

# KINGS BEHAVING BADLY III



2 KINGS 8-25

Between Life and Death



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# Study 1

# 2 Kings 8.7-10.36

## Infection & Radical Surgery

**READ**

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



### Big Idea

*Judgment comes upon the house of Omri, the kings who have led the Northern kingdom into apostasy. Leaders will be more severely judged.*

**Discussion Question:** Do you believe in the judgement that is coming to the world with the coming of the Lord?

### Read 1 Kings 21.18-29

1. What should we expect will happen to the house of Omri (note Omri was Ahab's father?)

2. Why will the house of Omri be wiped out?

### Read 2 Kings 8.16-24

3. The author is implying there is a reason why Edom rebels against Judah. What is it?

**What's in a name?** While it isn't clear in the NIV translation, 'Joram' and 'Jehoram' are really one and the same name. The point is being made that the house of Judah is being influenced by displaying the same characteristics as the corrupt Northern kingdom.

# Prayer Points

## Week 1

### Read 2 Kings 8.25-29

4. How is the influence of Ahab showing itself to infect the kingdom of Judah one stage further?

### Read 2 Kings 9.1-13

5. The Lord has decided it is now time to deal with the house of Omri and selects a replacement, Jehu, just as he did with Saul replacing him with David. How does Jehu become the means of judgement on the house of Ahab v6-10?

## Week 2

6. Why is the judgement so sever?

### Read 2 Kings 14-37

7. Why is it appropriate that Jehu not only kills Joram king of Israel, Ahab's son, but also Ahaziah, king of Judah?

8. What is the prophetic and poetic justice displayed in the death of Joram and Jezebel?

## Week 3

9. God's judgment is a terrible thing, and this judgment is particularly brutal and ugly but how is it just?

# MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-10** <sup>8</sup>He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup>They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power <sup>10</sup>on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

# PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer to God thanking the Lord for saving you from destruction or ask him to save you from it.

# LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Can you identify an issue of injustice in your workplace or neighbourhood where you can speak up for the weak?

# MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Micah 6:8

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

# PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer asking God to help you to live out a life worth of the gospel of Jesus .

# LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Discuss: Why is the concept of the final judgement so embarrassing to us as Christians in this post modern world?

## Study 2

## Kings 11-13

### The Limits of Reform

#### READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



#### Big Idea

*Even though there are reform movements within the kingdoms of Judah and Israel they are not thorough going enough—they do not deal with the heart.*

There is one last member of Ahab's extended family who remains alive, his daughter Athalia, the mother of the recently assassinated king of Judah, Ahaziah. When she sees that her son is dead, and one suspects in response to the fulfilment of the Lord's prophecy, she decides to destroy the royal seed of Judah, David's family line.

1. In 2 Kings 11.1 we are told that Athalia, 'proceeded to destroy the whole royal family'. How is this at first sight a contradiction of the Lord's promise to David in **2 Samuel 7:16** <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." ?

It is therefore no surprise that despite the devastation wrecked upon the house of David there is one member of David's line who is saved and protected—Joash.

2. What reason might there be for this disaster coming upon David's house?

Read 2 Kings 11.4-21

3. The High Priest Jehoiada organises a palace coup. What is the aim of his plans?

4. What is the reason for the expansion of the borders of Israel v26-27?

5. How does this balance and shape the terrible judgement that will fall on Israel?

#### Read 2 Kings 15

The next king of Judah is introduced, Azariah, also called Uzziah, there is more information about his rule in 2 Chronicles 26. Our focus falls on the quick decline of political stability in Israel and the looming Assyrian threat.

6. How does the Lord's promise in 2 Kings 10.30 alert us to what will happen here. How many generations is Zechariah from Jehu and what do we expect to happen?

7. How would you describe the transition from one king to the next in Israel?

8. In the reigns of Menahem and Pekah we have the appearance of the Assyrians who will, in the end, destroy the Northern kingdom of Israel. Does this give you any insight as to why, Jonah, who is mentioned in 2 Kings 14.25, wouldn't want to bring salvation to the capital of Assyria a generation earlier?

Israel at this time enjoyed an enormous amount of material prosperity, or at least some people did, others had very little. When we read Amos, we get a clear picture of the underlying social sickness that accompanied idolatry.

# Study 3                      2 Kings 14-15/Amos

## Power without Glory

### READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



#### Big Idea

*Israel maybe politically powerful and economically prosperous but the story of her spiritual health as outlined by Amos is another matter entirely.*

In this study we will focus on the rise and gradual fall of the Northern kingdom of Israel. One of the things that we notice is that very little is said at times about what actually happens in the reigns of the kings. Obviously more information is, as we are regularly told, found in the annals of the kings of Judah or Israel. Unfortunately we don't have access to these book, although we can get more information from 1 & 2 Chronicles. The particular focus of the writer is quite narrow, whether the kings were bad or good according to whether they exhibited exclusive loyalty to the Lord God of Israel.

At this point in the Israel story, we see what appears to be a 'flush' of success before the eventual downward spiral into exile.

#### Read 2 Kings 14.1-22

1. How does this story show the declining fortunes of Judah and the rising fortunes of Israel?

2. What do you think about Judah taking on Israel 1 Kings 12.22-24?

#### Read 2 Kings 14.23-29

3. There is no surprise in finding out that a king of Israel does evil in the eyes of the Lord but what is surprising about v25?

4. What do you think 2 Kings 12.2-3 suggests?

5. How does the failure to get rid of the high places relate to the tardiness in repairing the Temple and the behaviour of the priests?

6. How might the attack of the king of Aram and the stripping of the Temple and Palace of all its treasures be interpreted in the light of this?

#### Read 2 Kings 13

Jehu is the beginning of a new dynasty for the northern kingdom of Israel. He began his reign with reform and the obliteration of the house of Ahab but the reform is little more than skin deep.

7. How is the decline of another king identified in 2 Kings 13.1-10?

Jehoash (same as Joash in Heb) is the next king but his reign is most noteworthy for the death of Elisha. There is one particular reminder of Elijah's departure from the earth. Just as Elisha calls out at Elijah's departure, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel' 2 Kings 2.12.

8. How were Elijah and Elisha a protection for Israel?

9. While there is one big similarity, there is also one big difference. What is it?

As is show in the story the unenthusiastic king is little compensation for Elisha.

# MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on **Ezekiel 36:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

# PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer asking to be filled with the Spirit of Jesus.

# LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



If the Old Testament shows us anything it is that turning over new leaves and reform movements bring little lasting fruit. What is needed is a new creation. When you pray for your non-Christian friends and family, how do you pray?