



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

*Passing
the
Mantle*

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
English Standard Version
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 3
PASSING THE MANTLE
2 Kings 2–14; 2 Chronicles 21–25

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 4

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

SMITH, JAMES E.

Old Testament Survey Series, The Books of History

Joplin, Missouri: College Press Publishing Company, 1995

HOUSE, P. R.

The New American Commentary, Vol. 8

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995

THOMPSON, J. A.

The New American Commentary, Vol. 9

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994

KEIL, D. F., & DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers Inc. 1996

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN WE WANT YOU TO KNOW . . .

We are so thrilled that you have chosen to study *Passing the Mantle*, the third of our ten courses in the Kings and Prophets Series. It will be such a blessing to your life because the Old Testament places a tremendous emphasis on the holy character and works of God that anticipate fulfillment in the person of Christ in the New Testament. In essence, it lays the groundwork for the only salvation possible—the salvation God provides in His Son “by which we must be saved.” The Bible is a progressive revelation—all sixty-six parts are essential to understanding the whole counsel of God.

As you begin this series, it’s vital to understand the importance of a study like this and some of the differences between studying (primarily historical) Old Testament books and (primarily doctrinal) New Testament epistles.

- In the Old Testament we come to know God—who He is and how He works in the affairs of mankind—and we develop a godly fear of His awesome majesty, holy character, and works.
- The nation that is in the front and center of all God’s dealings is Israel. So as you study Kings and Chronicles, you find yourself immersed in Israel’s history, studying events surrounding the reigns of her kings in an effort to get the *big* picture—to understand how these events affect her relationship to God and how God responds to His covenant people. It’s much like looking at the history of your country through the lives of its leaders, what the times were like under each, the direction each led the country, and how each impacted its future.
- As you observe the texts of Kings and Chronicles, remember observing history is different from observing doctrine. If you’ve done New Testament Precept courses, you’ll find doing Observation Worksheets of historical books is much different from doing one on a doctrinal epistle. You don’t want to get bogged down with details; rather, you want to get a general understanding of the times and God’s dealings. Also, your focus on key words will not be as strong as when you’re observing doctrine.
- It’s not important to remember every detail of a king’s life as long as you understand the essence of it—how lessons from his life and leadership can apply to your life and walk with the Lord.
- If you study the entire series (we pray that you will), you will also hear and understand God’s message to His people through the voices of His prophets during those times.
- According to 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4, what God chose to preserve in the Old Testament is for our example and instruction, “on whom the end of the ages has come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The application, the encouragement, and the hope from these historical studies are distinctive.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We're excited that you'll be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God through His Word so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that will transform your life. Studying this way is summed up in the words of the psalmist: “for You Yourself have taught me” (Psalm 119:102). May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

OBSERVING THE TEXT

In the lessons that follow, you'll be asked to mark key words or phrases on a particular passage using Observation Worksheets.

- Key words or phrases unlock your understanding of the text. Marking them distinctively with colors or symbols helps you quickly locate the word or phrase, see how it's used and how often.
- It's advantageous to keep markings simple; colors and color combinations are easier and less cluttering.
- You'll find suggestions on the back cover of your Precept book; however, colors and symbols are your choice.
- When you have several words or phrases to mark, it's helpful to read the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- It's also helpful to make a bookmark (e.g., an index card) and list all the key words, marking them the way you want to mark them in the text.

FILLING IN THE AT A GLANCE CHART

As you finish observing a chapter, you'll be asked to record its theme (main subject) on an **At a Glance** chart specifically designed for the book you're studying. This chart provides space to list each chapter's theme and places for recording other pertinent information on the book. When completed, this chart provides a synopsis of the book at a glance.

We have three sources that will show you how to do the above and more (all available at www.precept.org or by calling 800-763-8280):

How to Study Your Bible: Chapter 2, “Getting the Big Picture.”

The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB). See “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” and “A System for Marking Key Word . . . Throughout Your Bible.”

Discover the Bible for Yourself by Kay Arthur, “Observation.”



WORD STUDIES

You'll find out how to do word studies by reading the chapter, "It's All Greek to Me," in *How to Study Your Bible*.

There are many helpful computer programs. We highly recommend Logos Bible Software's wide range of products.

We're so thankful you've joined us. You're about to join hundreds of thousands in an exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself in a way you've never done before. Your life will be transformed and strengthened through the Word of God.

However, we want you to remember that it takes time and practice to make these study skills "second nature." And it does not come without spiritual warfare. The only offensive weapon the child of God has is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. You need to sharpen this sword and not let anyone or anything discourage you. Precept is not difficult; it simply takes time and discipline, but that's what discipleship is about!

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We are sure he/she will help you or connect you with another student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops. They will teach you basic inductive study skills and give you an opportunity to practice them. There are also workshops to help prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.

Remember, you too can say with the psalmist, "I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me."



IMPORTANT NOTE TO PRECEPT LEADERS

We have included an optional assignment after the last lesson for you and your students to aid in reviewing the kings and prophets studied in this course.

Here are some suggestions of how this optional assignment can be used:

- In scheduling this course, plan an extra week at the end and have your students complete the optional assignment for that week. You can encourage them to be creative by preparing a song, poem, skit, etc. and/or sharing some of their completed sketches. This is a great way to review the kings of Israel and Judah and some of the main events of their reign. Allow time for students to tell how God spoke to them through His Word in this course. You may also have a time of fellowship with snacks or a luncheon.
- If you're completing this course and then breaking for the summer, you can assign students to complete the optional assignment during the break. Use letters, phone calls, or emails to remind them to review what they've done before your first meeting in the fall. At your first meeting, briefly review the kings to help new students understand the context. Let students show some of their sketches. Then help all students get started on their first lesson, making sure the new ones know how to do the assignments.



LESSON ONE

Experiencing the Unchanging Power of God in Changing Times

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
2 Kings 2–4 Observation Worksheets
“2 Kings 1–14 at a Glance”
“The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah”
“The Kings of Israel and Judah”
“Journeys of Elisha”
Cross-references

Are there times when you become overwhelmingly aware of your weakness? When you look about you, your heart is dismayed, broken because the ravages of sin are everywhere you turn. Like Jesus, you look at people, see their pitiful state, feel their pain, and grieve; they are, as He said, like sheep without a shepherd.

Untended by truth, they’re confused, blinded by the darkness, headed down the path of destruction. You can see it coming. You know it’s coming. You know what God’s Word says. Yet when it comes to warning them of the destruction waiting for them at the bottom of the cliff, you are so aware of your lack of power.


Oh, if only a man or woman of God would appear on the scene—another Elijah who would boldly believe God and challenge people to see what it is to worship the One who is truly God!

DAY ONE

With this introduction, we should get into the text of 2 Kings 2 immediately and begin reading to see where we’re headed in our study of the Kings and Prophets.

Remember, Beloved, when you open “the good Book,” it is God’s book. Men chosen by God, holy men of God, wrote as they were moved by God. Therefore because God is the ultimate author of the Bible, you need to learn the habit of asking God to open the eyes of your understanding every time you open His book.



1. Read 2 Kings 2. The texts of 2 Kings 1–14 and 2 Chronicles 21–25 are in the Appendix.
 - a. You can either read chapter 2 through quickly to get an overview and then come back and read it again, carefully observing and marking the text; or you can begin your observations with the first reading—whichever works best for you, do it.
 - b. We suggest you do the following when you observe 2 Kings 2:
 - 1) Mark references to the main character, *Elisha*, including pronouns. Choose a color rather than a symbol since there is so much to mark (you will need to mark him throughout this course).
 - 2) Double underline geographical locations in green. Look up significant locations on the map, “Journeys of Elisha” in the Appendix so you can keep track of Elisha’s journey.
 - 3) Watch for key references to time, such as *when* in 2:1. You can mark them with a clock like this .
 - 4) Mark references to Elijah’s *cloak*.
 - 5) Mark references to Elijah’s *spirit*.
 - 6) Color-code or mark in a distinctive way throughout the whole course *the word of the Lord* or *thus says the Lord*. This will help you readily find God’s directives.
2. When you finish marking the text, record the main events of this chapter. Don’t be too detailed because too many details are harder to remember. Record the general theme of 2 Kings 2 on the “2 Kings 1–14 at a Glance” chart located in the Appendix.



3. If you haven't studied our Precept Upon Precept course, *God Searches for a Heart Fully His*, you may not realize that Elisha is first mentioned in 1 Kings 19. To get a fuller understanding of this man, read 1 Kings 19:15-21 in your Bible, marking the text as you did in 2 Kings 2. Verse 15 opens up with the Lord speaking to Elijah, an exhausted prophet who thinks he alone remains as a spokesman for God. Ever had that feeling? You're not alone, child of God.

List what you observe from the text about Elisha. Don't miss anything, including what Elisha did to Elijah. There is extra space for you to record further insights in the next assignment. By the way, Elisha's name means "God is salvation." Great name, isn't it? It reminds us that we are not the "Savior," but simply His servants!

4. Review every place you have marked references to Elisha in 2 Kings 2. Is there anything you want to remember about Elisha from this chapter? If so, add to the list you started from 1 Kings 19.
5. Now let's look at references to the cloak and the spirit of Elijah in 2 Kings 2. By the way, you may have heard the expression "Passing the Mantle." The Hebrew word translated "cloak" is translated "mantle" in several versions of the Bible, including the NASB. Thus our course title, *Passing the Mantle*.
 - a. What do you learn from marking these references?



- b. Why do you think Elisha wanted a double portion of Elijah’s spirit? From all you observed about him today, did he seem to be power hungry or have another reason for wanting this double portion? Think about God’s words to Elijah with respect to Elisha. Elijah was God’s prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, a kingdom that worshipped golden calves since it broke off from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin in 931 B.C. From the reign of Jeroboam things went from bad to worse in Israel, as King Ahab introduced the worship of Baal to his capital, Samaria. We’ll get a better look at the historic setting of 2 Kings 2 tomorrow. For now, think of Elisha’s request.

DAY
TWO

1. Before we do anything else today, let’s put 2 Kings 2 into a historical context.
- a. Read the Observation Worksheet of 2 Kings 1:1-18. Color-code references to *Ahaziah, the king* (at times he is simply referred to this way). When studying Kings and Chronicles, it’s important to mark the kings of Israel and Judah in distinctive ways so you can keep them separate. This is vital, since often their names are the same! It can be confusing when you don’t observe and mark texts carefully. Sometimes a king will go by two different names—one the abbreviation of the other.

At this point you may want to make a “Key Word Bookmark”—a card on which you list words you want to mark throughout the study. After listing, color-code or mark each of them in a distinctive way on the bookmark to use as a marking guide for the rest of the course.

- b. Note who becomes king of Israel in Ahaziah’s place. Most of the time, he will be referred to simply as the king of Israel until you come to 2 Kings 9 in Lesson 3, so make sure you know his name. There’s a chart in the Appendix titled, “The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah.” It will help you in this study, so keep it at hand.
- c. Also note the name of the son of Jehoshaphat, who becomes king of Judah. As you read the text, pronounce the king’s name aloud. This will help you remember him better.

King of Israel _____

King of Judah _____ son of _____



5. Finally, take the map, “Journeys of Elisha” and trace Elisha’s journeys from the Jordan (after he received Elijah’s cloak) to where he ends up at the close of chapter 2. Elisha, you will see, is a “travelin’ man.” It’s good to color-code or number journeys from one place to the next.
6. Now you can read what your study helps, commentaries, and Bible dictionaries have to say about this very interesting chapter in God’s Word. But please don’t read further than chapter 2.

DAY THREE

1. Observe 2 Kings 3. As you observe this chapter,
 - a. Don’t forget to mark references to the king of Israel in a way distinctive from the king of Judah.
 - b. Mark references to *Elisha* and to proclamations of the word of the Lord as we suggested on DAY ONE.
 - c. Consult the map so that you know where Moab and Edom are. Also note where Elisha is and record it.
 - d. Add the phrase *did what was evil in the sight of the Lord* to your Key Word Bookmark as it’s a phrase you will want to mark from this point on.
 - e. Mark the word *sin* when you encounter it in any form. This is another important word to add to your bookmark.
2. In 2 Kings 3:3 we’re told Jehoram, the son of Ahab, clung to “the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.” This phrase is used a number of times in 1 and 2 Kings. If you are new to our study of Kings, you need to know what these sins were.

Read 1 Kings 12:25-33 and list Jeroboam’s sins.

3. Record the enemy in this chapter on “The Kings of Israel and Judah” chart in the middle column next to the king of Israel at that time and draw an arrow beside the enemy, pointing toward the name of the king of Israel.



DAY
FOUR

1. Chapter 4 is the last chapter we'll look at this week in 2 Kings, and it's quite a chapter—long and interesting with basically five different story lines.
 - a. Observe the text. As you mark references to *Elisha*, mark synonyms used for him. When you finish, write the main way he is referred to in this chapter.
 - b. Mark references to time and to geographical locations.
 - c. Once again you are going to meet the *sons of the prophets*. Mark them as before.
2. Now that you have observed 2 Kings 4, list the five story lines and verses that cover each one. Under the listing of each historical account note the 5 Ws and H covering what Elisha does in each incident that demonstrates the power of God in a supernatural way. Be as brief in your explanation as possible.
3. Now review 2 Kings 2 and 3 and add any events from Elisha's life to the list you just made.
4. Now, quickly read 1 Kings 17–18 and 2 Kings 1 and note what Elijah did in these chapters. As you read about each event, see if there are any similarities in the 5 Ws and H with what Elisha did in 2 Kings 2–4. If so, record them next to one of the events you listed previously. Write them in the margin if there's no room left.



5. Review the first four chapters of 2 Kings. Record main events or themes of each chapter on the “2 Kings 1-14 at a Glance” chart in the Appendix. If you have an NISB, you may want to do the same on the At a Glance chart at the end of 2 Kings.

Good work, Beloved. How we rejoice over people like you who not only want to know God but also discipline themselves to do it. It's one thing to have passion, it's another to demonstrate it by disciplining yourself to make it a reality. You are truly to be commended. Know that we are praying for you and that by God's grace we will have a Precept study on every book of the Bible. Stick with us—the Bible is the only book in the world that is pure truth—truth that sanctifies.

DAY FIVE

1. As we begin our final day of study, take a few minutes to review the five stories of 2 Kings 4 and how these events compare with the things we know about Elijah.
 - a. What did Elisha ask Elijah for in 2 Kings 2:9? From all you have studied thus far, is there any indication that Elisha received it? Explain—a simple yes or no is not sufficient here, friend. You should know the reason for your answer!
 - b. Read 2 Kings 2:11-14. How did Elisha know he had the same power from God that Elijah “his father” had?
2. Is there in Old Testament Scriptures a promise or similar incident of the passing of a “double portion” from one individual to another or of (so to speak) “passing the mantle [cloak]” of authority? Look up the following passages and record what you learn:



4. Take a moment to go back and read the introduction to this week's study. As you have seen in your study this week, Elisha probably had about seven or eight years with Elijah before God took Elijah to heaven. Elisha was aware of the sin and corruption surrounding him. This is evident in his comments to Jehoram in 2 Kings 3:13-14. Elisha knew from the beginning he was Elijah's successor once Elijah dropped his cloak on him—and it seems from 2 Kings 2 he knew that he was not up to the task before him apart from the Lord. So he asks for a double portion in order to fulfill his calling by God.

And what about you, Beloved, do you look at your culture and wonder how you can be up to your task as “the salt of the earth”—one who holds back the corruption of the days? Do you wonder how your light can ever shine brightly enough to penetrate the darkness around you? How are you going to fulfill your ministry and be an uncompromising witness of Jesus in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation?

Let's see if there's a “mantle” for you from the Lord, the God of Elijah. Observe the following passages of Scripture in light of all you have just read. Search out answers to the 5 Ws and H. Mark the following: every reference to the *Holy Spirit* including pronouns and synonyms, *works*, and *power*. Then record your insights in the margins of each passage.

a. John 14:8-12

- 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”
- 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
- 10 “Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
- 11 “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.
- 12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.



- b. John 14:16-17
- 16 “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
- 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
- c. John 16:7-8
- 7 “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
- 8 “And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:
- d. Acts 1:4-8
- 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;
- 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”
- 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.
- 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
5. Finally, Beloved, take all you have learned, get on your knees, and talk with God about it. Or sit quietly before Him and think on these things. Ask God to speak to your heart. Listen for His still quiet voice. Maybe He will put a song, a prayer, or a poem on your heart that you will want to record. Maybe it will be just a thought. Maybe it will be a sense of direction, a call to a work for Him. God knows; He waits for you. If you spend time with Him, you’ll also know by sensing His presence in the power of His Spirit.



2 KINGS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AFTER the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel.

- 2 Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness.”
- 3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?’
- 4 ‘Now therefore thus says the LORD, You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ” So Elijah went.
- 5 The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, “Why have you returned?”
- 6 And they said to him, “There came a man to meet us, and said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ”
- 7 He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?”
- 8 They answered him, “He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”
- 9 Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’ ”
- 10 But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.



- 11** Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king’s order, ‘Come down quickly!’ ”
- 12** But Elijah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.
- 13** Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, “O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight.
- 14** “Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight.”
- 15** Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he arose and went down with him to the king
- 16** and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron—is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word?—therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ”
- 17** So he died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son.
- 18** Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?



2 KINGS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW** when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2 And Elijah said to Elisha, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.
 - 3 And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he said, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”
 - 4 Elijah said to him, “Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho.
 - 5 The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”
 - 6 Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.
 - 7 Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
 - 8 Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.
 - 9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”



- 10 And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.”
- 11 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
- 12 And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.
Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.
- 13 And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.
- 14 Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.
- 15 Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.
- 16 And they said to him, “Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send.”
- 17 But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, “Send.” They sent therefore fifty men. And for three days they sought him but did not find him.
- 18 And they came back to him while he was staying at Jericho, and he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”
- 19 Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.”
- 20 He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him.



- 21 Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.”
- 22 So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.
- 23 He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!”
- 24 And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys.
- 25 From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.



2 KINGS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- I**N the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twelve years.
- 2 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his father and mother, for he put away the pillar of Baal that his father had made.
 - 3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it.
 - 4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he had to deliver to the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams.
 - 5 But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.
 - 6 So King Jehoram marched out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.
 - 7 And he went and sent word to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to battle against Moab?” And he said, “I will go. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.”
 - 8 Then he said, “By which way shall we march?” Jehoram answered, “By the way of the wilderness of Edom.”
 - 9 So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom. And when they had made a circuitous march of seven days, there was no water for the army or for the animals that followed them.
 - 10 Then the king of Israel said, “Alas! The LORD has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab.”
 - 11 And Jehoshaphat said, “Is there no prophet of the LORD here, through whom we may inquire of the LORD?” Then one of the king of Israel’s servants answered, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.”



- 12 And Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the LORD is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.
- 13 And Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother.” But the king of Israel said to him, “No; it is the LORD who has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab.”
- 14 And Elisha said, “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I have regard for Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would neither look at you nor see you.
- 15 “But now bring me a musician.” And when the musician played, the hand of the LORD came upon him.
- 16 And he said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘I will make this dry streambed full of pools.’
- 17 “For thus says the LORD, ‘You shall not see wind or rain, but that streambed shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your livestock, and your animals.’
- 18 “This is a light thing in the sight of the LORD. He will also give the Moabites into your hand,
- 19 and you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree and stop up all springs of water and ruin every good piece of land with stones.”
- 20 The next morning, about the time of offering the sacrifice, behold, water came from the direction of Edom, till the country was filled with water.
- 21 When all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to put on armor, from the youngest to the oldest, were called out and were drawn up at the border.
- 22 And when they rose early in the morning and the sun shone on the water, the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood.
- 23 And they said, “This is blood; the kings have surely fought together and struck one another down. Now then, Moab, to the spoil!”



- 24 But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose and struck the Moabites, till they fled before them. And they went forward, striking the Moabites as they went.
- 25 And they overthrew the cities, and on every good piece of land every man threw a stone until it was covered. They stopped every spring of water and felled all the good trees, till only its stones were left in Kir-hareseth, and the slingers surrounded and attacked it.
- 26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was going against him, he took with him 700 swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom, but they could not.
- 27 Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place and offered him for a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel. And they withdrew from him and returned to their own land.



2 KINGS 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- N**OW the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.”
- 2 And Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?” And she said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”
- 3 Then he said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few.
- 4 “Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.”
- 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her.
- 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another.” Then the oil stopped flowing.
- 7 She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.”
- 8 One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food.
- 9 And she said to her husband, “Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way.
- 10 “Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there.”
- 11 One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there.
- 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunammite.” When he had called her, she stood before him.



- 13 And he said to him, “Say now to her, ‘See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?’ ” She answered, “I dwell among my own people.”
- 14 And he said, “What then is to be done for her?” Gehazi answered, “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.”
- 15 He said, “Call her.” And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway.
- 16 And he said, “At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son.” And she said, “No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant.”
- 17 But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.
- 18 When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers.
- 19 And he said to his father, “Oh, my head, my head!” The father said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.”
- 20 And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died.
- 21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out.
- 22 Then she called to her husband and said, “Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again.”
- 23 And he said, “Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath.” She said, “All is well.”
- 24 Then she saddled the donkey, and she said to her servant, “Urge the animal on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you.”
- 25 So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.
- When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, “Look, there is the Shunammite.



- 26 “Run at once to meet her and say to her, ‘Is all well with you? Is all well with your husband? Is all well with the child?’ ” And she answered, “All is well.”
- 27 And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me.”
- 28 Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me?’ ”
- 29 He said to Gehazi, “Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child.”
- 30 Then the mother of the child said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So he arose and followed her.
- 31 Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, “The child has not awakened.”
- 32 When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed.
- 33 So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD.
- 34 Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm.
- 35 Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.
- 36 Then he summoned Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite.” So he called her. And when she came to him, he said, “Pick up your son.”
- 37 She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.



- 38 And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, “Set on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.”
- 39 One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were.
- 40 And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, “O man of God, there is death in the pot!” And they could not eat it.
- 41 He said, “Then bring flour.” And he threw it into the pot and said, “Pour some out for the men, that they may eat.” And there was no harm in the pot.
- 42 A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, “Give to the men, that they may eat.”
- 43 But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred men?” So he repeated, “Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’ ”
- 44 So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.



2 KINGS 1–14 AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

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THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
980					David 1011-971 Son of: Jesse Man after God's own heart. Lord appointed as king & made covenant—D. Will not lack a man on Israel's throne. Repentant when sinned. God gave him pattern for Temple.	980
970					Solomon 971-931 Son of:	970
960						960
950						950









THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
940						940
930	♥ Jeroaboam 931-910 Son of:	Ahijah 931-906 Man of God from Judah Iddo 921-902	Egypt ↑	Shemaiah 931-901	♥ Rehoboam 931-913 Son of:	930
920					♥ Abijam or Abijah 913-911 Son of:	920



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
910	 Nadab 910-909 Son of:				 Asa 911-870 Son of:	910
900	 Baasha 909-886 Son of:			Azariah 900-875		900
890	 Elah 886 Son of:	Jehu 891-865		Hanani 895-870		890
880	 Omri 885-874 Son of:  Tibni 885-880 Son of:					880



THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
870	Ahab 874-853 Son of:	Elijah 876-852 Prophet Man of God			Jehoshaphat 873-848 Son of:	870
860		Man of Sons of Prophets Micahiah 861-847?		Jahaziel 865-835 Eliezer 857-847?		860
850	Jehoram (Joram) 852-841 Son of:	Elisha 852-796			Jehoram (Joram) 853-841 Son of:	850

