

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 9—13
Discussion Dates: 24 October 2013 (in house)
and 25 October 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 9—13.

If possible, read all five 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: The Anointing of a New King

READ 2 Kings 9:1—13.

Elisha gives specific instructions to one of the sons of a prophet. What does he tell him to do?

Who was Jehu? What was his position or title?

Why was he in Ramoth-Gilead? (*HINT: 2 Kings 8:22*)

What significance did Ramoth-Gilead hold? (*HINT: Joshua 20:8-9; 1 Kings 22*)

The secret anointing of a new king reminds me of David, who was anointed while Saul sat on the throne of Israel (1 Samuel 16). Compare and contrast these two events. Do you see more similarities or distinctions between the two? Explain.

When David was anointed, he received no further instructions. Here, however, the prophet's son gives some very specific instructions. What were they?

What reason did God give for this action?

What became of Jezebel?

READ 1 Kings 19:15—18.

Jehu was anointed around 841 B.C. This prophecy came around 872 B.C. That means approximately 30 years had passed. Do you think anyone remembered it?

What difference might that make?

How accurate was the prophecy?

What does that tell us about God?

READ Joshua 21:45.

What other verses can you recall that proclaim the consistency and faithfulness of our God?

DAY THREE: A Hostile Takeover

READ 2 Kings 9:14—9:37.

At the beginning of chapter nine, Elisha instructed the prophet's son to flee immediately after relaying God's message. This was good advice, because things were about to get violent.

What was Jehu's first act as the newly anointed king of Israel?

Why were the kings of Israel and Judah together?

READ the following verses.

- Job 4:8
- Proverbs 22:8
- Hosea 8:7

A common truth runs through these passages. We've seen the beginning of its fruition for our kings; it will become more obvious in 2 Kings 10.

READ 2 Kings 10.

What happened to the house of Ahab?

What stands out to you most in this chapter?

What did Jehu do right during his reign?

What did he do wrong?

DAY FOUR: Athaliah, Queen of Judah

READ 2 Kings 11.

Who was Athaliah?

How long had she been in the palace?

How was she related to Ahaziah?

How was she related to Ahab?

Describe her character.

What legacy did she leave?

Athaliah and Jezebel are the only two women rulers listed in the history of Israel and Judah. What do you think about this? Let's compare the two.

How were they alike?

How were they different?

Describe the political arrangements they possessed. How did they come to power?

What lessons can we learn from their stories about women and power?

About the character and laws of God?

DAY FIVE: Joash, King of Judah

READ 2 Kings 12.

Who was Joash?

How long did he reign?

One of Joash's major projects was the restoration of the Temple. How was this to be done?

After 23 years the job still wasn't done. What went wrong?

Who helped him with this job?

In the end, it didn't really matter much. Why?

What ended Joash's reign?

What did Joash do right during his reign?

What did he do wrong?

DAY SIX: Jehoahaz and Jehoash/Joash, Kings of Israel

READ 2 Kings 13:1—9.

Who was Jehoahaz?

How long did he reign over Israel?

Jehoahaz ascended to the throne in the twenty-third year of Joash's reign. This is the same time Joash discovered the problems in the temple work. Do you think this is related in any way? If so, how?

What is the first thing we learn about Jehoahaz's reign (10:2)?

Describe the relationship between him and God?

READ 2 Kings 13:10—13.

Jehoash seems to have two names. He is interchangeably called Jehoash and Joash. Who was he?

How long did he reign over Israel?

What legacy did he leave?

READ 2 Kings 13:14—25.

When Elisha became sick, what did the king of Israel do?

Describe the exchange between Elisha and the king of Israel.

What are your thoughts on all this?

What happened next?

DAY SEVEN: Another Perspective

READ 2 Chronicles 22:7—24:27.

The books of Chronicles parallel the books of Kings, only they focus on the kingdom of Judah and not so much on Israel. In these chapters we get another perspective of what happened within the Southern Kingdom during this era.

What is different about the style of writing in these accounts versus those of 2 Kings?

Why might that be?

Do you learn anything new from these passages? Are there any additional details added to the story that we didn't get from 2 Kings?

What lessons can we pocket from these stories? What truths can we apply to our lives today?