

History and Prophecy

20 - 26 FEB 2018

1 KI 20-22; 2 KI 1-12; 2 CH 17-22

Week 21 - 29 Weeks to Go

We continue to read the history of Israel and Judah. God repeatedly exhibited his power and urged repentance, while the people failed to uphold their covenant promises. Kings defiantly challenged God by word and deed. God used prophets to call his people and their leaders back to a covenant relationship with himself. Elijah and Elisha were the two greatest prophets of the period, both of whom ministered to the northern kingdom of Israel. The Chronicler emphasized that God's blessing resulted from obedience to the Mosaic covenant but that his judgment followed disobedience. If the people would humbly repent, God promised to restore them.

Weekly Reading Plan (pp. 547-577)

Day 1: 1 KI 20:1 – 22:50

Day 2: 2 CH 17:1-20:37

Day 3: 1 KI 22:51-53; 2 KI 1:1-18

Day 4: 2 KI 2:1-4:44

Day 5: 2 KI 5:1-8:15

Day 6: 2 KI 8:16-10:36

Day 7: 2 CH 21:1-22:9;
2 KI 11:1-12:21

Outline

Wars with Syria [Day 1]

Alliance of Judah and Israel [Day 1]

Ahab and Jehoshaphat [Day 2]

Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah of Israel [Day 3]

Elisha in Israel [Day 4-5]

Israel and Judah [Day 6-7]

Key Characters

Ahab	Naboth
Jezebel	Ahaziah (I)
Jehoshaphat	Jehoram
Elijah	Elisha
Naaman	Hazael
Jehu	Athaliah
Joash	Jehoram
Ahaziah (J)	Athaliah

Key Locations

Syria
Samaria
Ramoth Gilead
Moab

Key Terms

Kingship
Covenant
Rebellion
Temple
Peace
Reform
Prayer
Prophecy

Key Verses

Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. [1 KI 18:21]

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. [2 CH 7:14]

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. [2 CH 16:9]

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

1Ki20: Ben-hadad attacked Samaria. Israel defeated the Arameans twice. Ahab made a treaty with Ben-hadad so a prophet spoke against him.

1Ki21: Naboth would not sell his vineyard, so Jezebel had him killed. Elijah said to Ahab, "Dogs will lick up your blood and eat Jezebel."

1Ki22: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

2Ch17: Jehoshaphat became king and was devoted to the LORD. He sent his officials to teach the law. He grew greater and built fortresses.

2Ch18: Ahab and Jehoshaphat planned for war. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel scattered. Your prophets are lying." Ahab was killed in battle.

2Ch19: Jehoshaphat returned to Jerusalem. He appointed judges and said to them, "Judge carefully, for with the LORD there is no injustice."

2Ch20: An army came against Jehoshaphat so he sought the LORD. Jahaziel said, "The battle is not yours but God's." The LORD set ambushes.

2Ki1: Ahaziah consulted Baal-zebub. Elijah said that he would die. Ahaziah sent men to Elijah but they were consumed by fire. Ahaziah died.

2Ki2: Elisha followed Elijah. A chariot of fire appeared and Elijah went up to heaven. Elisha took Elijah's mantle and divided the waters.

2Ki3: Israel, Judah and Edom went to fight Moab. Elisha said, "The LORD will send water and give you Moab." The Moabites were defeated.

2Ki4: Elisha told a Shunammite woman that she would have a son. The child died but Elisha revived him. Elisha cleansed the food at Gilgal.

2Ki5: Naaman of Aram was a leper. Elisha told him to wash in the Jordan and he was healed. Gehazi asked for a gift and became leprous.

2Ki6: The king of Aram sent an army to capture Elisha but the LORD blinded them. Ben-hadad besieged Samaria and there was a great famine.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

2Ki7: Elisha prophesied an end to the famine. Four lepers went and found that the Arameans had fled. The people plundered the Aramean camp.

2Ki8: Elisha told Hazael that he would rule Aram. Hazael killed Ben-hadad. Jehoram ruled Judah and did evil. Ahaziah ruled and did evil.

2Ki9: Elisha sent a prophet to anoint Jehu. Jehu killed Joram and Ahaziah. Eunuchs threw Jezebel out of the window and dogs ate her body.

2Ki10: Jehu sent a letter and had Ahab's sons killed. He killed Ahaziah's brothers and all the worshippers of Baal. Hazael defeated Israel.

2Chr21: Jehoram ruled and did evil. Elijah wrote saying, "The LORD will send a plague." The LORD struck Jehoram with a disease and he died.

2Ch22: The people made Ahaziah king. He did evil and was killed by Jehu. Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehoshabeath hid Joash.

2Ki11: Athaliah destroyed the royal family but Jehosheba hid Joash. Jehoiada had the army proclaim Joash as king and put Athaliah to death.

2Ki12: Joash ruled in Jerusalem and did what was right. The priests collected money to repair the temple. Joash was killed by his servants.

History and Prophecy

20 - 26 FEB 2018

1 KI 20-22; 2 KI 1-12; 2 CH 17-22

Week 21 - 29 Weeks to Go

Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

What did I learn about God?

- In 1 KI 22:29-39, Ahab was killed by someone randomly drawing his bow and hitting Ahab. Do you believe that God sovereignly controls all of life's circumstances? Is there human choice? Randomness? Explain.
- In the story of the widow's oil, God used the widow's own limited resources. What resource of yours could God use or has God used, to provide for you?
- Does God still provide miracles today like those described with Elisha in 2 Kings? Have you ever witnessed a miraculous healing? What about unsuccessful prayers for healing?
- Read 2 KI 5: 11-12 where Naaman is angry because the rivers of Damascus should be better than the River Jordan. Since there is only one God, aren't all religions just different ways to God? Or does religion affect the inside heart of a person making them really different? What affect might the outside form of religion have on the heart of a person? How do you know?
- Is the God of 2 Kings more just than merciful or the reverse? In what ways does He demonstrate mercy and how does He balance it with justice? Are the people of Judah collectively punished for the sins of their kings? Is that fair? Are the righteous people rewarded and do they always receive mercy?

What did I learn about human nature?

- In reading about the various kings in this week's readings the candid and sordid stories leave much room for pondering "what if" questions. What do you think would have been different if these kings had done right in the sight of the Lord, or if they had listened to the Lord's prophet? What qualities do the wicked kings have in common? Is it just polytheism and image worship? Or is there more to it than that?
- What impressed you the most about the Shunammite woman who helped Elisha? Her initiative? The way she used her resources? Her desire to serve? Her hospitality? Her focus? Her faith?
- Why do people react instantly to physical threat, yet often seem indifferent to spiritual threat?
- In the story of Naaman being cured of leprosy, why was Naaman reluctant to follow Elisha's instructions? What do you think Naaman's biggest problem was (his leprosy? His temper? His pride? His attitude?) Why do you think Gehazi sought out Naaman after Naaman was healed? How do you feel about the punishment Gehazi received for his actions?
- Are some behaviors (like plunder and killing) fair "in love and war" that would normally be wrong? Are morals justified by circumstances?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- Is it possible to know that your life is "right in the eyes of the Lord?" Does it matter if you know or not?
- When you are faced with a distressing experience (like the Shunammite woman when she loses her son) where do you generally turn? To family? To friends? To God? To church? Other?
- Based on your view of God, what side do you think God takes in current wars? Do you believe anyone is completely "right" when they use violence?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

- What impact might culture at the time of these writings have had on how people "heard" God? They lived in a very violent time period – did that impact why God would command them to do so much killing? How does culture impact our interpretation of Scripture?