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2 Kings: A Study Outline

Old Testament Digest, Volume 2

From the *Old Testament Digest* of William MacDonald

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2 Kings

A study outline from William MacDonald's *Old Testament Digest, Volume 2* · online: kee-ministry-library.netlify.app/.../outline/2-kings

Overview of 2 Kings

Second Kings continues the story of the divided kingdom where 1 Kings leaves off, since the two were originally one book. MacDonald follows Elijah's translation and Elisha's long ministry of miracles meant to turn Israel from idols, the bloody purge under Jehu, and a long line of kings until Assyria carried the northern kingdom away in 722 BC. Judah survived another century, with the great reforms of Hezekiah and Josiah, but after Manasseh's wickedness the end came, and Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC. The book closes with a ray of hope in Jehoiachin's release.

Key themes

- Every king judged by his obedience to the Lord
- Elisha's miracles of grace calling Israel back to God
- God's long-suffering before final judgment
- The sin of Jeroboam: man-made religion that never departed from Israel
- Revival through God's Word found again (Josiah)
- Trust in the Lord in the face of overwhelming odds (Hezekiah)
- "The wages of sin is death": the captivity purged God's people of idolatry

Christ in 2 Kings. MacDonald sees the gospel of grace pictured in Naaman, an enemy, a leper and a Gentile, who simply humbled himself, obeyed God's word, and came up a new man. The widow's oil pictures grace that frees the debtor and supplies the new life, and Elisha stretching himself on the dead boy shows the life-giver fully identifying with the dead. The Angel of the Lord who slew the Assyrian host is Christ before His incarnation. Athaliah's attempt to destroy the royal seed was a satanic attempt to break the messianic line, which God preserved in the boy Joash because of His covenant with David.

Read 2 Kings in the NET Bible: 2 Kings 1 · MacDonald's full commentary: 2 Kings in the Digest

MacDonald's Outline of 2 Kings

I. The Divided Kingdom (2 Kings Cont'd, from 1 Kings) (2 Kings 1–17)
- A. Ahaziah and the ministry of Elijah (2 Kings 1)
- B. Elijah's translation and the beginning of Elisha's ministry (2 Kings 2)
- C. Jehoram's (Joram's) reign and the ministry of Elisha (2 Kings 3:1–8:15)
- D. Jehoram (Joram) (2 Kings 8:16–24)
- E. Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:25–29)
- F. Jehu's reign and Elisha's ministry (2 Kings 9–10)
- G. Athaliah's usurpation (2 Kings 11)
- H. Jehoash (Joash) (2 Kings 12)

II. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:1–9)
- A. Jehoash (Joash) (2 Kings 13:10–13) and the close of Elisha's ministry (2 Kings 13:14–25)
- B. Amaziah (2 Kings 14:1–20)
- C. Azariah (Uzziah) (2 Kings 14:21–22; 15:1–7)
- D. Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23–29)
- E. Zechariah (2 Kings 15:8–12)
- F. Shallum (2 Kings 15:13–15)
- G. Menahem (2 Kings 15:16–22)
- H. Pekahiah (2 Kings 15:23–26)
- I. Pekah (2 Kings 15:27–31)
- J. Jotham (2 Kings 15:32–38)
- K. Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1–20)
- L. Hoshea and the fall of the kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 17)

III. The Kingdom of Judah to the Captivity (2 Kings 18–25)
- A. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18–20)
- B. Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1–18)
- C. Amon (2 Kings 21:19–26)
- D. Josiah (2 Kings 22:1–23:30)
- E. Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:31–33)
- F. Jehoiakim (2 Kings 23:34–24:7)
- G. Jehoiachin (2 Kings 24:8–16; 25:27–30)
- H. Zedekiah and the fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 24:17–25:21)

IV. Governorship of Gedaliah (2 Kings 25:22–26)

1 · Ahaziah and Elijah

2 Kings 1

MacDonald shows King Ahaziah seeking Baal-zebub after his fall, and Elijah calling down fire on the soldiers sent to seize him.

I. Moab rebels after Ahab's death — 2 Kings 1:1

II. Ahaziah inquires of Baal-zebub of Ekron — 2 Kings 1:2

A. "Lord of flies," later a name for Satan

III. Elijah's message: you will surely die — 2 Kings 1:3–8

IV. Fire on two captains and their fifties — 2 Kings 1:9–12

V. The third captain humbles himself — 2 Kings 1:13–16

VI. Ahaziah dies; Jehoram succeeds him — 2 Kings 1:17–18

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Samuel 8:2 1 Kings 18

LESSONS

- It is pathetic when one named "whom Jehovah sustains" turns to Baal for healing.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Collected Messages of Dan Snaddon* (Dan Snaddon)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 1 →

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2 · Elijah Taken Up; Elisha Begins

2 Kings 2

MacDonald describes Elijah's last journey, his translation in a whirlwind, and Elisha's first miracles with Elijah's mantle.

I. From Gilgal to Bethel, Jericho and the Jordan — 2 Kings 2:1–6

A. Elisha will not leave him

II. The Jordan divided; the request for a double portion — 2 Kings 2:7–10

III. Chariots of fire and the whirlwind — 2 Kings 2:11–12

A. "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel"

IV. "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" — 2 Kings 2:13–18

V. The waters of Jericho healed with salt — 2 Kings 2:19–22

VI. The mockers of Bethel — 2 Kings 2:23–25

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 17:1 2 Kings 13:14

LESSONS

- An insult to God's messenger is an insult to God Himself.

RELATED READING

- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "The Translation"
- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer) — Meyer, "A Double Portion of Elijah's Spirit"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Proverbs* (H. A. Ironside)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 30 (Expository 2)* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Intermediate Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 2 →

3 · Victory over Moab

2 Kings 3

MacDonald recounts the campaign of Israel, Judah and Edom against Moab, the water given at Elisha's word, and the horror at Kir-hareseth.

I. Jehoram of Israel: less evil than his parents — 2 Kings 3:1–3

II. Moab's rebellion; the alliance marches — 2 Kings 3:4–9

  A. Jehoshaphat's foolish alliance again

III. No water; Elisha consulted — 2 Kings 3:10–15

IV. Ditches filled without rain — 2 Kings 3:16–20

V. Moab deceived and defeated — 2 Kings 3:21–25

VI. The king of Moab sacrifices his son — 2 Kings 3:26–27

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 22

LESSONS

- If Israel was so moved by heathen horror, why was she not shocked out of her own idolatry?

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Articles by Alfred P. Gibbs* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 3 →

4 · Five Miracles of Elisha

2 Kings 4

MacDonald lists Elisha's miracles of the widow's oil, the Shunammite's son given and restored, the poisoned pot, and the loaves.

I. The widow's oil — 2 Kings 4:1–7

  A. Grace for the debtor, for present and future needs

II. The Shunammite's hospitality and a son promised — 2 Kings 4:8–17

  A. Life out of death (Ephesians 2:1–10)

III. The son dies and is raised — 2 Kings 4:18–37

  A. Not the staff, but the prophet stretched on the child

IV. Death in the pot healed with meal — 2 Kings 4:38–41

V. A hundred fed with twenty loaves — 2 Kings 4:42–44

CROSS REFERENCES

Ephesians 2:1–10 Proverbs 11:24–25

LESSONS

- When we share with others and leave the consequences with God, He meets our needs and theirs, with some left over.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Our Lord Jesus Christ, "A Plant of Renown"* (Leonard Sheldrake)
- *Articles by Donald Jeffery* (Donald Jeffery)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 4 →

5 · Naaman Healed; Gehazi Judged

2 Kings 5

MacDonald presents the healing of the Syrian general as a classic picture of the gospel of grace, and Gehazi's greed as its opposite.

I. A captive maid's witness — 2 Kings 5:1–4

II. The king of Israel's alarm — 2 Kings 5:5–7

III. "Wash in Jordan seven times" — 2 Kings 5:8–12
   A. Two diseases, pride and leprosy

IV. Naaman humbles himself and is clean — 2 Kings 5:13–14
   A. "He swallowed his pride and lost his leprosy"

V. Naaman's gratitude; the earth and the house of Rimmon — 2 Kings 5:15–19

VI. Gehazi's covetousness and leprosy — 2 Kings 5:20–27
   A. He made God's free gift look as if it had a price

CROSS REFERENCES

Romans 5:6–10 Ephesians 2:11–12

LESSONS

- All the sinner needs is to humble himself and obey God's word; then he comes up a new man.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Disciple's Manual Study Guide* (Peter Lueling)
- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 5 →

6 · The Floating Axhead and Dothan

2 Kings 6

MacDonald describes the borrowed axhead, the army of heaven around Dothan, and the terrible famine in besieged Samaria.

I. The axhead made to float — 2 Kings 6:1–7

II. Elisha reveals Syria's secret plans — 2 Kings 6:8–12

III. Dothan surrounded; the servant's eyes opened — 2 Kings 6:13–17
   A. "They that be with us are more than they that be with them" — 2 Kings 6:16

IV. The Syrians blinded and led to Samaria, then fed — 2 Kings 6:18–23

V. The siege and famine of Samaria — 2 Kings 6:24–31

VI. The king's messenger at Elisha's door — 2 Kings 6:32–33

CROSS REFERENCES

1 John 4:4 Proverbs 21:1

LESSONS

- Through the prayer of faith the Lord opens our eyes to see that He is defending us.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 6 →

7 · Four Lepers and Plenty in Samaria

2 Kings 7

MacDonald tells how the Lord routed the Syrians and four lepers found the abandoned camp, as Elisha had foretold.

I. Elisha's promise of cheap food tomorrow — 2 Kings 7:1–2

II. Four lepers go to the Syrian camp — 2 Kings 7:3–4

III. The Lord made the Syrians hear an army — 2 Kings 7:5–8

IV. "We do not well ... this day is a day of good tidings" — 2 Kings 7:9

V. The king's suspicion and the scouts — 2 Kings 7:10–15

VI. Food sold as promised; the doubting aide trampled — 2 Kings 7:16–20

LESSONS

- Unbelief robs its victims of blessing and rewards them with death.
- The lepers' words are a constant challenge to those entrusted with the gospel.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Disciple's Manual Study Guide* (Peter Lueling)
- *Articles by William MacDonald* (William MacDonald)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 7 →

8 · The Shunammite, Hazael, and Two Kings of Judah

2 Kings 8

MacDonald covers the Shunammite's land restored, Elisha's tears over Hazael, and the evil reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah of Judah.

I. The Shunammite's land restored — 2 Kings 8:1–6

II. Elisha weeps before Hazael — 2 Kings 8:7–15

  A. Hazael murders Ben-hadad

III. Jehoram of Judah — 2 Kings 8:16–24

  A. Married Athaliah, Ahab's daughter

  B. Spared for David's sake (2 Samuel 7:12–16)

  C. Edom and Libnah revolt

IV. Ahaziah of Judah — 2 Kings 8:25–29

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Samuel 7:12–16 2 Chronicles 21 2 Chronicles 22:1–9

LESSONS

- Alliances with the ungodly lead God's people farther into their ways.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoram
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Ahaziah

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Book of Genesis* (James Gunn)
- *Typical Foreshadowings in Genesis* (William Lincoln)
- *Psalms of the Sons of Korah* (Gordon Franz)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 8 →

9 · Jehu Anointed; Joram and Jezebel Slain

2 Kings 9

MacDonald describes Jehu's anointing and his swift execution of God's judgment on Joram, Ahaziah and Jezebel.

I. A young prophet anoints Jehu — 2 Kings 9:1–13
   A. To destroy the house of Ahab (1 Kings 21:21–24)

II. Jehu's furious driving to Jezreel — 2 Kings 9:14–20

III. Joram slain in Naboth's field — 2 Kings 9:21–26
   A. Elijah's word fulfilled (1 Kings 21:19)

IV. Ahaziah of Judah slain — 2 Kings 9:27–29

V. Jezebel thrown down and eaten by dogs — 2 Kings 9:30–37

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 19:16 1 Kings 21:19–24 1 Kings 16:9–19

LESSONS

- No tomb but infamy perpetuates the memory of the wicked.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehu

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Notes on the Minor Prophets* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Revelation: A Complete Commentary* (William R. Newell)
- *Articles by W. Ross Rainey* (W. Ross Rainey)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 9 →

10 · Jehu's Purge

2 Kings 10

MacDonald follows Jehu's destruction of Ahab's house and the worshipers of Baal, and his failure to depart from Jeroboam's calves.

I. Seventy sons of Ahab slain in Samaria — 2 Kings 10:1–11

II. Ahaziah's relatives slain — 2 Kings 10:12–14

III. Jehonadab joins Jehu — 2 Kings 10:15–17
   A. "Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord" (Jeremiah 35)

IV. The worshipers of Baal destroyed — 2 Kings 10:18–28

V. Jehu keeps the golden calves — 2 Kings 10:29–31
   A. A dynasty to the fourth generation
   B. Condemned for his cruelty (Hosea 1:4)

VI. Hazael begins to cut Israel short — 2 Kings 10:32–36

CROSS REFERENCES

Jeremiah 35 Hosea 1:4 2 Kings 8:12

LESSONS

- Pride in our own zeal is a subtle peril that leads to other evils.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Articles by John M. Moser* (John M. Moser)
- *Lectures on First Corinthians* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 10 →

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11 · Athaliah and the Boy King Joash

2 Kings 11

MacDonald tells how Athaliah tried to destroy the royal seed and how Jehoiada crowned the hidden child Joash.

I. Athaliah kills the royal seed — 2 Kings 11:1
   A. A satanic attempt to break the messianic line

II. Joash hidden six years in the temple — 2 Kings 11:2–3

III. Jehoiada's plan — 2 Kings 11:4–11

IV. Joash crowned: "God save the king" — 2 Kings 11:12

V. "Treason! Treason!" Athaliah slain — 2 Kings 11:13–16

VI. Covenant renewed; Baal's house destroyed — 2 Kings 11:17–21

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 22:10–12 1 Kings 21:21–22

LESSONS

- God preserves the line of His promise against every attack.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoash

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Notes on 2 Kings* (William Kelly)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 11 →

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12 · Joash Repairs the Temple

2 Kings 12

MacDonald describes the temple repairs under Joash and his decline after the death of Jehoiada.

I. Right all the days of Jehoiada — 2 Kings 12:1–3

II. The first plan for repairs fails — 2 Kings 12:4–8

III. The chest by the altar — 2 Kings 12:9–16
   A. Honest workmen; no accounting needed

IV. Hazael bought off with temple treasure — 2 Kings 12:17–18

V. Joash murdered by his servants — 2 Kings 12:19–21
   A. After he killed Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24; Luke 11:51)

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 24 Luke 11:51 Exodus 30:12 Leviticus 27

LESSONS

- It is vital that we persevere in godliness: Jehoiada a shining example, Joash a solemn warning.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoash

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Editorials* (James Gunn)
- *Life of Christ* (Gordon Franz)
- *Lectures on the Tabernacle* (William J. McClure)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 12 →

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13 · Jehoahaz, Jehoash and the Death of Elisha

2 Kings 13

MacDonald covers Israel's oppression by Syria, God's provision of a savior, and Elisha's last prophecy and posthumous miracle.

I. Jehoahaz of Israel — 2 Kings 13:1–9
  A. God gives a savior: a parenthesis of grace — 2 Kings 13:5–6

II. Jehoash of Israel — 2 Kings 13:10–13

III. Elisha's deathbed: the arrows — 2 Kings 13:14–19
  A. Struck three times only: a lack of perseverance

IV. A dead man revived at Elisha's bones — 2 Kings 13:20–21

V. Cities recovered from Syria — 2 Kings 13:22–25
  A. For His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — 2 Kings 13:23

LESSONS

- Men of Elisha's caliber are a nation's truest defense.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoahaz of Israel
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoash of Israel

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Truths to Live By: One Day at a Time* (William MacDonald)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Dr. Ironside's Bible* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 13 →

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14 · Amaziah and Jeroboam II

2 Kings 14

MacDonald shows Amaziah's pride after victory over Edom and his defeat by Israel, and the restored borders under Jeroboam II.

I. Amaziah of Judah — 2 Kings 14:1–7
  A. Spared the children of his father's murderers (Deuteronomy 24:16)
  B. Victory over Edom; Edom's gods brought home (2 Chronicles 25:14)

II. The thistle and the cedar — 2 Kings 14:8–14

III. Amaziah slain at Lachish — 2 Kings 14:15–22

IV. Jeroboam II of Israel — 2 Kings 14:23–29

A. Borders restored as Jonah had said — 2 Kings 14:25

B. The tender love and patience of God — 2 Kings 14:26–27

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 24:16 2 Chronicles 25:14

LESSONS

- Victory can inflate us with pride that invites disaster.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Amaziah
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jeroboam II

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *From the Editor's Notebook: The Minor Prophets* (W. Ross Rainey)
- *Read the Bible Through in One Year (Chronological Plan)* (American Tract Society)
- *Notes on the Minor Prophets* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 14 →

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15 · Uzziah and the Last Kings of Israel

2 Kings 15

MacDonald covers Azariah's long reign and leprosy and the rapid fall of Israel's last dynasties as Assyria rises.

I. Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah — 2 Kings 15:1–7

A. Leprous for intruding into the priest's office (2 Chronicles 26:16–21)

II. Zachariah, end of Jehu's line — 2 Kings 15:8–12

III. Shallum, one month — 2 Kings 15:13–15

IV. Menahem pays tribute to Pul — 2 Kings 15:16–22

V. Pekahiah — 2 Kings 15:23–26

VI. Pekah; the first Assyrian deportation — 2 Kings 15:27–31

VII. Jotham of Judah — 2 Kings 15:32–38

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 26:16–21 2 Chronicles 27:6 Isaiah 1:1 Hosea 1:1 Amos 1:1

LESSONS

- Jotham became mighty because he ordered his ways before the Lord.

RELATED READING

- *Care for God's Fruit-Trees* (H. A. Ironside) — Ironside, "Uzziah, King of Judah, or the Danger of Success"
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Uzziah

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 15 →

16 · Ahaz

2 Kings 16

MacDonald describes apostate Ahaz, who sacrificed his son, called on Assyria, and copied a heathen altar for the temple.

I. Ahaz's idolatry; his son through the fire — 2 Kings 16:1–4

II. Syria and Israel attack; Ahaz pays Assyria — 2 Kings 16:5–9

A. See — Isaiah 7

III. The altar from Damascus — 2 Kings 16:10–16

A. Urijah the priest obeys instead of rebuking

IV. Temple furnishings removed — 2 Kings 16:17–20

CROSS REFERENCES

Isaiah 7 Jeremiah 7:31 Ezekiel 16:21 2 Chronicles 28

LESSONS

- Leaders who should rebuke sin sometimes obey the sinner instead.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Ahaz

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Messianic Passages* (Gordon Franz)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)
- *Coming World Crises* (James Gunn)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 16 →

17 · The Fall of Samaria

2 Kings 17

MacDonald records Israel's captivity under Hoshea and lists the reasons God gave His people over to Assyria.

I. Hoshea and the fall of Samaria — 2 Kings 17:1–6

II. Why Israel fell — 2 Kings 17:7–23

A. Other gods, the customs of the nations, high places and Asherim

B. Refusing the prophets and the commandments

C. Offering their children to false gods

III. Foreign settlers brought in; the lions — 2 Kings 17:24–28

IV. A mixed religion: the Samaritans — 2 Kings 17:29–41

LESSONS

- Israel, with all its light, did not fear the Lord; the settlers, with little light, feared Him after a fashion.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Hoshea

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Notes on the Minor Prophets* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 17 →

18 · Hezekiah and the Assyrian Threat

2 Kings 18

MacDonald shows Hezekiah's reforms and trust in God, and the Rabshakeh's taunts at the walls of Jerusalem.

I. Hezekiah's reforms — 2 Kings 18:1–6
  A. The brazen serpent broken: Nehushtan
  B. None like him in trusting the Lord — 2 Kings 18:5

II. Rebellion against Assyria — 2 Kings 18:7–8

III. The fall of Samaria reviewed — 2 Kings 18:9–12

IV. Sennacherib's invasion; tribute paid — 2 Kings 18:13–16

V. The Rabshakeh's speech — 2 Kings 18:17–37
  A. Mocking trust in Egypt and in the Lord

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 29–32 Isaiah 36–39 Numbers 21

LESSONS

- The enemy's taunts aim to make God's people stop trusting the Lord.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Hezekiah

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Messianic Passages* (Gordon Franz)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)
- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 18 →

19 · Deliverance from Sennacherib

2 Kings 19

MacDonald tells how Hezekiah spread the enemy's letter before the Lord and God destroyed the Assyrian host in one night.

I. Hezekiah sends to Isaiah — 2 Kings 19:1–7

II. Sennacherib's blasphemous letter — 2 Kings 19:8–13

III. The letter spread before the Lord — 2 Kings 19:14–19

IV. Isaiah's answer to Sennacherib — 2 Kings 19:20–28

V. God's sign to Hezekiah — 2 Kings 19:29–34

VI. 185,000 slain by the Angel of the Lord — 2 Kings 19:35–37

LESSONS

- The wise take their threats to the Lord and spread them before Him.

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Psalms of the Sons of Korah* (Gordon Franz)
- *The Continual Burnt Offering* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 19 →

20 · Hezekiah's Illness and Pride

2 Kings 20

MacDonald describes Hezekiah's fifteen added years, the shadow on the dial, and the folly of showing his treasures to Babylon.

I. Sick unto death; fifteen years added — 2 Kings 20:1–7

II. The shadow goes back ten degrees — 2 Kings 20:8–11

III. Envoys from Babylon; treasures shown — 2 Kings 20:12–15

  A. God tested him to know his heart (2 Chronicles 32:31)

IV. Isaiah foretells the Babylonian captivity — 2 Kings 20:16–18

V. Hezekiah's response — 2 Kings 20:19

VI. The conduit — 2 Kings 20:20–21

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 32:31

LESSONS

- What would we do with our lives if God told us we had just fifteen years to live?

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Hezekiah

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Confirming Accuracy* (Jean Gibson)
- *Psalms of the Sons of Korah* (Gordon Franz)
- *Basic Christian Training* (Jean Gibson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 20 →

21 · Manasseh and Amon

2 Kings 21

MacDonald describes the longest and most wicked reign in Judah and the judgment it sealed.

I. Manasseh's abominations — 2 Kings 21:1–9

  A. Baal, Asherah, star worship, spiritists, an idol in the temple

II. God's sentence on Jerusalem — 2 Kings 21:10–15

  A. The line and plummet; the dish wiped out

III. Innocent blood shed — 2 Kings 21:16–18

  A. His repentance in prison (2 Chronicles 33)

IV. Amon's brief, wicked reign — 2 Kings 21:19–26

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 33 Hebrews 11:37

LESSONS

- Manasseh's repentance shows God's grace, but it came too late to undo the damage.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Manasseh
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Amon

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 4 (Ecclesiastical 2)* (John Nelson Darby)

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 21 →

22 · Josiah Finds the Book of the Law

2 Kings 22

MacDonald tells how temple repairs uncovered the book of the law and how Josiah humbled himself before God's Word.

I. Josiah's good reign — 2 Kings 22:1–2

II. Temple repairs — 2 Kings 22:3–7

III. The book of the law found — 2 Kings 22:8–10

IV. Josiah tears his clothes — 2 Kings 22:11–13

V. Huldah's prophecy — 2 Kings 22:14–20

A. Judgment, but not in his days

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Chronicles 34 Jeremiah 32:7 Jeremiah 25:3 Zephaniah 1:1

LESSONS

- When God's Word is heard, it shows how far we have wandered.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Josiah
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 4* (C. H. Mackintosh) — Mackintosh, "The Life and Times of Josiah"

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Disciple's Manual Study Guide* (Peter Lueling)
- *The Book of Nehemiah* (Dan Snaddon)
- *Dr. Ironside's Bible* (H. A. Ironside)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 22 →

23 · Josiah's Reforms and Death

2 Kings 23

MacDonald lists Josiah's sweeping reforms, the great Passover, his death at Megiddo, and the kings who followed.

I. The covenant renewed — 2 Kings 23:1–3

II. Idolatry rooted out — 2 Kings 23:4–14

III. The altar at Bethel defiled — 2 Kings 23:15–20

A. Fulfilling — 1 Kings 13:2

IV. The great Passover — 2 Kings 23:21–23

V. None like him in thoroughness — 2 Kings 23:24–25

VI. Judgment still decreed — 2 Kings 23:26–27

VII. Josiah slain by Pharaoh-Nechoh — 2 Kings 23:28–30

VIII. Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim — 2 Kings 23:31–37

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Kings 13:2 2 Chronicles 35 Jeremiah 22:11–12

LESSONS

- Even a great reform could not turn back judgment that a people had earned.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Josiah

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Isaiah* (F. C. Jennings)
- *The Collected Writings of J. N. Darby, Volume 4 (Ecclesiastical 2)* (John Nelson Darby)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 23 →

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24 · Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah

2 Kings 24

MacDonald covers Babylon's rise over Judah, the first deportations including Daniel and Ezekiel, and Zedekiah's appointment.

I. Jehoiakim under Babylon — 2 Kings 24:1–7
   A. He burned God's Word (Jeremiah 36:23)

II. Jehoiachin's three months — 2 Kings 24:8–9

III. The second deportation — 2 Kings 24:10–16

IV. Zedekiah made king — 2 Kings 24:17–20
   A. His broken oath (Ezekiel 17:11–21)

CROSS REFERENCES

Jeremiah 22:19 Jeremiah 26:23 Jeremiah 36:23 2 Chronicles 36:6–7 Daniel 1:1–2 Ezekiel 17:11–21

LESSONS

- Rejecting God's Word cannot change what it says.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoiakim
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Jehoiachin

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Jeremiah and Lamentations* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Through the Scriptures: Sunday School Lesson Outlines* (Alfred P. Gibbs)
- *Daniel in the Critics' Den* (Sir Robert Anderson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 24 →

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25 · The Fall of Jerusalem

2 Kings 25

MacDonald records the siege and destruction of Jerusalem, Zedekiah's fate, Gedaliah's murder, and Jehoiachin's release.

I. The siege and Zedekiah's capture — 2 Kings 25:1–7
   A. Jeremiah and Ezekiel both fulfilled

II. The temple and city burned — 2 Kings 25:8–12

III. The temple treasures carried away — 2 Kings 25:13–17

IV. Leaders executed at Riblah — 2 Kings 25:18–21

V. Gedaliah governor, then murdered — 2 Kings 25:22–26

VI. Jehoiachin released and honored — 2 Kings 25:27–30

CROSS REFERENCES

Jeremiah 32:4 Jeremiah 34:3 Ezekiel 12:13 Jeremiah 52:31–34

LESSONS

- The captivity served its purpose: it purged God's people of idolatry.
- Failure under Moses, the judges and the kings shows that the wages of sin is death.

RELATED READING

- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp) — Knapp on Zedekiah

ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE LIBRARY

- *Notes on the Minor Prophets* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Jeremiah and Lamentations* (H. A. Ironside)
- *Daniel in the Critics' Den* (Sir Robert Anderson)

Read MacDonald on Chapter 25 →

Further reading on 2 Kings

In the Faithful Men Library

- *Notes on 2 Kings* (William Kelly)
- *The Kings of Judah and Israel* (Christopher Knapp)
- *Synopsis of the Books of the Bible, Volume 1: Genesis to 2 Chronicles* (John Nelson Darby)
- *Elijah and the Secret of His Power* (F. B. Meyer)
- *Miscellaneous Writings, Volume 4* (C. H. Mackintosh)
- *Care for God's Fruit-Trees* (H. A. Ironside)

On plymouthbrethren.org

- "2 Kings" (William Kelly, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "2 Kings" (John Nelson Darby, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "The Life and Times of Josiah" (C. H. Mackintosh, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Uzziah" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Hezekiah" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Manasseh" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Josiah" (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)
- "Jeroboam II." (Christopher Knapp, plymouthbrethren.org)

Every library book that cites 2 Kings: Scripture index — 2 Kings

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