the tragic exile and subjugation of first Israel and then Judah, showing the cost of sin and forsaking a covenant relationship with God. Jesus is the only one who can provide lasting deliverance from our spiritual exile; bringing us home to God through His death and resurrection (**Ephes. 2:12-13**).
- **Jesus brings the ultimate rescue—not just from political enemies, but from sin and death itself (Matthew 1:21; Romans 6:23).**