

Read the Bible in a Year

Week 26 – November 28th, 2021

Read on Your Own this Week:

Psalms 76-78
Proverbs 13-16

Readings in Class:

2 Kings 11-25

Introduction to 2 Kings

A Kingdom on the Brink of Decline and Destruction. That is the scene that is set in the book of 2 Kings. This book highlights the last days and years of the two beleaguered kingdoms that are not only at odds with each other, but are also at odds with the kingdoms around them and with the Lord their God who brought them out of Egypt.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel (931-722 BC) goes from one tragedy to the next. None of their kings are listed as faithful. The prophets are sent by God to warn and bring them back, but are met with resistance and death. Finally, God comes through on his covenant curses (think Deuteronomy) and the Assyrian Empire is brought in during the time of 722 BC and destroys the capital of the Northern Kingdom Samaria and leads the 10 northern tribes into exile. While some refugees escape to the Southern Kingdom, the vast majority are taken away and never heard from again. The land is repopulated and the Samaritans come from the people that mix together.

The Southern Kingdom of Israel (931-587 BC) offers some bright glimmers of hope. Hezekiah and Josiah are in the faithfulness of David their father. Others are halfhearted like Asa and Jehoshaphat, but beyond that the rest of the Kings of Judah are nothing like David and more like the Northern Kingdom. Despite the glimmers, the kingdom sinks into apostasy and destruction as well. Final destruction is given by God through his prophets for not holding to the covenant and God brings in the Babylonians, who conquered Assyria, and they destroy the temple and lead the people in Exile.

The end of the book leaves a haunting question: what about God's promises to David? The temple and God's presence there with his people. What now? The book ends with the note that God will have to take the next step. The books of Moses and the prophets and Solomon at the Temple once noted though that in their bondage and exile, if the people turned back to God that he would hear them and call them back home. The small sliver lining at the end of the book is that Jehoiachin, the Son of David, is released from prison. The line of David, and therefore the promise that God made to his house, is still possible and awaits fulfillment by God to restore so that the Son of David will reign over the house of Jacob forevermore.

A Brief Overview of the Kings of Israel and Judah

Israel:

Jeroboam 931-910 BC
Nadab 910-909 BC
Baasha 909-887 BC
Elah 886-885 BC
Zimri 885 BC
Tibni 885-880 BC
Omri 885-874 BC
Ahab 874-853 BC
Ahaziah 853-852 BC
Joram/Jehoram 852-841 BC
Jehu 841-814 BC
Jehoahaz 814-796 BC
Jehoash 798-782 BC
Jeroboam II 793-753 BC
Zechariah 753 BC
Shallum 752 BC
Menahem 752-742 BC
Pekah 742-732 BC
Pekahiah 742-740 BC
Hoshea 732-722 BC

Judah:

Rehoboam 931-914 BC
Abijam 914-911 BC
Asa 911-870 BC
Jehoshaphat 873-848 BC
Jehoram 853-841 BC
Ahaziah 841 BC
Athaliah 841-835 BC
Joash 835-796 BC
Amaziah 796-767 BC
Azariah (Uzziah) 792-740 BC
Jotham 750-735 BC
Ahaz 735-715 BC
Hezekiah 715-686 BC
Manasseh 696-642 BC
Amon 642-640 BC
Josiah 640-609 BC
Jehoahaz 609 BC
Jehoiakim 609-598 BC
Jehoiachin 598-597 BC
Zedekiah 597-587 BC

An Age of Prophets and Kings

We should remember that the Kings are often checked by their abuses by God. God sends the prophets to call his people back to him. As we read the Kings, it is helpful to remember the Prophets and where they fit in:

Isaiah 740-681 BC (Southern Kingdom)
Jeremiah 628-587 BC (Southern Kingdom & Exile in Egypt)
Ezekiel 593-570 BC (Southern Kingdom & Exile)
Daniel 605-539 BC (Babylon and Persia)
Hosea 740-715 BC (Northern Kingdom)
Joel 800 BC? Date unsure. (Southern Kingdom)
Amos 792-740 BC (Northern Kingdom)
Obadiah 587-553 BC (Edom)
Jonah 790 BC (Nineveh)
Micah 750-686 BC (Southern Kingdom)
Nahum 663-612 BC (Nineveh)
Habbakkuk 605 BC (Southern Kingdom)
Zechariah 640-609 BC (Southern Kingdom)
Haggai August 520 BC- December 520 BC (Post-Exilic Judea)
Zechariah October 520 BC- December 518 BC (Post-Exilic Judea)
Malachi 430 BC (Post-Exilic Judea)