

Old Testament

2 Kings

Outline of contents

2 Kings 1 – 2:1-11 Elijah

2 Kings 2:12- 13 Elisha

2 Kings 14 – 17 The decline and subsequent fall of the Northern Kingdom

2 Kings 18-23 Hezekiah – Josiah

2 Kings 24-25 The last days of the southern kingdom Judah

Historical setting

The end of the seventh century is the probable date for the both 1 and 2 Kings to have been written. It has been argued that they were one book. The books of 1 and 2 Kings cover four centuries. Prophets like Amos, Hosea and Jeremiah are seeking to bring the people back to God. Some scholars believe Jeremiah wrote this book. It is a feasible argument that Isaiah wrote up to the time of Hezekiah and Jeremiah completed it.

Key event

The ministry of Elisha. There are thirty two records of the miraculous in Elisha's ministry. The most significant could be argued as the healing of the Syrian Naaman chapter 5

The other key event is when Hezekiah asks for healing and a longer life where the sun is turned backward. Chapter 20

Key people

Elisha, Hezekiah, Josiah

Key themes

God still speaks and God still judges regardless of his peoples receptiveness.

God is still a God of miracles

In the midst of many ungodly kings is the record of Josiah who seeks to bring in reforms chapter 23

Key chapter

Chapter 4 where Elisha sees miraculous provision, barrenness healed, a boy raised from the dead and bread multiplied for 100 men.

Key verse 2 Kings 23:25 There was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might according to all the law of Moses, neither after him arose there any like him. (AV)