

Seven Bible Studies 2017

History

July 4: 2 Kings 1-5 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 2 Kings 1-5

1- Elijah confronts the king and his commanders and twice he calls down fire on the fifty

2- Elijah is taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. Elisha picks up his mantle and quickly demonstrates his authority. As he is mocked "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head," he sends two she bears after the childish individuals

3- Moab fights with Israel and the king of Moab sacrifices his son as a burnt sacrifice on the wall

4- Elisha does a list of things including: helping a widow and her sons, bringing a boy back to life, making an inedible meal safe to eat, and miraculously feeds a hundred people

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, brother Nick!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Glad you were able to post during the week, Nick! I love the lesson we receive from Elijah and Elisha in chapter 2. Let me inherit a double portion! Elisha's desire to carry on Elijah's ministry is commendable. May we all pick up the mantle as our leaders in the Kingdom wait for us on the other side.

July 11: 2 Kings 6-10 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 2 Kings 6-10

Chp. 6: As the sons of the prophets and Elisha are cutting down trees near the Jordan, an ax head falls into the water and Elisha throws a stick into the water and makes the iron float / Blinded Syrians are captured and Syria besieges Samaria in famine

Chp. 7: The Syrians flee as four lepers approach their camp (thinking it was kings of the Hittites and Egyptians)

Chp. 8: The king restores the land of the woman whose son Elisha had restored to life / Death of Ben-Hadad / Jehoram and then Ahaziah reign in Judah

Chp. 9: Jehu is anointed king of Israel / Joram of Israel and Ahaziah of Judah are killed / and the prophecy from 1 Kings 21:23 finally comes true with the violent death of Jezebel

Chp. 10: Ahab's seventy sons, Ahaziah's forty-two brothers, the rest of Ahab's family, and the worshipers of Baal are all killed / Jehu dies and Jehoahaz reigns in his place

Comment:

Charles Fry:

One thing I take delight in with the story of the ax head, God and the man of God have time and attention to deal with the little upsets in life, not just the big ones.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks, Nick!

Comment:

Paul Rutherford:

Ole' Archimedes had to take a backseat on that one! 🤔

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

I love this example of how liberal kindness and hospitality was more becoming and effective with the Syrians. Moral conquest gained for Elisha. Thx, Nick.

July 18: 2 Kings 11-15 (Nick Hermon)

Sorry about the late post. In these chapters, we have a list of kings. It can be confusing since the list interweaves between Israel & Judah, the names of the kings are very similar, and they sometimes go by multiple names. Hopefully the following makes sense and please correct me if you notice anything off.

HISTORY: 2 Kings 11-15

Judah- Athaliah reigns and is killed, Joash (aka Jehoash) reigns and repairs the temple
Israel- Jehu reigns, Jehoahaz reigns, Jehoash reigns

Chp. 13: Elisha becomes sick. Joash (aka Jehoash), one of the better kings of Judah, visits him and Elisha give an interesting and strange demonstration with bow and arrows in regards to the Syrians. Elisha dies and Joash mourns over him.

Judah- Joash (aka Jehoash) is murdered by servants, Amaziah (Joash's son) avenges his dad's murder and reigns... interesting reference to the Mosaic law (2 Kings 14:6 ref. Deuteronomy 24:16) and is captured by Jehoash (king of Israel), Amaziah's son- Uzziah (aka Azariah) reigns in place of his dad at the age of 16 and is later struck by God with leprosy, Uzziah (aka Azariah)'s son- Jotham reigns

Israel- Jehoash captures Amaziah (king of Judah) and dies, Jehoash's son- Jeroboam II reigns, Jeroboam II's son- Zechariah reigns six months and is killed, Shallum reigns a month and is killed, Menahem reigns, Pekahiah reigns two years and is killed by his officer Pekah, Pekah reigns and is killed by Hoshea, Hoshea reigns

Interesting notes: all the kings of Israel do evil and the kings of Judah in these chapters do well in the eyes of God. The approximate timeline of these kings are 850-750BC

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thanks, Nick!

Comment:

Charles Fry:
Yes, the cast of characters and timeline does get busy! I do think it was the king of Israel, not Judah, who paid his respects to Elisha in his last days.
2 Kings 13:14 (CSB)

Elisha's Death

14 When Elisha became sick with the illness from which he died, King Jehoash of Israel went down and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel! "

Interesting expression, "the chariots and horsemen of Israel," reflecting back on previous episodes.

Replies:

Nick Hermon:
Ah, good catch. Thanks Charles! I probably assumed it was the king of Judah since they seemed to do better than the kings of Israel.

Charles Fry:
The interaction of Elisha with the Kings of Israel is intriguing. He seldom has an approving word, but nevertheless he several times provides assistance or direction or opportunity.

Joanne Caffie:
Wasn't that part of his job as a prophet (to provide assistance, direction or opportunity)?

July 25: 2 Kings 16-20 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 2 Kings 16-20
ISRAEL TAKEN CAPTIVE

Last week we left off with the list of kings of Israel and Judah.

16- Ahaz reigns in Judah and does bad things. His son, Hezekiah, becomes the new king
17- Hoshea reigns in Israel and does poorly. The king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea and has him thrown in prison. Israel does not heed God's commands and makes a molded image and two calves made of wood, worshiped it, and served Baal. They did child sacrifices and practiced witchcraft so God gave them over to Assyria. They did not fear God, so He sent lions among them.

"But the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice." (v. 36)

18- Hezekiah reigns in Judah and gives the king of Assyria all the silver in the treasury and stripped the gold from the doors and pillars of the temple

19- Isaiah ensures deliverance from the Assyrians and an angel of the Lord killed the camp of 185,000 Assyrians. Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, is killed and Esarhaddon, his son, reigns in his place

20- "Set your house in order" is the words of Isaiah as God allows Hezekiah's life to be extended 15 years. He shows the Babylonians all the treasuries in his kingdom and he is told all of it will someday be carried away to Babylon. Hezekiah, who apparently made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city, eventually dies.

Comment:

Charles Fry:

"All this took place because..." (2 Kings 17:7ff). This is the fundamental message of Kings, the reason for failure and condemnation, unfortunately not well heeded by the remnant in Judah.

As a historical footnote, we know of exactly one city that was besieged by Assyria in that time period of the 8th century BC and survived, and that is Jerusalem. Other than the Biblical answer (the hand of God) there is no plausible reason for the survival of Jerusalem and Hezekiah, but it was documented (without explanation) in the Assyrian annals as well as the Bible.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks, brother Nick!

August 1: 2 Kings 21-25 (Nick Hermon)

HISTORY: 2 Kings 21-25

Chp. 21- The Evil 12yr Old

Manasseh, at the age of twelve, becomes king over Judah. "He built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal..." (v3) and held child sacrifices. He did many bad things and his son, Amon, doesn't do much better. Amon only reigns two years before being assassinated.

Chp. 22- The Impact of the Book

Josiah, son of Amon, becomes king at only eight years old. In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, Hilkiah, the high priest find the book of the law in the House of the Lord. Shaphan, the scribe, brings it to Josiah and reads it to him. Josiah rents his clothes and repents before God.

Chp. 23- King Josiah Institutes Religious Reform

He tore down the high places and turned them into dust. He destroyed the altars and the bones of the false prophets. He reconstituted the command of the Passover.

“And like unto him was there 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” (v25).

After Josiah, his son, Jehoahaz, reigned in Judah three months and did evil and died. So Jehoiakim, one of Josiah’s other sons took reign and did poorly as well.

Chp. 24- A Series of Bad Kings

Jehoiakim becomes a servant to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Jehoiachin, Jehoaiakim’s son, becomes king, but is overruled by Nebuchadnezzar. In v13, the prophecy of the gold being taken over by the Babylonians (2 Kings 20:17) is fulfilled.

Following Jehoiachin is King Zedekiah, the uncle of the king of Babylon.

Chp. 25- Destruction of Solomon’s temple

When Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, Babylong besieged Jerusalem and burned down the temple and “Judah was carried away captive from its own land” (v21).

Gedaliah is made governor of Judah... until he is struck dead

Jehoiachin, the king of Judah, is released from prison by the Evil-Merodach king of Babylon

Comment:

Butch O’Neal:
Thank you, Nick!

Comment:

Steven Dallas Thompson:
Great job Nick.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

I lost my Bible in the church building once. 🤔 You automatically think of this history when/if it happens to you. Of course it wasn't 100 years. More like 7 days. Every time I read about Josiah the more I love him and his zeal to call all the people to read from the Word and renew their spiritual life. You did a good job keeping jehoiachin and jehoiakim straight, Nick! Thanks for the good study 😊

Comment:

Lori Watt:

Even though Josiah did all the great things he did, he still didn't have a particularly long reign or have a good exit from this life. And his son didn't seem to have gotten any wisdom from him. Yes, Josiah was a man who followed the Lord with zeal, but that didn't mean his life was sunshine and roses (the same goes for us, too.)

Replies:

Butch O’Neal:
AMEN!