

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 1—3
Discussion Dates: 26 September 2013 (in house)
and 27 September 2013 (online)

DAY ONE: Overview

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 2 Kings 1—3.

If possible, read all three chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

DAY TWO: Ahaziah's Reign & Fall

Before we jump into the depth of Second Kings, let's back up just a bit to remember where we are and get our bearings.

READ 1 Kings 22:51—53.

Who was Ahaziah?

Based on these verses, what legacy did Ahaziah leave, if any?

What factors influenced Ahaziah's faith and reign?

READ 2 Kings 1:1—4.

The first verse of this chapter offers a political aside that we'll revisit later. In the meantime, the king fell through some lattice or gate and must have hurt himself in a mighty way.

When the king was injured, his immediate reaction was to send messengers for help. Where and to whom did he send them?

Elijah, however, interrupts their mission with a message from the LORD. What was the message?

How did Ahaziah's servants respond?

DAY THREE: A Fiery Relationship

READ 2 Kings 1:5—18.

When they finally return to Samaria, Ahaziah's servants relay the experience of their journey and the news they now have. How did the king respond to the news?

What do you think of the question he asks them (v.7)? Does this seem a natural and appropriate inquiry?

The rest of this chapter accounts a fiery interchange between the king and the prophet. It's almost like a power struggle. Describe the events in your own words.

Why do you think Elijah responded the way he did? What did this action accomplish?

The repeated pattern eventually ends producing an alternative outcome. What causes this change?

Can you describe the change as a one-word characteristic?

Did the power struggle change the Ahaziah's fate?

Three times this chapter tells us the reason for this action. What was it?

DAY FOUR: The Translation of Elijah

READ 2 Kings 2:1—14.

Three times Elijah instructs Elisha to stay put. Every time Elisha refuses. Can you explain either side of this dispute?

What does this exchange say about their characters? About their relationship?

Verse 9 reminds me of the interchange between God and Solomon. Elijah offers Elisha a sort of blank check. Ask for what you want. Do you believe Elijah had the power to give Elisha anything?

What did Elisha request?

READ 2 Kings 2:11—14.

Describe this scene in your own words.

This is a rather popular story from the Old Testament. Why do you think that is?

What details about this story strike you anew? Is there anything in it that you've never noticed before?

DAY FIVE: Elisha's Ministry Verified

READ 2 Kings 2:11—25.

Fifty sons of the prophets saw this whole event take place. Describe their reaction.

1. What did they believe about Elisha?

2. What did they believe about Elijah?

Once they were satisfied and convinced of the new reality, what became their predominate concern?

What proof did Elisha exhibit of his authority?

DAY SIX: Jehoram as King

READ 2 Kings 3:1—3.

Who was Jehoram?

How was he like the king before him?

How was he distinct from the kings before him?

READ 2 Kings 3:4—20.

The first verse of 2 Kings alerted us to this political upheaval. According to Deuteronomy 23, the Israelites should have had nothing to do with the Moabites to begin with. However, Ahab had established a profitable relationship with the pagan nation. What “taxes” did he collect?

The king of Moab rebelled after Ahab’s death. How long did the Moabites go without paying their “taxes” before Jehoram decided to confront them?

What was Jehoram’s plan?

Who joined forces with him?

After seven days, they recognized a problem. What was it?

And what solution did they propose?

Is this consistent with their characters and history? Why or why not?
Elisha had a bit to say about all this, too. What was his response?

He claimed that only one thing redeemed the motley crew. What was it?

What promise did the LORD provide through Elisha?

DAY SEVEN: A Battle with the Moabites

READ 2 Kings 3:21—27.

The Moabites arose early to engage in battle. What did they see that morning?

What conclusion did they draw?

When the battle turned against them, the king of Moab did two things. What were they?

What significance does this hold, if any?

READ James 1:6—8. Does this sound like the kings we've met in this passage?

What can we do to build steadfast faith in the true and living God? A faith that does not waiver and is not easily tempted toward false gods?