

Key to II KINGS

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, probably Jeremiah. Time of writing, 600 B.C. Key thought, decline of kingdom; key verse, 17:9. Time covered, about 300 years. Type of book, history.

2. THEME:

A continuation of the decline of the kingdom period, including the inevitable captivity of the northern tribes, later the southern. Miracle-ministry of the prophet, Elisha, is prominent.

3. OUTLINE:

Decline and final captivity of Israel (1-17) Decline and final captivity of Judah (18-25)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

History of man's inexcusable failures and GOD's immeasurable love.

This was one of three periods of miracles; others were during the life of Moses and during Christ's earthly ministry.

One figure is predominant - Elisha the prophet, successor to Elijah. The former was opposite of the latter in every respect, yet was GOD's man for the hour.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit (2:9). There are just twelve miracles recorded for him, six for Elijah. These affected nations and individuals, with whom GOD is concerned: The Syrian siege (chapters 6, 7), the Shunammite's son (4:8-37).

Two great lessons in Naaman's healing: the connecting link provided by the captive girl and the fact that GOD allowed His truth to be known to pagan nations as well as to His chosen people.

The fulfillment awaited GOD's time, but frightful judgment inexorably came to the wicked Jezebel (9:10, 30-37), perhaps the most wicked woman pictured in the Bible.

The Messianic line hangs on a thread, the life of a six-year-old, Joash (11:1-3).

Prayers reveal inner character. The inner heart of King Hezekiah is seen from his earnest prayers (19:14-19; 20:1-3).

A complete account of GOD's reasons for allowing Israel to go into captivity is given (17:7-23).

GOD answers Hezekiah's prayer for extended life, but in this time Manasseh, the most frightfully

wicked king of all, was born to him (chapters 20, 21). How much better is GOD's way.

The reading of GOD's Word brings results (22:11-14; 23:1-27).

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Elijah a "fire" prophet, miracles during his life and his homegoing.

Solomon's temple completely destroyed (25:8-10).

The captivity of Judah in four installments.

Reappearance of Elijah in Matthew 17:1-3, at Transfiguration.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

GOD forestalled judgment upon His people for many years, but it finally had to fall. Had there been a genuine repentance and revival they would have been spared. That same long-suffering patience is seen in GOD's dealing with the unsaved today.

~ end of II Kings ~

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