

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

04-30-2023 // WEEK 17 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **2 Kings 9 - Isaiah 4**. Here are a few highlights:

*One thing that was asked about the flow of this reading. 2 Kings is where we are. **We will NOT follow with 1 and 2 Chronicles**. Kings is Israel's history from man's perspective. Chronicles is this same history (much is the same) but with added information that shows us it's from GOD'S perspective. I think the maker of this reading plan divides it to make it more readable and not repeating a lot of our reading, saving it for later on. I'm pretty sure that's the intent. I think it'll make more sense later on.*

Here we go! Remember the context. After Solomon's death, the two kingdoms divided. They are now to be known as Israel (the northern kingdom) and Judah (the southern kingdom). Remember this: In Israel, there was NO good king, not one. They existed for around 200 years, then were captured by the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The southern kingdom had some good kings, as we will see. But they were not able to stop the complete judgment of God. They too became apostates and were overtaken by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The story continues from last week:

- **2 Kings 9:** God raises up Jehu in the northern kingdom as his instrument against the evil of Ahab and Jezebel, as he said he would do to Elijah in **1 Kings 19**. Against all of Israel's apostasies, sorceries, whorings, and godlessness. He kills Jezebel in this chapter.
- **Chapter 10:** All of Ahab's descendants are killed by Jehu. It's a complete scrubbing of Ahab from the land. And the prophets of Baal are all eliminated too. All of this was good from Jehu. But please note **verses 31 and following** that he did not walk in God's laws and continued in the ways of Jeroboam (the first king of Israel who started this mess!).
- **Chapter 11:** We shift to Judah with Queen Athaliah, a kind of Jezebel in the south. She kills all the king's sons except Joash, who escapes. Palace intrigue! Joash is hidden for years then reestablished as king through the high priest Jehoida.

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

- **Chapter 12:** Jehoash reigns in Judah. He initiates a freewill offering to repair the Temple (keep in mind for a future story). War with Syria. More palace intrigue.
- **Chapters 13 - 15:** Jehoahaz becomes king in Israel. He is a BAD king. Israel spirals downward. Elisha's death is described. Amaziah in Judah. He was a good king except in one area (and this is an important area): he wouldn't remove the high places, the places in the mountainous regions where Baal/cultic worship was taking place. Jeroboam II in Israel begins to reign. He is awful. Azariah in Judah, for 52 years he reigns. Basically good, but keeps the high places. Shallum and Menahem and Pekiah and Pekah in Israel. BAD! Jotham in the south, good except for high places (seeing a pattern?).
- **Chapters 16 - 17:** This same pattern continues. **No good king in Israel. Some good ones in Judah, but they leave the high places untouched.** Why? It's called *syncretism* – mixing your religion with parts of others you think are helpful. Not total allegiance, which the Lord wants. Finally, in **chapter 17**, you see the fall of Israel to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. God had had enough. Exile. **These are the 10 lost tribes of Israel. The Diaspora.** Scattered around the world. To return largely in 1948 with the reestablishment of Israel as a nation.
- **Chapter 18: King Hezekiah in Judah. A very good king.** Loved God with ALL his heart. Because of his love and obedience to the Lord, God protected him and Judah against Sennacherib and the invading Assyrian armies. **Judah was NOT overtaken by enemies like Israel was.** Read the story of how God protected Hezekiah and the people. It's just so cool, so applicable to our lives as well.
- **Chapter 19:** You are introduced to **the prophet Isaiah**, yes, the same who wrote the Old Testament book. **What a good and godly man!** He counsels Hezekiah through the Assyrian threat. Read Hezekiah's prayer starting with **verse 14**. It's a prayer all of us can pray regularly as well. Note the humility and utter dependence on God. And Isaiah's prophecy in **verse 20** shows **the battle really belongs to the Lord.** He alone is our deliverer. And God sent one angel who struck down 185,000 Assyrians. They fled home.

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

- **Chapter 20:** Hezekiah falls ill. He prays. God gives him 15 more years. But he shows off, in pride, all his wealth to the Babylonian envoys who came. Surely they remembered all this wealth when they invaded some 100 years later. **Even the best kings can fall prey to human pride** and dependence on self. Isaiah rebukes Hezekiah for doing this and prophecies that one day this will come back to haunt Judah.
- **Chapter 21:** The introduction of **Manasseh**, Hezekiah's son. He reigned for 55 years and was just awful, **really bad as a king**. He introduced all the godlessness of Ahab in the north. **His evil reign causes God's ultimate decision to take Judah into captivity one day**. Amnon is the next king for two years. He followed in Manasseh's steps.
- **Chapters 22-23: Josiah becomes king**. He keeps the temple freewill offering in place for the reconstruction and repairs of the Temple. While in the Temple annals, Hilkiah, the high priest, finds the "book of the law" (which is the book of Deuteronomy). He sees Judah's evils – especially under Manasseh. He tears his clothes. Weeps bitterly. And begins reforms according to the book. **What a great view of revival in a land!** The Bible becomes central. People want to obey it. **All the Baal idolatry was destroyed. The high places too.** The Passover is restored. Mediums and necromancers are put away. But God's wrath still burned against his people because of Manasseh's 55 years of godlessness and idolatry. Josiah would not see the captivity. But it would inevitably come. Josiah dies in battle against the Egyptians. **Jehoahaz becomes king. He brings back EVIL. Jehoiakim is next. More evil.**
- **Chapters 24-25: Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacks Jerusalem/Judah.** The fall and captivity to Babylon begins. Judah becomes a puppet state. All the gold/bronze were taken away. The best and brightest were deported. And that's where it ends.

Please note we will now go to ISAIAH.

Over the last week you should have begun to read through Isaiah. I think it's placed here in this reading plan

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

because of the story in **2 Kings** of Sennacherib's invasion (Assyria) of both Israel and Judah. Isaiah the prophet is a key figure in the story with King Hezekiah. As you get to chapters 37-39 this story is retold through Isaiah's eyes.

Please note these insights as you read through the book:

1. Isaiah had a long life. His call to ministry/prophecy began in 740 and lasted until 680.
 2. He prophesied through the lives of several kings of the northern and southern kingdoms.
 3. He prophesied to both kingdoms, Judah and Israel.
 4. Look for the key words "in that day" as you read through the book. It will refer to:
 - *the coming day of the Lord, the end times, when God makes all things new*
 - *a coming day in the life of Israel when God will judge and restore them to the land*
- **Isaiah 1-5:** God confronts the sins of Judah through Isaiah. But he also points out Judah's hope alongside their guilt. Then, in **chapter five**, Judah's sins are condemned.