

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
421 N. 2nd Street, Mankato, MN
Sunday Bible Class

2 Kings

March 1, 2015

Introductory Materials:

In the original Hebrew 1 & 2 Kings were not divided. Consequently, the introductory materials covered last week for 1 Kings apply to 2 Kings as well.

Time of 2 Kings:

2 Kings begins with the reign of King Ahaziah in Israel (853 B.C.) and ends in the 37th year of the exile (561 B.C.) when King Jehoiachin was released from prison and raised to a position of counselor in King Evil-merodach's court in Babylon. It, therefore, covers 292 years of Old Testament history.

Key Figures and Events:

Elijah (Chapters 1:1-2:11)

- *Elijah denounces King Ahaziah and confronts three captains with their fifties (1:3-4, 9-15)*
- *Elijah is taken to heaven (2:11-12)*

Elisha (Chapters 2:12-8:15; 13:14-21)

- *Elisha multiplies the widow's oil to save her sons (4:1-7)*
- *Elisha raises the son of the Shunammite Woman (4:18-37)*
- *Elisha heals Naaman of his leprosy (5:1-14)*
- *Elisha reveals to his servant the hosts of heaven (6:8-19)*

Jehu (Chapters 9:1-10:36)

- *Jehu is anointed and commissioned to seek vengeance on Ahab's family (9:4-10)*
- *Jehu is recognized for his furious chariot driving (9:20)*
- *Jehu executes Jezebel (9:30-37)*

Jeroboam II (14:23-29)

- *The LORD used Jeroboam to reach out to His people through blessing (14:27)*



The Fall of Israel (Chapters 17:1-41)

- *Israel is carried en masse into exile and lost to history (17:6)*

Hezekiah (Chapters 18:1-20:21)

- *Rabshakeh's blasphemous boast and the LORD's miraculous rescue (18:28-35; 19:32-37)*

Josiah (Chapters 22:1-23:30)

- *Josiah repairs the temple (22:3-7)*
- *The Bible is rediscovered and reforms instituted (22:8-13; 23:1-7, 21-25)*

The Fall of Judah (Chapter 25:1-21)

- *Jerusalem is destroyed, the temple is burned, and the people exiled (25:9-12)*

Daily Devotions:

Devotion 1: Read 2 Kings 1-4

- 1) *Discuss the arrogance of unbelief in contrast to the humility of faith as illustrated by the three captains of fifties.*
- 2) *Elijah is one of only two people never to have died, but who were taken directly to heaven. Discuss why they may have been taken to heaven without death.*
- 3) *Discuss the reasons for God giving Elisha such miraculous powers.*

Devotion 2: Read 2 Kings 5-8

- 1) *Discuss the dangers of pride and the blessings of faith, as illustrated in the account of Naaman.*
- 2) *Discuss how what we see is not always what truly exists when it comes to God's providential care as illustrated by the "horses and chariots of fire" that protected Elisha.*
- 3) *Discuss the importance of finding a godly spouse, as illustrated by the case of Jehoram and Ahab's daughter Athaliah.*

Devotion 3: Read 2 Kings 9-12

- 1) *Using the case of Jehu discuss how God entrusts power to those whom He wishes.*
- 2) *Discuss how we are to view the violence that arises in Old Testament accounts such as that of Jehu dealing with the family of Ahab.*
- 3) *Discuss God's providential care in preserving the Davidic line through the heroism of Jehoiada and his wife, Jehosheba.*



Devotion 4: Read 2 Kings 13-16

- 1) *Discuss the mercy and faithfulness of God, who responded to Jehoahaz' prayer for help for Israel even when they did not remain faithful to Him.*

- 2) *Discuss the dangers of pride, as illustrated in the case of Amaziah.*
- 3) *Discuss how unbelief often leads to violence as men turn away from God and seek their own advantage, as illustrated by the later kings of Israel.*

Devotion 5: Read 2 Kings 17-19

- 1) *Discuss the reasons why the LORD finally brought down judgment upon the northern Kingdom of Israel.*
- 2) *Discuss the LORD's response to the blasphemy of the Rabshakeh and the humility displayed by Hezekiah.*
- 3) *Discuss the role Isaiah played in both advising Hezekiah and comforting the people of Jerusalem.*



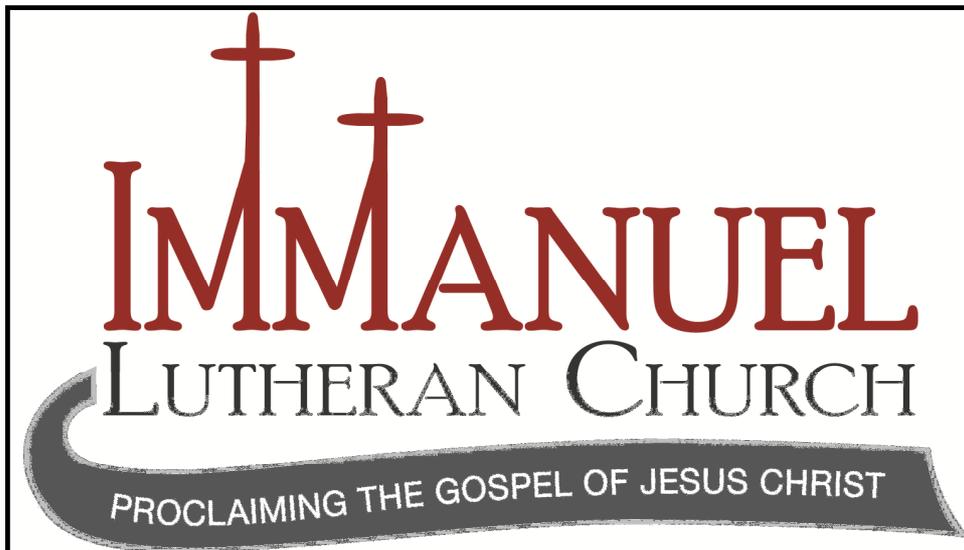
Devotion 6: Read 2 Kings 20-22

- 1) *Discuss the power of prayer and the grace and power of God, as illustrated by Hezekiah's prayer and God's response.*
- 2) *Read 21:10-15. Discuss the LORD's response to the idolatry of Manasseh and the warning it contains for all who turn away from the LORD and embrace false gods.*
- 3) *Discuss the impact of the faithfulness of a child upon the welfare of an entire kingdom, as illustrated by the life of Josiah.*

Devotion 7: Read 2 Kings 23-25

- 1) *Discuss the importance of godly leadership to a nation, as illustrated by the leadership provided by Josiah.*
- 2) *Discuss the consequences of unbelief and idolatry for the Kingdom of Judah.*
- 3) *Discuss the dangers that godly men face as they seek to advance the cause of peace in a sinful world, as illustrated by Gedaliah.*





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