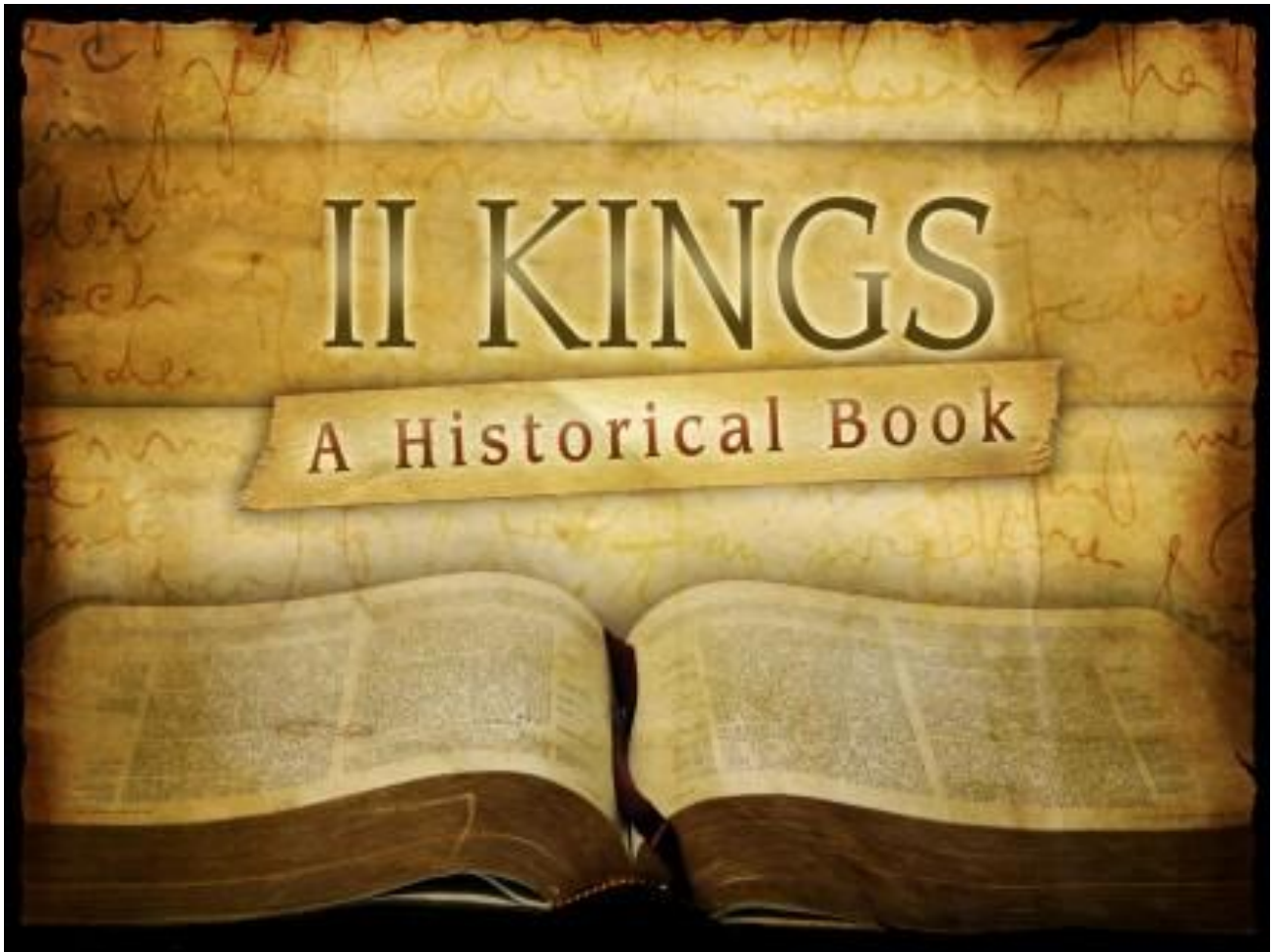


# The Book of 2 Kings



## Part 3 4 more Studies in 2 Kings

## Introduction

The two books, 1 & 2 Kings, in the Hebrew Old Testament were one book. It was divided by the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translators. They summarized these books as follows: I The Reign of Solomon; II Division of the Kingdom, and Parallel History of the Two Kingdoms; III Subsequent History of Judah to the Captivity.

1 Kings opens with the Hebrew nation in its glory. 2 Kings closes with the nation in ruin. Together they cover a period of about 400 years, from 1000-600 BC.

## Author

The author is not known. A Jewish tradition says it was Jeremiah. Whoever the author is, he makes frequent reference to state annals and other historical records existent in his day, such as: “The book of the acts of Solomon”; “The book of chronicles of the Kings of Judah”; and “The book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel” (1 Kings 11:41; 14:19, 29; 15:7, 23, 31; 16:5, 14, 27 etc.).

## Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. The last days of David and Solomon’s Accession     | 1 Kings 1:1 – 1 Kings 2:46   |
| 2. The reign of Solomon                               | 1 Kings 3:1 – 1 Kings 11:43  |
| 3. History of the Divided Kingdom                     | 1 Kings 12:1 – 2 Kings 10:36 |
| 4. History of Judah & Israel to fall of North Kingdom | 2 Kings 11:1 – 2 Kings 17:41 |
| 5. History of Judah to the fall of Jerusalem          | 2 Kings 18:1 – 2 Kings 25:30 |

## Alternative Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Golden Age   | 1 Kings 1-11          |
| 2. The Torn Kingdom | 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 |
| 3. The Last Days    | 2 Kings 18-25         |

## Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
2. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.**

## Study 1 – Scripture says it must happen this way

2 Kings 9:1-37

*(Sermon on 08-Oct-2023)*

### Before we begin: Read 1 Kings 19:15-17.

What **three tasks** did God give the prophet Elijah to do and why?

*<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup> Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup> Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.*

*Elijah's three tasks were: a) anoint Hazael as King of Aram; b) anoint Jehu as King of Israel and c) anoint Elisha as his successor!*

How many of these tasks have been completed?

*We know that Elijah anointed Elisha immediately in 1 Kings 19.*

*We're not told if Elijah completed the other two tasks or whether he left them to his successor, Elisha. Perhaps the latter.*

*So, Elisha "anointed" Hazael in 2 Kings 8 – when God showed him what Hazael would do to Israel; and Elisha will anoint Jehu in this chapter!*

Remind yourself who the two kings of Judah were that we read about in chapter 8 verses 16 to 29?

*The two kings of Judah that we read about in Jehoram and his son Ahaziah*

### Read 2 Kings 9:1-3

1. What instructions does the prophet Elisha give a man from the company of prophets in verses 1 to 3? Why?

*Elisha tells the man from the company of prophets to go to Ramoth Gilead to anoint Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat as King over Israel.*

*Why? Because that was what the Lord had told Elisha's mentor, Elijah, back in 1 Kings 19. Jehu is going to be the Lord's instrument in the punishment and judgment of Israel because of their continued disobedience.*

### Read 2 Kings 9:4-13

2. Who is Jehu?

*Jehu is the son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. Note: this is a different Jehoshaphat than the King of Judah who was the son of Asa!*

*Jehu was an army commander.*

3. What does the man from the company of prophets say the Lord wants Jehu to do? What will happen to the house of Ahab and to Jezebel?

*Jehu will be anointed as King of Israel.*

*He will destroy the house of Ahab so that the blood of the Lord's servants the prophets and the blood shed by Jezebel are avenged.*

*The Lord says Jehu will destroy the whole house of Ahab; every last male – slave or free will be cut off! The house of Ahab will be eliminated like the house of King Jeroboam (who implemented the golden calf worship) and the house of Bassha (who also followed the ways of Jeroboam).*

*Also, Jezebel will be devoured by dogs at a plot of ground in Jezreel and no one will bury her (because they'll be nothing to bury!)*

4. Why do you think one of Jehu's officers calls the man from the company of prophets a maniac?

*It was easy to dismiss this prophet as a crazed, babbling maniac. It was easy for both Jehu and his associates to think of any God-honoring man as demented. Yet Jehu knew — and the others soon did also — that the man was a true prophet of God.*

5. How do Jehu's fellow officers react to the news that Jehu has been anointed as King?

*One minute they think this man of the company of prophets is a maniac, the next they are taking him seriously when they hear that Jehu has been anointed as King. It gives some indication of how much King Joram is disliked!*

*They react (as did the people of that first Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem as King) by laying down their cloaks and blowing trumpets to hail the new King!*

### **Read 2 Kings 9:14-20**

6. Locate the Kings mentioned in appendix 1

***See red rectangles – King 6 of Judah and Kings 9 and 10 of Israel.***

7. Who is the current King of Israel (Northern Kingdom) and what is his condition and why?

*The current King is Joram. He is defending Ramoth Gilead against King Hazael of Aram but Joram was injured and recovering from his wounds.*

8. Where is Jehu and where is the current King of Israel and the King of Judah?

Locate the cities on the map in appendix 2.

*Jehu is in Ramoth Gilead and King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah are in Jezreel.*

***See red rectangles in appendix 2***

9. What instructions does Jehu give his fellow officers at the end of verse 15?

Why?

*Jehu told his fellow officers to make sure no one slipped out of town to inform the Kings in Jezreel that Jehu had been anointed as King! Jehu wanted to catch the Kings in Jezreel unaware, when he attacked.*

10. Where did Jehu ride to in verse 16 and why?

*Jehu rode to Jezreel because King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah were both there!*

11. What instructions does King Joram give when he is informed of troops approaching?

*King Joram sent a horseman to ask if Jehu came in peace!*

12. What happens when the first and second horsemen meet Jehu?

*Jehu told both horsemen to fall in behind his army and they did not return to King Joram!*

13. How is Jehu identified by the lookout?

*Jehu was identified by his driving; he was driving like a maniac!*

### **Read 2 Kings 9:21-29**

14. What does King Joram of Israel decide to do in verse 21?

*Joram decided to ride out with Ahaziah to meet Jehu.*

*Not the wisest move!*

15. Why is the plot of ground that belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite significant?

*This plot of ground belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite who owned a vineyard close to the palace of King Ahab, in Samaria. This story is in 1 Kings 21:1-29. Ahab wanted to acquire Naboth's vineyard but Naboth refused. Ahab went off and*

*sulked. So, Ahab's wife, Jezebel came up with a wicked scheme to kill Naboth and get the vineyard for her husband! The Lord vowed, through Elijah, that both Ahab and Jezebel would pay for this in the future.*

*And part of that punishment is in this chapter!*

16. Why does Jehu say there can be no peace?

*Jehu said that there can be no peace because of the idolatry and witchcraft of Joram's mother, Jezebel.*

17. What happens to King Joram and where does he end up? Why is that significant? (cf. 1 Kings 21:28-29)

*Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders and the arrow pierced his heart. Joram ends up in the field that belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite. This significant because Joram's father Ahab was to be punished but because he humbled himself (1 Kings 21:28); the Lord said He would bring disaster on Ahab's house in the days of his son (1 Kings 21:29) which is happening here in 2 Kings 9:24-26!*

18. What happens to King Ahaziah of Judah? Why? (cf. 2 Kings 8:28-29)

*King Ahaziah tries to flee and Jehu chased him. Ahaziah was wounded in his chariot and died in Megiddo.*

*Ahaziah King of Judah was killed because of his union (uneven yoke) with Joram the King of Israel*

19. Why is Ahaziah given a decent burial? (cf. 2 Chronicles 22:9)

*Ahaziah was given a decent burial because his father, King Jehoshaphat of Judah had been a good King who had sought the Lord with all his heart.*

### **Read 2 Kings 9:30-37**

20. Why does Jezebel call Jehu, Zimri? (cf. 1 Kings 16:9-12)

*Jezebel calls Jehu, Zimri, because in 1 Kings 16:9-12, Zimri an official of King Elah of Israel son of Baasha plotted against his King and killed him. So, the term "Zimri" used by Jezebel indicated someone who is a traitor; i.e.; Jehu is a traitor against King Joram!*



21. What happens to Jezebel?

*She was thrown from a widow by some eunuchs and her blood splattered the walls and then she was trampled underfoot by some horses.*

*Whilst Jehu was taking a lunch break, he told his men to bury her as she was a King's daughter; but when they went to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, feet and hands.*

22. Why is Jezebel killed this way? (cf. 1 Kings **21**:23-25)

*Jezebel was killed this way to fulfil prophecy.*

*1 Kings 21:23-25 says: <sup>23</sup> "And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' <sup>24</sup> "Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country." <sup>25</sup> (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife.*

23. **Ponder:** Is the punishment of Joram, Ahaziah and Jezebel harsh?

Yes/No/Maybe?

*No. Jezebel and her husband Ahab had introduced a systematic wicked/evil idolatrous worship of the false god Baal and had led the whole nation of Israel (Northern Kingdom) away from the proper worship of the one true God, YHWH. Ahab's son, Joram, had continued his father's wicked idolatrous worship regime and Ahaziah King of Judah, by his intermarriage (unevenly yoked) to Ahab's family had also followed Ahab's ways instead of the Lord's ways. God takes false worship and idolatry very seriously indeed and it must be punished and stopped! The only way to stamp it out, is to remove all those participating in it; because they had been told time and time again to stop; but they refused.*

24. **Ponder:** What should Christians' response be when those who oppress God's people are finally dead?

*We should rejoice that God has acted and removed the oppressor of God's people. It's not wrong to rejoice in such circumstances. These oppressors, despite many chances, have refused to repent and as a result of oppressed many people and led many people astray; and so, they are culpable!*

## Read Matthew 26:51-54

25. How does this passage relate to **2 Kings 9:1-37**?

*In Matthew 26:51-54; the context is that Jesus is about to be arrested and one of Jesus' companions (Peter) in his zeal to protect Jesus drew his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.*

*Jesus rebuked his companion (Peter) and said "all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"*

*This relates to 2 Kings 9:1-37 in that the way that God deals with Joram, Ahaziah and Jezebel must happen the way that God's Word (Scripture) says and no other way. Likewise, Jesus' arrest and subsequent death must happen the way God's Word (Scripture) says and no other way! God determined that salvation from sin would be accomplished by the weakness of the cross not by the power of the sword!*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **2 Kings 9:1-37**?

**Things must happen the way God says!**



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways **2 Kings 9:1-37** point to Jesus?

- a. Jehu is sent to destroy the wickedness of Ahab's house of false Jesus. Jesus is sent to destroy sin and death*
- b. Jehu's actions can be seen as a type of cleansing or purification, which is connected symbolically to Jesus cleansing the temple in the New Testament (John 2:13-22). Both events involve the removal of corruption and the reestablishment of God's authority.*
- c. Jehu is anointed as King – points to Jesus the Christ/Messiah – God's Anointed One.*
- d. Elisha as God's prophet is always seen as foreshadowing Jesus!*

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. **Obedience and Zeal** - Jehu's obedience to the prophetic call and his zeal in carrying out God's commands can inspire us to be obedient to our faith and to act with zeal in our pursuit of righteousness.*



- b. **Responsibility and Leadership** - Jehu was chosen as a leader to bring about change. This teaches us about the responsibilities that come with leadership and the importance of using our positions for the greater good.
- c. **Facing Sin** - The story highlights the importance of confronting and dealing with sin. In our lives, it's essential to address moral and ethical issues rather than ignore them, even when it's difficult or unpopular.
- d. **Consequences of Sin** - Ahab's family faced severe consequences due to their sins. This serves as a reminder of the accountability we have for our actions and the impact our choices can have on our lives and the lives of others.
- e. **God's Justice** - 2 Kings 9 illustrates that God's justice prevails. Even in chaotic and seemingly unjust situations, faith in God's ultimate justice can provide hope and encouragement. Take heart the wicked dictators of this world will not go unpunished!
- f. **Trustworthiness of God's Word** – We can trust God's Word. What He says will happen and the way He says it will happen – will ultimately take place!
- g. **Repentance** – repentance is required before it's too late!

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

2 Kings 9:3 - Then take the flask and pour the oil on his head and declare, '**This is what the LORD says**: I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and run; don't delay!"

Matthew 26:54 - <sup>54</sup> But how then would the **Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?**"

**Finish in prayer:** Thank God for His Word; that His word never fails and it always accomplishes His purposes.

## Study 2 – Above all else guard your heart

2 Kings 10:1-36

*(Sermon on 15-Oct-2023)*

Before we begin:

Read 1 Kings 19:15-17.

What was Jehu's role to be?

*From 1 Kings 19:15-17: The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, **anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel**, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. **Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael**, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.*

*Jehu's role was to be King of Israel and he was to wipe out those whom the King of Aram, Hazael did not kill. In other words, Jehu, is God's instrument of judgment!*

Read 2 Kings 9:6-10

What was Jehu's called to do? Has he done that?

*From 2 Kings 9:6-10: Jehu got up and went into the house. Then the prophet poured the oil on Jehu's head and declared, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anoint you king over the Lord's people Israel. **You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the Lord's servants shed by Jezebel. The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her.**'"* Then he opened the door and ran.

*Jehu's role was to destroy the whole house of Ahab and to kill Jezebel.*

*Jehu has not done this completely yet. He has killed King Joram of Israel; King Ahaziah of Judah (because he married into Ahab's family) and he has killed Jezebel. But there are more of Ahab's house remaining as we pick up the story in 2 Kings chapter 10...*

Read 2 Kings 10:1-11

1. Where are the seventy sons of Ahab and where is Jehu (from last chapter)?

Why is that a problem?

*The seventy sons of Ahab are in Samaria and Jehu is in Jezreel.*

*See red rectangles on map in appendix 2.*

*It means Jehu's mission to wipe out Ahab's family line is far from complete. These sons were a significant danger to the anointed King Jehu. First, they were the descendants of Ahab and had a great interest in battling back to keep the throne of Israel. Second, they were in Samaria, the capital city of Israel — meaning they were away from Jehu, who killed King Joram in Jezreel.*

2. What challenge does Jehu issue in verses 2 and 3?

*Jehu challenged house of Ahab to declare themselves a king and prepare to fight for their master's house.*

3. How do the elders and officials and guardians of Ahab's children react to Jehu's challenge in verse 4? Why?

*They were terrified. They reasoned that Jehu had killed two kings already (Joram and Ahaziah) and so how would they be able to resist Jehu?*

4. How does the palace administrator (via letter) respond to Jehu in verse 5?

*The palace administrator responded: "We are your servants and we will do anything you say. We will not appoint anyone as king; you do whatever you think best."*

5. What confronting reply does Jehu give in verse 6?

*Jehu replies by saying – if they are on his side, they will take off the heads of Ahab's sons and come to him in Jezreel by the next day!*

6. What did the leading men do to Ahab's sons (royal princes) in verses 6 to 8?

*The leading men slaughtered Ahab's sons, put their heads in baskets and sent them to Jehu in Jezreel. The heads were put in two piles at the entrance to the city gate.*

*"This was suitable to Ahab's sin. He had sent for baskets of grapes out of Naboth's vineyard at Jezreel; and now the heads of his sons are brought thither in baskets." (Trapp)*

7. What is Jehu's point in verse 9?

*His point is; he killed their King (Joram) but he did not kill the 70 sons of Ahab; so they are not completely innocent!*

*“You are innocent in your own eyes, and you look upon me as a traitor, and rebel, and murderer, because I have risen against and slain my master, which I acknowledge I have done. But if I am guilty, you are not innocent, and therefore cannot accuse me; for I have killed one, but you a great number.” (Poole)*

8. Where does Jehu say he got his mandate from in verse 10? (cf. 1 Kings 21:19 and 2 Kings 9:7-10)

*Jehu got his mandate from God who spoke through his prophet Elijah.*

**1 Kings 21:19** – Say to him [Ahab], ‘This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

**2 Kings 9:7-10** -<sup>7</sup> You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the LORD’s servants shed by Jezebel. <sup>8</sup> The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. <sup>9</sup> I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. <sup>10</sup> As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her.” Then he opened the door and ran.

9. How did Jehu carry out his mandate in verse 11?

*Jehu killed everyone in Jezreel who remained in the house of Ahab; even his chief men, close friends and priests; leaving no survivors!*

### **Read 2 Kings 10:12-14**

10. Who did Jehu meet and why were they killed?

*On his way to Samaria, Jehu met some relatives of Ahaziah (King of Judah, whom Jehu had already killed). They were captured alive and taken to Beth Eked – forty-two of them – and they were slaughtered there. Why? Because Ahaziah and his family had followed the ways of Ahab and followed Baal instead of the one true God (see 2 Kings 8:27)*

### **Read 2 Kings 10:15-17**

11. Next Jehu meets Jehonadab, son of Rekab. Why is he significant? (cf. Jeremiah 35:6, 14-19)

*He was the mysterious founder of the Rechabites, who were a reform movement among the people of God, protesting the immoral and impure lives of many in Israel and Judah.*

*In Jeremiah 35, God used the Rechabites, and the memory of Jehonadab as an example of faithfulness and obedience, to rebuke His unfaithful and disobedient people.*

*“Jeremiah records that Jehonadab was the leader of an aesthetic group that lived an austere, nomadic life in the desert, drinking no wine and depending solely on the Lord for their sustenance. Separatists to the core and strong patriots, they lived in protest to the materialism and religious compromise in Israel.” (Patterson and Austel)*

*“According to the Jewish historian, Josephus, Jehu and Jehonadab were friends of long standing, and both detested the luxurious surrounding of the royal family.” (Dilday)*

12. What does Jehu want to show Jehonadab?

*Jehu wanted to show Jehonadab his zeal for the Lord. The zeal of Jehu was noted in his complete and energetic obedience to the LORD, to the disregard of his own safety and comfort. Yet his statement reveals the dangerous root of pride in Jehu’s heart — he is proud of his own zeal.*

*“When proceeding against Baal worship, his words to Jehonadab, ‘Come with me, and see my zeal for Jehovah,’ are in themselves a revelation of a proud spirit.” (Morgan)*

*“His ostentatious display of his reforming zeal revealed how little he had God’s glory in mind in the midst of all his feverish activity and abolition.” (Knapp)*

13. Who does Jehu kill? Why?

*Jehu killed all who were left of Ahab’s family in Samaria as per Elijah’s prophecy/command from the Lord.*

**Read 2 Kings 10:18-28**

14. What deception does Jehu carry out in order to gather the people in Samaria?

*Jehu pretends to want to worship Baal more than Ahab did. So, he summons all the prophets of Baal, all Baal’s servants and priests – and they gathered in the temple of Baal to worship.*

15. What worship was carried out?

*Jehu and Jehonadab made sacrifices and burnt offerings in the temple of Baal.*

16. What did Jehu do to ensure no one escaped?

*Jehu posted 80 men outside the temple and warned them that if they let anyone escape, they will lose their life.*

17. How did Jehu wipe out Baal worship in Israel?

*Jehu killed everyone in attendance at the temple of Baal.*

*He brought the sacred stone out of the temple of Baal and burned it. He demolished the sacred stone of Baal and tore down the temple of Baal and it was used as a latrine from that day forward.*

18. **Ponder:** Jehu is a good guy; he did what God wanted and wiped-out Baal worship? Yes/No/Maybe?

*Jehu appears to be a good guy. But we have a hint of his pride in his statement about his zeal and the showboating he seems to do as he wipes out Baal worship. Will his pride be his downfall?*

### **Read 2 Kings 10:29-31**

19. What did Jehu fail to do according to verse 29?

*He destroyed Baal worship.*

*BUT – He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat.*

*Jehu still allowed worship of the two golden calves at Bethel and Dan!*

20. What did the Lord commend Jehu for in verse 30 and what concession is granted to him?

*Because Jehu had removed the family of Ahab as the Lord wanted; the Lord allowed descendants of Jehu to remain on the throne of Israel for four generations.*

21. What did Jehu fail to do according to verse 31?

*Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his HEART. Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam which he had caused all of Israel to commit.*



*“Hating one sin he loved another, and thus proved that the fear of the Most High did not reign in his breast. He was merely a hired servant, and received the throne as his wages, but a child of God he never was.” (Spurgeon)*

### **Read 2 Kings 10:32-36**

22. What instrument of judgment does God use to reduce the size of Israel? Why? (cf. 1 Kings 19:17 and 2 Kings 8:12-13) Is this a surprise?

*God uses Hazael, King of Aram (modern day Syria) to reduce the size of Israel. Why? Because that’s what God said would happen when he spoke to the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19:17 and that’s what the vision that Elisha saw in chapter 8 of 2 Kings when he met with Hazael, who at the stage wasn’t even king of Aram but Elisha saw and knew what harm Hazael would do to the Israelites (see 2 Kings 8:12-13).*

*1 Kings 19:17 – Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.*

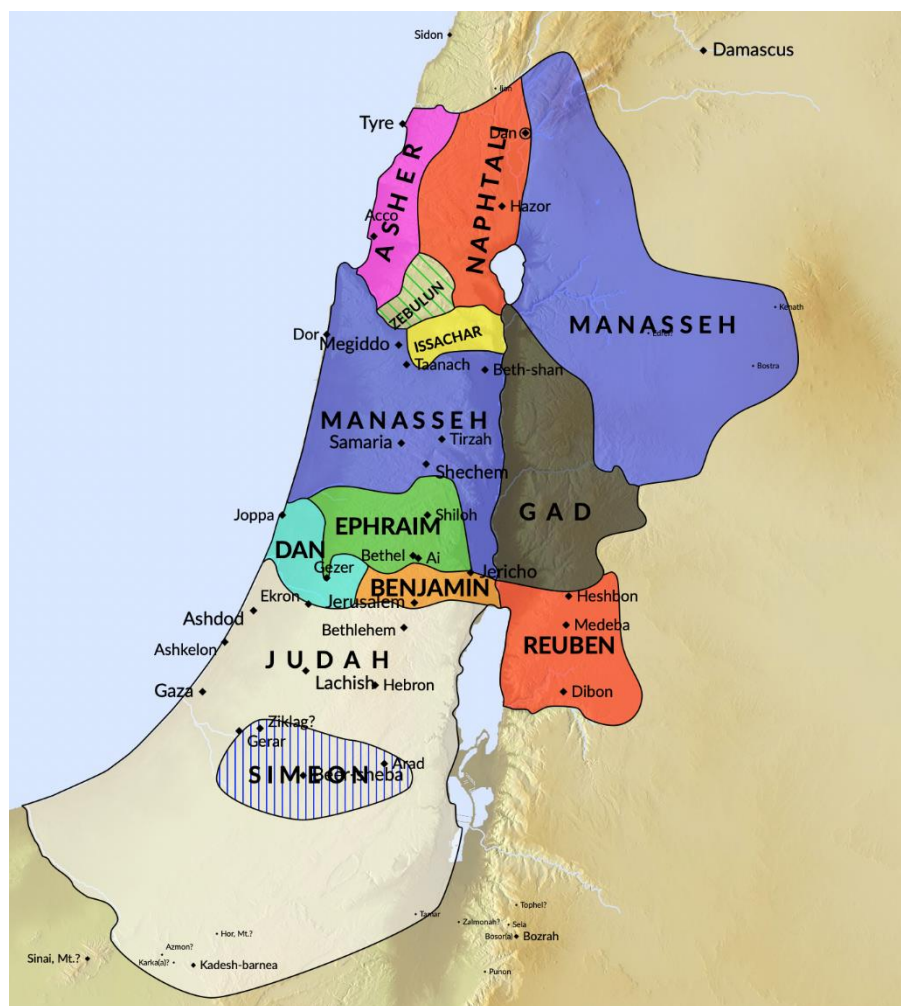
*2 Kings 8:12-13 - <sup>12</sup> “Why is my lord weeping?” asked Hazael. “Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites,” he answered. “You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women.” <sup>13</sup> Hazael said, “How could your servant, a mere dog, accomplish such a feat?” “The LORD has shown me that you will become king of Aram,” answered Elisha.*

23. How significant is the territory of Israel that is lost in verse 33?

*East of the Jordan in all the land of Gilead (the region of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh), from Aroer by the Arnon Gorge through Gilead to Bashan.*

*For hundreds of years before this — since the time of the entry into the Promised Land more than 600 years before — Israel held substantial portions of land on the eastern side of the Jordan River. This land was held by the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh. Now this land was taken by the enemies of Israel, because of their sin and unfaithfulness to the covenant.*

*This included the rich and fruitful lands of Gilead and Bashan.*



24. **Ponder:** How can we make sure our motives of “*zeal for the Lord*” (cf. Jehu’s words in verse 16) are always correct?

*We have to make sure our “zeal for the Lord” is always to bring glory to God, not bring glory to ourselves. It’s always worth examining our motive and whether we are seeking to get accolades from others or are we purely interested in pleasing God and bringing Him glory.*

25. **Ponder:** One instrument of God’s judgment (Hazeal) is raised up to bring judgment on a previous instrument of God’s judgment (Jehu). How is God working in this? Does God work the same way later on when He uses Assyria as instrument of judgment on Israel (Northern Kingdom) and uses Babylon as an instrument of judgment on Judah (Southern Kingdom)?

*Just because God uses a person or kingdom as an “instrument” of judgment does not mean that that “instrument” is free from judgment and it does not mean even that “instrument” is God-fearing or God-believing.*

26. **Ponder:** Jehu is a good guy; he did what God wanted and wiped-out Baal worship? Yes/No/Maybe?

*Despite the fact that Jehu wiped out Baal worship as God wanted; Jehu still did not obey God completely and he continued in the state worship of golden calves at Dan and Bethel, which Jeroboam had introduced. God expects “complete” obedience.*

### **Read Deuteronomy 4:9**

27. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 10:1-36**?

*Deuteronomy 4:9* - Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

*Judgment came upon the house of Ahab because they had not watched themselves and had fallen away from the proper worship of God. This false worship began with Jeroboam’s golden calves and then Baal worship through Ahab and Jezebel; and even though Jehu wiped out Baal worship; he did not go far enough and he did not watch himself closely and his heart was still in the worship of the golden calves, instead of the one true God.*

### **Read Proverbs 4:23**

28. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 10:1-36**?

*Proverbs 4:23 warns us to guard our hearts for everything we think, say and do comes from our hearts. So, if our hearts are wicked and rebellious, then our thoughts, words and actions will be wicked and rebellious. And if our hearts are loving and obedient, then our thoughts, words and actions will be loving and obedient. We see in 2 Kings 10, that the house of Ahab is punished because their hearts are wicked and idolatrous and rebellious. Even Jehu, despite doing a lot that God wanted, still had his heart set on the worship of golden calves!*

### **Read Matthew 7:21-23**

29. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 10:1-36**?

*Matthew 7:21-23 – Jesus says:* <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

*This relates to 2 Kings 10:1-36 in that Jehu could well come to the Lord and say he drove out the demons of the house of Ahab, but because Jehu continued in the*

worship of golden calves, the Lord will say “I never knew you, way from me, you evildoers”. It’s so important to make sure our hearts are always for the Lord!

What’s the **BIG IDEA** of **2 Kings 10:1-36**?

Be careful to guard your heart from all evil (not just some!)



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways **2 Kings 10:1-36** point to Jesus?

- a. *Jehu’s descendants will reign for four generations. Jesus reigns forever!*
- b. *Jehu was God’s instrument of judgment. Jesus is God’s ultimate instrument of judgment.*

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. *God requires obedience and faithfulness to His Word (as Jehu did to some extent)*
- b. *Sin and rebellion against God have consequences and will be punished. God WILL deal with sin (as He showed through Jehu)*
- c. *Make sure our zeal for the Lord is not actually zeal for ourselves*
- d. *We need to be bold and brave when standing up against wickedness. Bad things happen, when good people do nothing. The story of Jehu can also remind us of the importance of being a faithful witness. Even though Jehu's methods were drastic, he was instrumental in eliminating idolatry in Israel, which can serve as a metaphor for our duty to stand against moral and spiritual decay in our communities.*
- e. *Whatever we do for the Lord, it has to be for His glory and not for our glory!*
- f. *We are held accountable for our actions and choices as Jehu was*
- g. *Our worship of God and obedience to Go has to be whole-hearted, not half-hearted.*
- h. *The chapter reflects God's judgment on the actions of people and nations. It serves as a reminder of the consequences of disobedience and the importance of repentance.*
- i. *We must learn lessons from the history of Israel*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

<sup>30</sup> The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in accomplishing what is right in my eyes and have done to the house of Ahab all I had in mind to do, your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." (2 Kings 10:30)

<sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23)

**Finish in prayer:** Thank God that He is able to balance His love and judgment perfectly! Ask God to help us to above all else guard our hearts!

## Study 3 – The Woman who saved Christmas

2 Kings 11:1-21

*(Sermon on 22-Oct-2023)*

### Before we begin, we need some context

Who is Athaliah and how did she get there in the first place? Read 2 Kings 8:18, 26; 2 Chronicles 18:1. Whose daughter, was she? (cf. 2 Kings 8:18; 26) Who did she marry? (cf. 2 Kings 8:16-18) Who was her son? (cf. 2 Kings 11:1)

*2 Kings 8:16-18 – <sup>16</sup> In the fifth year of Joram son of Ahab king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat began his reign as king of Judah. <sup>17</sup> He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years. <sup>18</sup> He [King Jehoram of Judah, son of Jehoshaphat] followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.*

*2 Kings 8:26 – Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel [and daughter of Ahab]*

*2 Chronicles 18:1 - Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage [by allowing his son Jehoram to marry Ahab's daughter, Athalia]*

*2 Kings 11:1 - When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family*

*Athalia is Ahab's daughter. She married King Jehoram of Judah.*

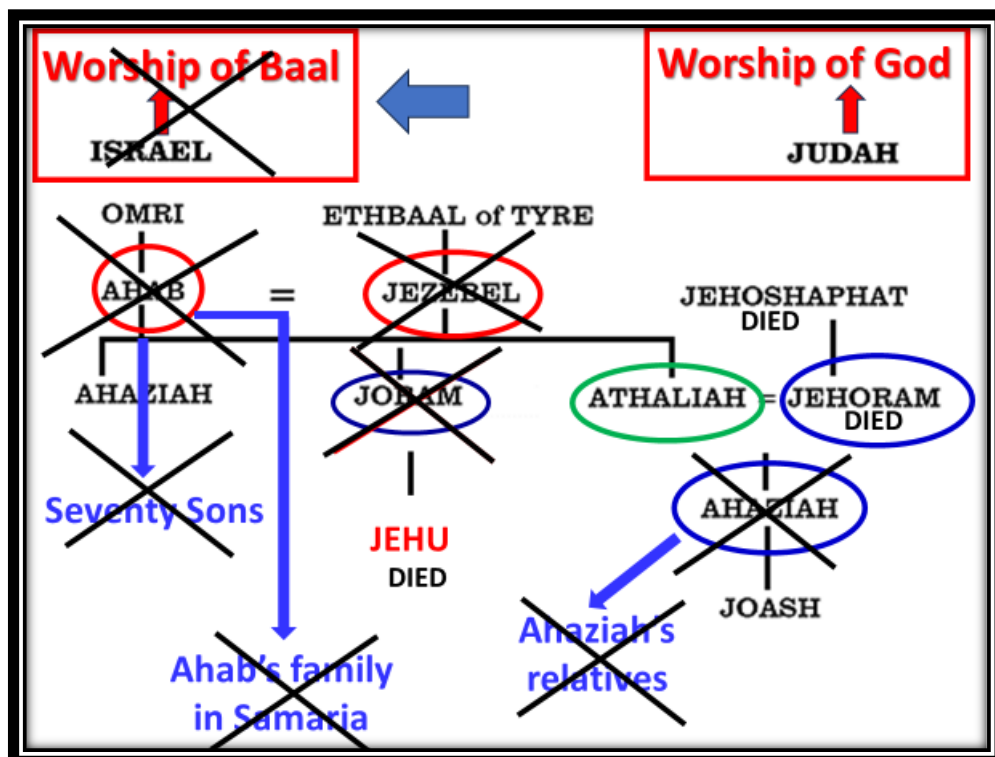
*According to 2 Kings 8:18-19 – King Jehoram married Ahab's daughter and he did evil in the eyes of the Lord; but for the sake of King David, the Lord did not destroy Judah, because He promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants.*

*King Jehoram died (2 Kings 9:24) and was succeeded by Ahaziah.*

*Ahaziah was Athalia's son was.*

*Jehu killed Ahaziah in 2 Kings 9:27.*





Notice the only people alive are **Athalia** (Ahab's daughter) and **Joash** (Athalia's grandson) as we hit chapter 11

### Read 2 Kings 11:1-3

1. What action does Athaliah take in verse 1? Why?

*Athaliah was from the family of Ahab, and Jehu had completely destroyed all of Ahab's descendants in Israel. Now, after Jehu's coup, Athaliah tried to save something for Ahab's family by trying to eliminate the house of David in Judah. When Athalia saw that her son Ahaziah was dead, she proceeded to destroy the royal family of JUDAH! Then she could be Queen and continue Ahab's dynasty!*

2. Read 2 Samuel 7:16 and Psalm 89:35-36. How flimsy is this promise looking when we read verse 1?

*2 Samule 7:16 says – "Your [David] house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."*

*Psalm 89:35-36 says - <sup>35</sup> Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness— and I will not lie to David—  
<sup>36</sup> that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun;*

*David's house is the house of the Kingdom of Judah. God promised that David's line would continue forever. But if Athalia carries out her intended actions of verse 1 – to destroy the royal family of Judah; then God's promise is looking more than just flimsy!*

3. Who intervenes in verse 2? Who is she? What does she do?

*Jehosheba, daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah.*

*Jehosheba took Joash (who is her nephew) and stole him away from amongst the other royal princes, who were about to be murdered by Athalia!*

*Jehosheba hid Joash with a nurse in a bedroom so that he was not killed by Athalia.*

***Evil people like Athaliah will begin their work, but God can always raise up a Jehosheba.***

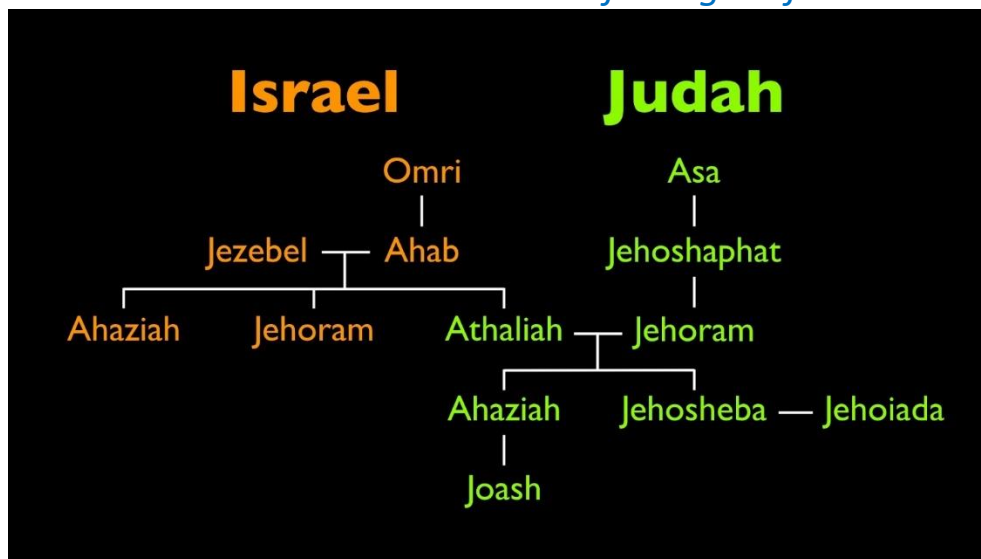
4. How long was Joash kept in hiding? Who is reigning in the meantime.

*Joash remained hidden for 6 years whilst Athalia was Queen and ruled Judah.*

*“Josephus (Antiquities 9.7.1) says that the bedroom where the child and his nurse hid was a room where spare furniture and mattresses were stored.” (Wiseman)*

5. Locate the Kings (and Queen) in the chart in Appendix 1

*See Athalia listed as #7 in the list of “Kings” of Judah in appendix 1.*



**Read 2 Kings 11:4-11**

6. Who is Jehoiada and what plan does he come up with?

*Jehoiada is the high-priest and according to 2 Chronicles 22:11, his wife is Jehosheba!*

*He brought the commanders of 100 soldiers (like centurions), the Carites (elite class of warriors) and the guards to the temple in Jerusalem and made a covenant with them and showed them King Ahaziah's son, Joash!*

*Jehoiada commanded the soldiers to guard the temple and the boy king on the next Sabbath.*

7. How is Joash guarded? What's significant about verse 10?

*Joash was guarded by three companies of soldiers. 1/3 guarding the palace; 1/3 guarding the Sur Gate and 1/3 behind the guard.*

*Jehoiada even gave the commanders of the army the spears and shields that belonged to King David himself and that were in the temple of the Lord.*

*It was fitting for these soldiers who would set the heir of David's royal line back on the throne of Judah to use these weapons which had belonged to King David.*

*Also, the use of David's weapons was symbolic in supporting Joash's claim to the throne.*

### **Read 2 Kings 11:12-21**

8. When Joash is crowned, what is he presented with? Why is that significant?

*When Joash is crowned, he is given a copy of the covenant and proclaimed king. The covenant is God's Word. Joash appeared before the people holding the scrolls of God's Word.*

*Deuteronomy 17:18 says that the king should have his own copy of the Scriptures. "This is the basis for the British custom of presenting the monarch with a copy of the Bible during the coronation service." (Wiseman*

9. How is the coronation received by the people in verse 12?

*The people clapped their hands and shouted, "long live the king!"*

10. How is the coronation received by Athaliah in verse 13 and 14?

*Athalia heard the noise made by the guards during Joash's coronation.*

*Athalia went to the people at the temple of the Lord and saw the King standing there. When Athalia saw the officers and trumpeters beside the King and all the people rejoicing and blowing trumpets; she tore her robes and called out: "Treason! Treason!"*

11. How are Athaliah and her supporters dealt with?

*Anyone who followed Athalia was put to the sword. Athalia was not put to death in the temple of the Lord; she was put to death at the place where the horses enter the palace grounds!*

12. What covenant is made in verse 17?

*Jehoiada then made a covenant between the Lord and the king and people that they would be the Lord's people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people*

13. Following the coronation, what significant action is taken in verses 18 to 21?

*V18 - All the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.*

*V18 - Jehoiada the priest posted guards at the temple of the LORD.*

*V19 - He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, the guards and all the people of the land, and together they brought the king down from the temple of the LORD and went into the palace, entering by way of the gate of the guards. The king then took his place on the royal throne.*

*V20 - All the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was calm, because Athaliah had been slain with the sword at the palace.*

14. **Ponder:** Who is the unsung hero in 2 Kings 11:1-21?

*Joah's aunty, Jehosheba who hid the young child Joash to preserve David's family line!*

### **Read Exodus 1:22-2:10**

15. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*In the story of Exodus 1:22-22:10, the baby Moses' life is preserved by extraordinary means. Likewise, the child Joash's life is preserved by extraordinary means. Both stories highlight the efforts to protect and preserve the lives of individuals who were crucial to God's plans for His people.*

*Without Moses, God's people are not led out of slavery in Egypt and brought to the Promised Land. Likewise, without Joash keeping the family line of David; we do not have Jesus, a descendant of David, who also saves God's people and leads them to the Promised Land of Heaven!*

### **Read Matthew 2:13-18**

16. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*In both story there is a plan to kill children.*

*In both stories, one child who is to play a significant role in God's plan (i.e.; Jesus and Joash) is hidden and protected from death. If they were not hidden and protected, God's plan to save people could not take place. That is mind-blowing!*

### **Read Mark 10:17-22**

17. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*Both passages show the necessity of God's Word (The Covenant) and the obedience required. Both passages show what is required to be a faithful servant. Jesus commands the ruler to put God first and sell his riches; the King – Joash – is given a copy of the covenant to show what is required of him as leader/king! The importance of the truth of God's word is a stark contrast to the false teaching of Baal worship which is torn down in verse 18!*

### **Read Revelation 2:14-16**

18. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*In Revelation 2:14-16, Jesus warns the church in Pergamum that false teaching of any kind will not be tolerated and they are told to repent. Likewise in 2 Kings 11, the false worship and teaching of Baal is not acceptable and is torn down in 2 Kings 11:18!*

### **Read Luke 14:25-33**

19. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*In Luke 14:25-33 Jesus outlines the cost in following Him and that certain things in a would-be disciple's life must be given up/forsaken and left behind. Everything that is not part of God's Word must be jettisoned! Similarly in 2 Kings 11:1-21 Baal worship must be jettisoned. Covenant plus anything leads to destruction!*

### **Read Philippians 4:22**

20. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*In Paul's day, his witness and brought even people in Caesar's (King's) household to belief in Jesus. Here in 2 Kings 11:1-21; it is one of the King's household (Joash's aunty Jehosheba) who is instrumental in saving the child because she is a believer! We can't underestimate the members of our own household or family who are instrumental in leading others to Christ or having a role as a servant of the Lord,*

*quietly going about the Lord's work without any fuss – just in the background, being faithful and obedient servants!*

### **Read Ephesians 1:20-22**

21. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*There is a descendant of Joash (which is why he had to remain alive to be King) who is far greater than David, Solomon and Joash – who reigns now and reigns forever and His Gospel can transform lives – even in the most unexpected times and ways – and the most unexpected people. Who would have thought – God had Joash tucked away hiding – no one in Judah did! It was a secret. We have a secret – which non-believers don't know about. We have a legitimate King who reigns – and we need to share that secret!*

22. **Optional question:** What other “close calls” do we see in Scripture?

- a. Abraham with his son Isaac (Genesis 22)
- b. Moses in the basket (Exodus 2)
- c. Elijah and the widow's son (1 Kings 17)
- d. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the furnace (Daniel 3)
- e. Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6)
- f. Jonah in the belly of the fish (Jonah 1-2)
- g. Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:22-43)
- h. The widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11-17)
- i. Lazarus (John 11)
- j. Paul's stoning (Acts 14)
- k. Paul's shipwreck (Acts 27)

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **2 Kings 11:1-21**?

*God's divine intervention to preserve the line of David to Jesus*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways **2 Kings 11:1-21** point to Jesus?

- a. *Without the preservation of Joash, the line of Judah kings that leads to Jesus would have stopped*
- b. *Jehosheba is a saviour figure pointing to Jesus as our Saviour*



- c. Jehosheba keeps God's promise alive which points to Jesus, the fulfilment of that promise*

How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- a. Without God's divine intervention – His promise would have failed and we would not have Jesus born on that first Christmas; which in turn means that without His birth, we have no death for our sins to be forgiven and no resurrection for our eternal life!*
- b. We can trust God that His Word never fails and what He says will happen will happen – and He always keeps/fulfils His promises.*
- c. We need faith in times of adversity – like Jehosheba and Jehoiada showed.*
- d. God put it in Jehosheba and Jehoiada's hearts to protect Joash and install him as King. We must open to be used by God in such ways. In what ways can we be a Jehosheba and in doing so, lead others to Christ?*
- e. We should be encouraged to know that even in challenging situations, God is in control, and His plans ultimately prevail. When Jesus was killed, His disciples thought that was the end; but it was actually only the beginning!*
- f. This story shows the importance of God's Word – the Covenant was given to King Joash so He knew what God's laws were*
- g. This story shows that we must stand against anything that is contrary to God's Word – which is why anything to do with the false god Baal, which had crept into Judah (South) from Israel (North), was removed – v18*
- h. This story reminds of our responsibility to those God has entrusted us to care for and it's important to have God's wisdom as we make decisions on behalf of those entrusted to us!*
- i. This story reminds us that we need to protect the vulnerable in our society: children; elderly; sick; disabled; oppressed and marginalized.*
- j. This story underscores the importance of preserving legacy and continuity. We might consider what legacy we want to leave behind.*
- k. What close calls have we had? When we reflect, where can we see that God intervened in our lives?*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

<sup>2</sup> But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed.

**Finish in prayer:** Thank God that His ways are not our ways and His ways are higher than our ways! Give thanks for God's guiding hand at work long before Jesus came!

## Study 4 – Repairs and Payoffs

2 Kings 12:1-21

*(Sermon on 29-Oct-2023 -Geoff)*

**Before we begin: Remind yourself how Joash became King and make some notes**

*Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, when she saw her son Ahaziah had been killed, decided to destroy all the royal family of Judah; so that she could become queen and also continue the Baal worship, which had been introduced into Judah.*

*But Ahaziah's sister, Jehosheba, whisked away one of Athaliah's grandson's, Joash, and hid him for 6 years. Joash is a descendant of David. If Athaliah had been successful with wiping out the royal family, then God's promise to King David that there would always be one of his descendants on the throne, would have been sunk.*

*After 7 years, Jehosheba's husband, Jehoiada, who was priest of Judah, with protection from the royal guards, crowned Joash (at age 7) as the king and killed Athaliah.*

*God was not going to stand by and watch His promise go unfulfilled!*

### Read 2 Kings 12:1-3

1. What details of Joash's (aka Jehoash) reign are we given?

*Joash reigned 40 years in Jerusalem.*

*His mother's name was Zibiah and she was from Beersheba.*

*He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years that Jehoiada the priest instructed him. However, Joash did not remove the high places; so the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.*

*It implies that Joash did the right thing in the sight of the Lord as long as Jehoiada was alive; and that when Jehoiada died, he turned to idolatry (see 2 Chronicles 24:15-23)*

### Read 2 Kings 12:4-5

2. What plan does Joash come up with? Why? (cf. 2 Chronicles 24:7)

*Joash had the plan to use all the money that had been brought as sacred offerings to the temple and the money collected in the census, the money received from personal vows and the money brought voluntarily to the temple; to repair any damage in the temple.*

*According to 2 Chronicles 24:7, the temple needed restoration because it had been vandalized by Athaliah and her sons!*

*It was natural for Joash to have a high regard for the condition of the temple, because it was his home as a young boy.*

### **Read 2 Kings 12:6-16**

3. What problem is there in verse 6?

*But by the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of King Joash, there had still been no repairs made to the temple!*

*“In what year Jehoash gave the orders for these repairs, we cannot tell; but the account here plainly intimates that they had been long given, and that nothing was done, merely through the inactivity and negligence of the priests.” (Clarke)*

4. What does Joash do about it?

*Joash summoned Jehoiada the priest and the other priests to question the lack of repairs to the temple.*

*He told them to not take any more money from the treasurer but to hand it over for repairs.*

*The priests agreed that they would not collect any more money from the people and that they would not repair the temple themselves.*

5. How is the money gathered and used?

*A special collection box was placed beside the altar.*

*When there was a large amount of money in this box/chest, it was bagged by the priests and it was given to the men appointed to supervise the work of the temple.*

*This money was then used to pay the carpenters, builders, masons and stonecutters. The money was also used to purchase timber and blocks of dressed stone; and for any other building expenses needed to restore the temple.*

*The money was NOT used for making silver basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, trumpets or any other articles of gold or silver for the temple of the Lord. Instead, the money was paid to the workers to repair the temple.*

*No accounting of the money was required because of the honesty of the workers. The priests still got paid through the guilt and sin offerings.*

### **Read 2 Kings 12:17-18**

6. Who attacks Jerusalem in verse 17? Have we come across him before?

*King Hazael of Aram (modern day Syria) went up and attacked Gath and captured it; and then turned to attack Jerusalem.*

*We have met Hazael before.*

*In 1 Kings 19 – God told the prophet Elijah to anoint Hazael as King of Aram and that Hazael would be an instrument for God’s judgment on Israel.*

*In 2 Kings 8 – the prophet Elisha came face to face with Hazael and Elisha wept because he saw a vision of what Hazael would do to the nation of Israel. Hazael is now attacking Judah as well!*

7. What does Joash do in verse 18? How do you feel about Joash’s actions?

*Joash took all the sacred objects dedicated by his predecessors – Jehoshaphat, Jehoram and Ahaziah, the Kings of Judah – and all the gifts he himself dedicated plus all the gold found in the treasuries of the temple of the Lord and of the royal palace; and paid off King Hazael so that he would withdraw from attacking Jerusalem.*

8. **Ponder:** How should Joash have responded to Hazael’s attack?

*He should have a) trusted the Lord and b) asked the Lord for help*

**Read 2 Kings 12:19-21 and 2 Chronicles 24**

9. How do the details of Joash’s reign differ from 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles? How would you explain the difference?

*2 Kings 12:19-21 doesn’t mention anything of Joash’s wickedness. We are only told of how he paid off Hazael; and then verses 19-21 simply give details of how his reign came to an end, when his officials conspired against him and he was assassinated.*

*2 Chronicles 24 – from verses 17 to 27, we discover that after Jehoiada the priest died, Joash went off the rails by listening to some officials. As a result, Judah abandoned the temple of the Lord and worshipped Asherah poles and idols. God was angry because of this false worship and even though the Lord sent prophets to the people to turn them back to the Lord; they would not listen!*

*And when Jehoiada’s son Zechariah confronts Joash, but under Joash’s orders, Zechariah is stoned to death!*

*So, in 2 Kings 12 the focus is on the temple and the disappointing manner in which Joash pays off Hazael with temple valuables. Whereas in 2 Chronicles 24 the focus is on the wickedness of Joash.*

### Read Matthew 12:1-8

10. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 12:1-21**?

*In Matthew 12:1-8 when Jesus' disciples are accused of "working" on the Sabbath by plucking heads of grain to eat; Jesus refers to a time when King David and his men ate consecrated bread from the temple and seemed to desecrate the temple. But this was deemed okay because it was a merciful act. Whereas Joash desecrates the temple by giving its contents to Hazael.*

*Both passages underscore the significance of proper worship, obedience to God's commandments, and understanding the spirit of the law.*

*The reference to the temple should remind us that we have something (someone = Jesus) greater than the temple (Matthew 12:6)*

### Read John 2:13-22

11. How does this verse relate to **2 Kings 12:1-21**

*Both passages emphasize the temple as a place of worship and the importance of maintaining its sanctity. Joash repairs the temple; Jesus cleanses the temple.*

*However, then Joash forgets the sanctity of the temple and uses its contents to pay off Hazael. Whereas Jesus not only cleanses the temple, He IS the temple and even if the temple (HE) is destroyed, He will raise it in three days!*

### **Optional Questions: Read 2 Kings 13, 14 and 15 as we will not study them.**

12. Using the list of Kings in appendix – list each King of Judah and each King of Israel mentioned in chapters 13, 14 and 15 and summarize their reigns. Share these notes with your group.

### 2 Kings 13

1. Jehoahaz of Israel (2 Kings 13:1-9):

- *Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, reigned over Israel in Samaria for 17 years.*
- *He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord allowed the Israelites to be oppressed by Hazael, king of Syria.*
- *Jehoahaz sought the Lord's favor, and God showed mercy to Israel, allowing them to temporarily regain some strength during his reign.*

2. Jehoash of Israel (2 Kings 13:10-25):

- *Jehoash, also known as Joash, succeeded Jehoahaz as king of Israel.*
- *He reigned for 16 years and also did evil in the eyes of the Lord.*



- *Elisha, the prophet, was on his deathbed during Jehoash's reign. Jehoash visited Elisha, who prophesied victories over Syria for Israel. Jehoash struck the ground three times, symbolizing partial victories over Syria.*

## 2 Kings 14

### 1. Amaziah of Judah (2 Kings 14:1-22):

- *Amaziah became king of Judah after his father, Joash.*
- *He reigned for 29 years in Jerusalem.*
- *Amaziah initially did what was right in the eyes of the Lord but later turned away from God. He challenged Jehoash, the king of Israel, to battle and was defeated.*
- *Amaziah was eventually killed in a conspiracy, and his son, Azariah (Uzziah), became king of Judah.*

### 2. Jeroboam II of Israel (2 Kings 14:23-29):

- *Jeroboam II was the son of Jehoash and the 14th king of Israel, reigning in Samaria.*
- *He became king after the death of his father Jehoash and reigned for 41 years, one of the longest reigns in the history of the northern kingdom of Israel.*
- *Jeroboam II did evil in the sight of the Lord, continuing the sinful practices of the previous kings of Israel.*
- *Despite his wickedness, under his rule, Israel experienced a period of military expansion, reclaiming territories that had been lost to neighboring nations. This period was marked by prosperity and stability for Israel.*
- *The prophet Jonah, the son of Amittai, likely lived during Jeroboam II's reign, although his story is more prominently featured in the Book of Jonah in the Old Testament.*

## 2 Kings 15

The following are the kings of Israel and Judah mentioned in 2 Kings 15:

### 1. Azariah (Uzziah) of Judah (2 Kings 15:1-7):

- *Azariah, also known as Uzziah, began his reign over Judah when he was 16 years old.*

- He reigned for 52 years in Jerusalem and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
  - Under his rule, Judah experienced prosperity and military success.
2. Zechariah of Israel (2 Kings 15:8-12):
- *Zechariah became king of Israel and reigned in Samaria for six months.*
  - *He did evil in the sight of the Lord and was assassinated by Shallum, who took the throne after him.*
3. Shallum of Israel (2 Kings 15:13-16):
- *Shallum assassinated Zechariah and became king of Israel.*
  - *He reigned for only one month in Samaria before being overthrown by Menahem.*
4. Menahem of Israel (2 Kings 15:17-22):
- *Menahem became king of Israel and reigned for ten years.*
  - *He did evil in the eyes of the Lord and imposed heavy taxes on the people.*
  - *Menahem died, and his son Pekahiah succeeded him.*
5. Pekahiah of Israel (2 Kings 15:23-26):
- *Pekahiah, the son of Menahem, became king of Israel and reigned for two years.*
  - *He did evil in the sight of the Lord and was assassinated by Pekah, one of his military commanders.*
6. Pekah of Israel (2 Kings 15:27-31):
- *Pekah assassinated Pekahiah and became king of Israel.*
  - *He reigned for 20 years in Samaria and did evil in the eyes of the Lord.*
  - *Pekah was eventually assassinated by Hoshea, who succeeded him as king*
7. Jotham of Judah (2 Kings 15:32-38):
- *Jotham was the son of Uzziah (also known as Azariah) and the 11th king of Judah.*
  - *He became king after his father, Uzziah, and reigned in Jerusalem for 16 years.*
  - *Jotham did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah had done. However, the high places were not removed, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on them.*
  - *During his reign, Judah enjoyed stability and prosperity. Jotham strengthened the defenses of Jerusalem and conducted various building projects.*

- *Jotham died and was succeeded by his son Ahaz, who later became one of the wicked kings of Judah, leading the kingdom into idolatry and spiritual decline.*

8. Having summarized chapters 13, 14 and 15, what's your overall impression of where the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah are heading?

#### Kings of Israel (2 Kings 13, 14, 15):

The kings of Israel during this period are marked by a cycle of disobedience and idolatry. Many of them did evil in the sight of the Lord, following in the sinful ways of their predecessors. Assassinations and conspiracies were common, indicating political instability. Despite this, some kings, like Jeroboam II, experienced military success, leading Israel to temporary prosperity. The reigns of these kings were often characterized by a lack of faithfulness to God's commandments, leading to moral and spiritual decline.

#### Kings of Judah (2 Kings 13, 14, 15):

In Judah, the picture is more mixed. While some kings, like Amaziah and Jotham, did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, they often tolerated the existence of high places, centers of idol worship. Others, like Azariah (Uzziah), were faithful to God but suffered personal downfall due to pride. The righteous kings of Judah tried to maintain the worship of YHWH but were not always successful in eliminating idolatrous practices completely. Political stability and economic prosperity were present during the reigns of some of these kings, contributing to a sense of order in the kingdom.

But overall, we're left with the sense that both kingdoms (North and South) are spiraling out of control and declining due to continued disobedience. Is exile ahead?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 2 Kings 12:1-21?

The good and bad that King Joash did

Or

The disappointing King Joash



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and **Scripture is all about Him** (Luke 24:27), in what ways **2 Kings 12:1-21** point to Jesus?

- *The mention of the temple points to Jesus who is one greater than the temple and is in fact the temple that when destroyed can be raised in three days!*
- *The idea of restoration mentioned in 2 Kings 12 points to the restoration we have in Jesus!*
- *The temple was a place of sacrifice pointing to Jesus' sacrifice*

How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- *First and foremost, our duty is to glorify God – which is what Joash attempted to do by repairing God's temple*
- *Joash did right whilst he was taught by the priest Jehoiada which emphasizes the importance of faithful teaching of God's Word and the importance of obedience of God's Word*
- *We need to be good stewards of what God has given us*
- *Our worship of God must be done properly. In our lives, we must seek to be consistent in our spiritual practices, prayer, and worship, nurturing our relationship with the Lord*
- *We need to be generous in our giving for the work of the Lord*
- *If we are in any leadership role, everything needs to be transparent. We need to be accountable for the work we are assigned to do*
- *The temple needed continuous restoration and renewal, as do our lives, to ensure our spiritual well-being*
- *We can learn from the mistakes and successes of Israel's history*
- *In Jesus, we have one greater than the temple – who was willing to be destroyed for us to be forgiven – and raised again in 3 days – so we can have eternal life. Thank you, Jesus!*

**Share the verse** that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V2 - Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

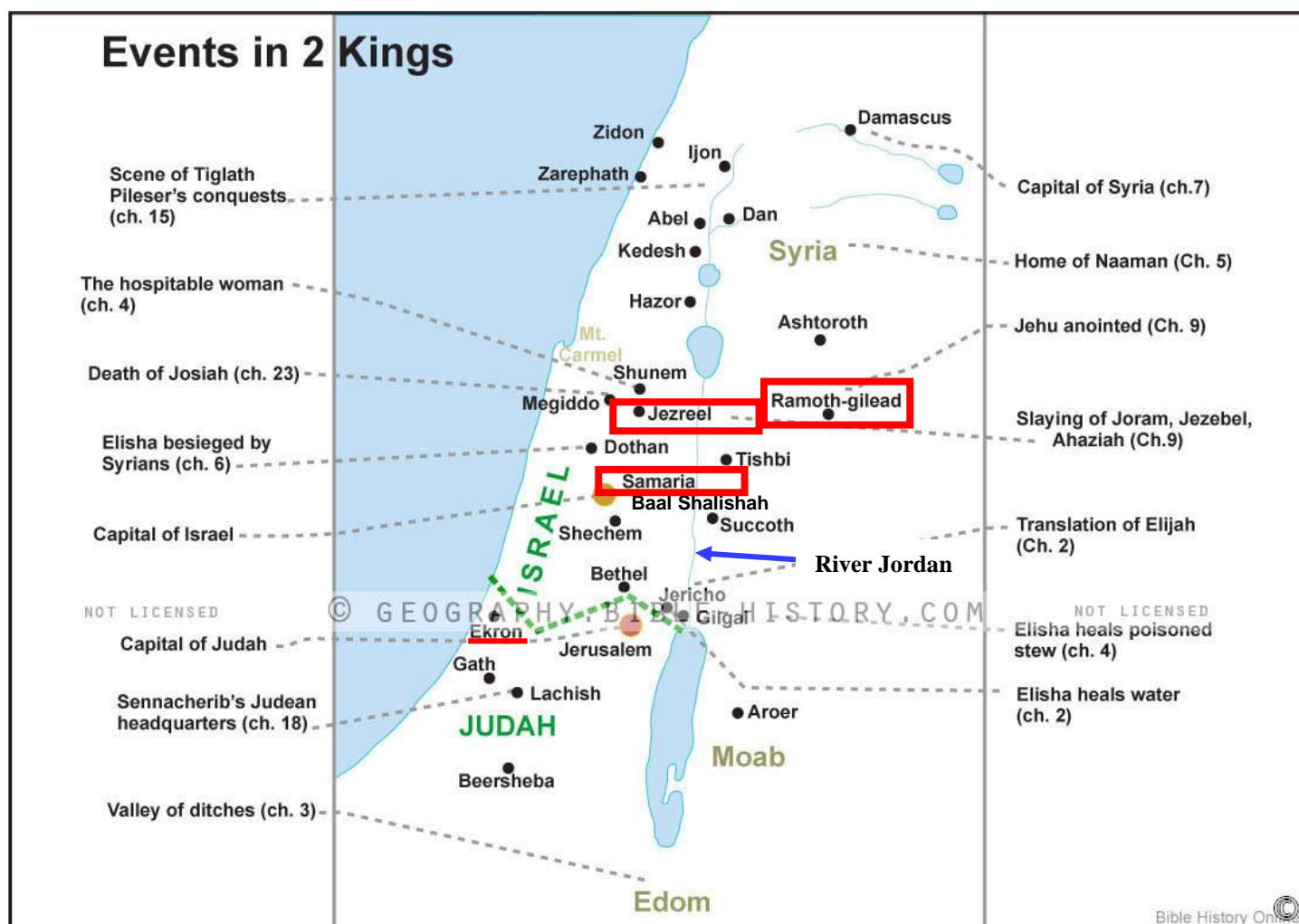
**Finish in prayer:** Thank God for sending Jesus; one greater than Solomon and one greater than the Temple; He is Immanuel – “God with us”

## Appendix 1 – The Kings of Judah and Israel

Kings of Judah and Israel									
Saul		1050-1010 BC							
David		1010-970							
Solomon		970-930							
Judah (and Benjamin)					Israel (Ten Northern Tribes)				
King	Reign		Character	Prophets	King	Reign		Character	Prophets
1. Rehoboam	931-913	17 years	Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910	22 years	Bad	Ahijah
2. Abijah	913-911	3 years	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	2 years	Bad	
3. Asa	911-870	41 years	Good		3. Baasha	909-886	24 years	Bad	
					4. Elah	886-885	2 years	Bad	
					5. Zimri	885	7 days	Bad	
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	25 years	Good		6. Omri	885-874*	12 years	Bad	Elijah Micaiah
5. Jehoram	848-841*	8 years	Bad		7. Ahab	874-853	22 years	Bad	
6. Ahaziah	841	1 years	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852	2 years	Bad	
7. Athaliah	841-835	6 years	Bad		9. Joram	852-841	12 years	Bad	Elisha
8. Joash	835-796	40 years	Good	Joel	10. Jehu	841-814	28 years	Bad	
9. Amaziah	796-767	29 years	Good		11. Jehoahaz	814-798	17 years	Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea
10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767-740*	52 years	Good		12. Jehoash	798-782	16 years	Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	16 years	Good	Isaiah Micah	13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	41 years	Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716	16 years	Bad		14. Zechariah	753-752	6 mo	Bad	
13. Hezekiah	716-687	29 years	Good		15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad	
14. Manasseh	687-642*	55 years	Bad-repent		16. Menahem	752-742	10 years	Bad	
15. Amon	642-640	2 years	Bad	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah	17. Pekahiah	742-740	2 years	Bad	
16. Josiah	640-608	31 years	Good		18. Pekah	740-732*	20 years	Bad	
17. Jehoahaz	608	3 mo	Bad		19. Hoshea	732-712	9 years	Bad	
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	11 years	Bad	Daniel Ezekiel Jeremiah	722 BC Fall of Israel / Assyrian Captivity				
19. Jehoiachin	597	3 mos	Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	11 years	Bad						
Destruction of Jerusalem, 9th Av, 586 BC, Babylonian Captivity									

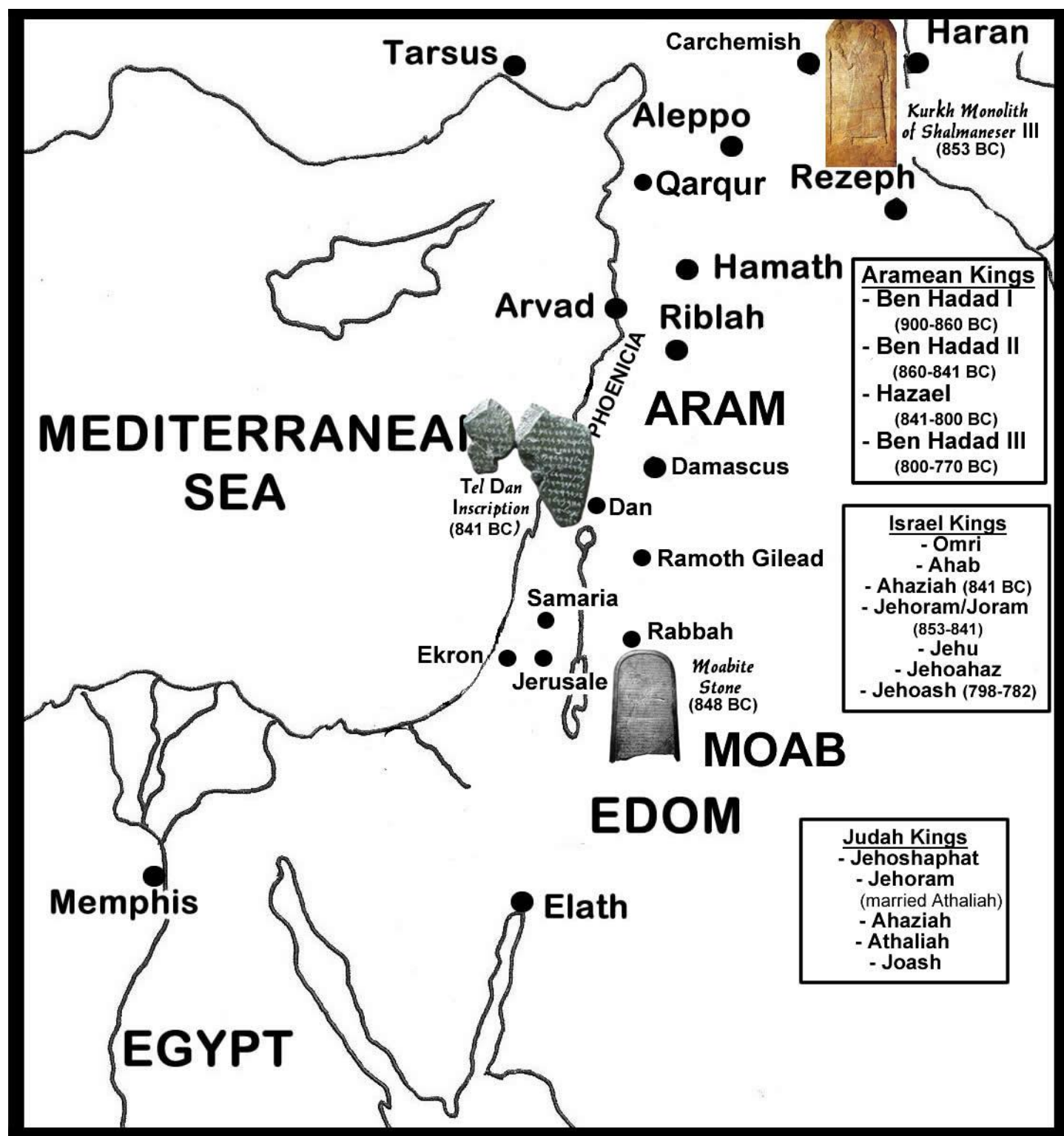


## Appendix 2 – Events and Places in 2 Kings





# Appendix 3 – Map of Israel, Judah and Surrounding Nations



**Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke**  
**September 2023**

**Resources:**

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

1 and 2 Kings (Donald J. Wiseman – Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)

2 Kings – The Power and the Fury (Dale Ralph Davis)

2 Kings and 2 Chronicles – The Wiersbe Series (David C. Cook)

Halley's Bible Handbook – New Revised Edition (Henry H. Halley)

**Notes/Prayer Points**