

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 14–16

Discussion Date: _____

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 14–16.

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: Amaziah of Judah

READ 2 Kings 14:1–22 and 2 Chronicles 25.

Who was Amaziah?

How did he ascend to the throne? (*HINT: 2 Kings 12:19–21.*)

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

The story of Amaziah's challenge to Jehoash, King of Israel, is recorded in both 1 Kings 14 and 2 Chronicles 25. In 2 Chronicles, however, we see more details, including hints of a spiritual catalyst for these actions.

What motivated Amaziah to instigate battle?

From a spiritual perspective, what was the reason for Judah's defeat?

From a human perspective, what else might have fueled Israel's victory?

What were the consequences of Amaziah's challenge, the extent of destruction done by Israel?

READ 1 Kings 9:3—9.

This passage takes us back to the dedication of the Temple. God made clear His expectations and the consequences of idolatry. What do you think about this passage in light of what we see in during Amaziah's reign?

Do you think God's done with Jerusalem? With the nations of Israel and Judah?

DAY THREE: Azariah of Judah

Like many characters of ancient history, this king of Judah's name is recorded differently in different texts. In 2 Kings he is called Azariah; in 2 Chronicles he is Uzziah.

The difference could be related to language, translations or simply inconsistent spellings and pronunciations. We don't know why it's written differently; we just know he's the same guy.

READ 2 Kings 15:1—7 and 2 Chronicles 26

Who was Azariah?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Azariah restored Elath to Judah. You can read more about Elath in 1 Kings 9:26—28 and 2 Chronicles 8:16—18. Why do you think this town and its restoration to Judah was important? Or was it?

What was Azariah's downfall?

What is your reaction to the skin disease and the circumstances surrounding it? What does this tell you about this king and the spiritual state of his nation?

DAY FOUR: Kings of Israel

READ 2 Kings 14:23—29 and 2 Kings 15:8—31.

In these two chapters we meet the seven kings of Israel who reigned parallel to four kings of Judah. Let's look at each briefly, but in turn.

Who was Jehoash?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

You can read about Jeroboam I, the first monarch of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, in 1 Kings. The chronicle of his rise and reign begins at 11:26 and continues through chapter 14. We now see a second King Jeroboam.

Who was Jeroboam II?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Who was Zechariah?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Who was Shallum?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Who was Menahem?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Who was Pekahiah?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Who was Pekah?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

Do you see any common threads among the kings of Israel? Any stark contrasts or distinctions?

DAY FIVE: Jothan of Judah

READ 2 Kings 15:32—38 and 2 Chronicles 27.

Who was Jothan?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

What was distinct about him or his reign?

During this timeframe several prophets shared messages from God with the kings of Israel and Judah. Most of these are mournful warnings and condemnations. They're certainly not encouraging in any sort of feel-good way, but they are important.

Hosea spoke directly to Azariah and Jothan, but his prophecies took greater form than just words. His book is 14 chapters, but if you have time, please read it. His life and actions portray tangible truths of Israel's heart condition and God's ceaseless love for them ... and for us.

In the words of Isaiah and Micah we, who have the benefit of fulfilled prophecy, can see the announcements of Christ, of an eternal Savior.

Why were these messages needed in this time of kings?

DAY SIX: Ahaz of Judah

READ 2 Kings 16 and 2 Chronicles 28.

Who was Ahaz?

How did he ascend to the throne?

How long did he reign?

READ Isaiah 7:1—14. (If you have time, read the whole chapter.)

What do you think of this? Why would God provide such a cryptic sign to Ahaz? And why provide a sign that would not be fulfilled within his lifetime?

What was Ahaz's great downfall?

What legacy did he leave?

DAY SEVEN: So what?

As we explore the histories of these monarchies, we see so much of the same. We see this in spite of God's call upon the Israelites to be a chosen people, a nation set apart for God. We who believe have been grafted into the family of God. As such, we are called to be holy today.

READ the following passages:

- Romans 12: 1—2
- Ephesians 1:3—12
- 1 Peter 1:13—16

How are followers of Jesus Christ to live?

What are some tangible steps we might take toward living lives of distinction?