

# 2 KINGS

## AN OVERVIEW

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate the fate that awaits everyone who refuses to make Yahweh their true leader.

### **Author**

Unknown. Possibly Jeremiah or a group of prophets.

### **Date**

Second Kings was written c.550 BC during the Babylonian captivity.

### **Audience**

The people of Israel and Judah who are in exile.

### **Setting**

The once united nation of Israel has been divided into two kingdoms for over a century.

### **Special Features**

The 17 books of prophecy at the end of the Old Testament provide great insights into the time period of 2 Kings. While the book is encyclopedic in its scope, summarizing the careers of nearly 30 kings, the extensive portrait of the life of the prophet Elisha is an exception to this “broadstroke” format.



### **Key Verses**

Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.” But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God. (17:13-14 ESV)

### **Key People**

Elijah, Elisha, the Shunammite woman, Naaman, Jezebel, Jehu, Joash, Hezekiah, Sennacherib, Isaiah, Manasseh, Josiah, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar.

### **Key Places**

Jericho, Gilgal, desert of Edom, Shunem, Dothan, Samaria, Damascus, Jerusalem.