

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

*Passing
the
Mantle*

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
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—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELEIN, 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, “upon whom the ends of the ages have 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 easiest least 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 and list all the key words, marking them the way you want to mark them in the text. You can cut out the one provided on the back of this workbook and use the blank side.

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 Words . . . 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 have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me" (Psalm 119:102).

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, you can assign students to complete the optional assignment during the break. Remind them to review what they've done before your first meeting of the next course. 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 green circle.
 - 4) Mark references to Elijah’s *mantle*.
 - 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 in your Bible. To get a fuller understanding of this man, read 1 Kings 19:15-21, 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 mantle and the spirit of Elijah in 2 Kings 2.
 - 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 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 mantle) 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 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” 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 mantle 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: references 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 so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who 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 initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.
- 11 “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.
- 12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

b. John 14:16-17

16 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

c. John 16:7-8

7 “But 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 He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

d. Acts 1:4-8

4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” *He said*, “you heard of 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 were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part 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 _____

NOW Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

- 2 And Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber which *was* in Samaria, and became ill. So he sent messengers and said to them, “Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I will 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 where you have gone up, but you shall surely die.’ ” Then Elijah departed.
- 5 When the messengers returned to him he said to them, “Why have you returned?”
- 6 They said to him, “A man came up to meet us and said to us, ‘Go, return 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 where you have gone up, but shall surely die.’”’”
- 7 He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?”
- 8 They answered him, “*He was* a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins.” And he said, “It is Elijah the Tishbite.”
- 9 Then *the king* sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him, and behold, he was sitting on the top of the hill. And he said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’ ”

- 10 Elijah replied to 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 So he again sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he said to him, “O man of God, thus says the king, ‘Come down quickly.’”
- 12 Elijah replied to 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 So he again sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. When the third captain of fifty went up, he came and bowed down on his knees before Elijah, and begged him and said to him, “O man of God, please let my life and the lives of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.
- 14 “Behold fire came down from heaven and consumed the first two captains of fifty with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight.”
- 15 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 Then he 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 where you have gone up, but shall surely die.’ ”
- 17 So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.
- 18 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2 KINGS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

AND it came about when the LORD was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

- 2 Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here please, 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 Then the sons of the prophets who *were at* Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?” And he said, “Yes, I know; be still.”
- 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 approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be still.”
- 6 Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” And he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.
- 7 Now fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood opposite *them* at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.
- 8 Elijah took his mantle and folded it together and struck the waters, and they were divided here and there, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.
- 9 When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.”
- 10 He said, “You have asked a hard thing. *Nevertheless*, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.”

- 11 As they were going along and talking, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.
- 12 Elisha saw *it* and cried out, “My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw Elijah no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.
- 13 He also took up the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and returned and stood by the bank of the Jordan.
- 14 He took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and struck the waters and said, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he also had struck the waters, they were divided here and there; and Elisha crossed over.
- 15 Now when the sons of the prophets who *were* at Jericho opposite *him* saw him, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed themselves to the ground before him.
- 16 They said to him, “Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men, please let them go and search for your master; perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him on some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send.”
- 17 But when they urged him until he was ashamed, he said, “Send.” They sent therefore fifty men; and they searched three days but did not find him.
- 18 They returned to him while he was staying at Jericho; and he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go’?”
- 19 Then the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold now, 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 jar, and put salt in it.” So they brought *it* to him.
- 21 He went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or unfruitfulness any longer.’ ”
- 22 So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

- 23 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and mocked him and said to him, “Go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead!”
- 24 When he looked behind him and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of their number.
- 25 He went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

2 KINGS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

- 2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his father and his mother; for he put away the *sacred* pillar of Baal which his father had made.
- 3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.
- 4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and used to pay 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 And King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.
- 7 Then he went and sent *word* to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?” And he said, “I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.”
- 8 He said, “Which way shall we go up?” And he answered, “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 they made a circuit of seven days’ journey, and there was no water for the army or for the cattle that followed them.
- 10 Then the king of Israel said, “Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab.”
- 11 But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?” And one of the king of Israel’s servants answered and said, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.”
- 12 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** Now Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother.” And the king of Israel said to him, “No, for the LORD has called these three kings *together* to give them into the hand of Moab.”
- 14 Elisha said, “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look at you nor see you.
- 15 “But now bring me a minstrel.” And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.
- 16 He said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Make this valley full of trenches.’
- 17 “For thus says the LORD, ‘You shall not see wind nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, both you and your cattle and your beasts.
- 18 ‘This is but a slight thing in the sight of the LORD; He will also give the Moabites into your hand.
- 19 ‘Then you shall strike every fortified city and every choice city, and fell every good tree and stop all springs of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.’ ”
- 20 It happened in the morning about the time of offering the sacrifice, that behold, water came by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.
- 21** Now all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. And all who were able to put on armor and older were summoned and stood on the border.
- 22 They rose early in the morning, and the sun shone on the water, and the Moabites saw the water opposite *them* as red as blood.
- 23 Then they said, “This is blood; the kings have surely fought together, and they have slain one another. Now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!”
- 24 But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites arose and struck the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they went forward into the land, slaughtering the Moabites.

- 25 Thus they destroyed the cities; and each one threw a stone on every piece of good land and filled it. So they stopped all the springs of water and felled all the good trees, until in Kir-hareseth *only* they left its stones; however, the slingers went about *it* and struck it.
- 26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him 700 men who drew swords, to break through to 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 as a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel, and they departed from him and returned to their own land.

2 KINGS 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.”

- 2 Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” And she said, “Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.”
- 3 Then he said, “Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, *even* empty vessels; do not get a few.
- 4 “And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels, and you shall set aside what is full.”
- 5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing *the vessels* to her and she poured.
- 6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not one vessel more.” And the oil stopped.
- 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debt, and you *and* your sons can live on the rest.”
- 8 Now there came a day when Elisha passed over to Shunem, where there was a prominent woman, and she persuaded him to eat food. And so it was, as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat food.
- 9 She said to her husband, “Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God passing by us continually.
- 10 “Please, let us make a little walled upper chamber and let us set a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; and it shall be, when he comes to us, *that* he can turn in there.”
- 11 One day he came there and turned in to the upper chamber and rested.

- 12 Then he said to Gehazi his servant, “Call this Shunammite.” And when he had called her, she stood before him.
- 13 He said to him, “Say now to her, ‘Behold, you have been careful for us with all this care; what can I do for you? Would you be spoken for to the king or to the captain of the army?’ ” And she answered, “I live among my own people.”
- 14 So he said, “What then is to be done for her?” And Gehazi answered, “Truly she has no son and her husband is old.”
- 15 He said, “Call her.” When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.
- 16 Then he said, “At this season next year you will embrace a son.” And she said, “No, my lord, O man of God, do not lie to your maidservant.”
- 17 The woman conceived and bore a son at that season the next year, as Elisha had said to her.
- 18 When the child was grown, the day came that he went out to his father to the reapers.
- 19 He said to his father, “My head, my head.” And he said to his servant, “Carry him to his mother.”
- 20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her lap until noon, and *then* died.
- 21 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, “Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and return.”
- 23 He said, “Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor sabbath.” And she said, “*It will be well.*”
- 24 Then she saddled a donkey and said to her servant, “Drive and go forward; do not slow down the pace for me unless I tell you.”
- 25 So she went and came to the man of God to Mount Carmel.
When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to Gehazi his servant, “Behold, there is the Shunammite.

- 26 “Please run now to meet her and say to her, ‘Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?’ ” And she answered, “It is well.”
- 27 When she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came near to push her away; but the man of God said, “Let her alone, for her soul is troubled within her; and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me.”
- 28 Then she said, “Did I ask for a son from my lord? Did I not say, ‘Do not deceive me’?”
- 29 Then he said to Gehazi, “Gird up your loins and take my staff in your hand, and go your way; if you meet any man, do not salute him, and if anyone salutes you, do not answer him; and lay my staff on the lad’s face.”
- 30 The mother of the lad said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” And he arose and followed her.
- 31 Then Gehazi passed on before them and laid the staff on the lad’s face, but there was no sound or response. So he returned to meet him and told him, “The lad has not awakened.”
- 32 When Elisha came into the house, behold the lad was dead and laid on his bed.
- 33 So he entered and shut the door behind them both and prayed to the LORD.
- 34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth and his eyes on his eyes and his hands on his hands, and he stretched himself on him; and the flesh of the child became warm.
- 35 Then he returned and walked in the house once back and forth, and went up and stretched himself on him; and the lad sneezed seven times and the lad opened his eyes.
- 36 He called Gehazi and said, “Call this Shunammite.” So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, “Take up your son.”
- 37 Then she went in and fell at his feet and bowed herself to the ground, and she took up her son and went out.

- 38 When Elisha returned to Gilgal, *there was* a famine in the land. As the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, “Put on the large pot and boil stew for the sons of the prophets.”
- 39 Then one 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 sliced them into the pot of stew, for they did not know *what they were*.
- 40 So they poured *it* out for the men to eat. And as they were eating of the stew, they cried out and said, “O man of God, there is death in the pot.” And they were unable to eat.
- 41 But he said, “Now bring meal.” He threw it into the pot and said, “Pour *it* out for the people that they may eat.” Then there was no harm in the pot.
- 42 Now a man came from Baal-shalishah, and brought the man of God bread of the first fruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And he said, “Give *them* to the people that they may eat.”
- 43 His attendant said, “What, will I set this before a hundred men?” But he said, “Give *them* to the people that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have *some* left over.’ ”
- 44 So he set *it* before them, and they ate and had *some* left over, according to the word of the LORD.

2 KINGS 1–14 AT A GLANCE






Book Theme:

Chapter Themes

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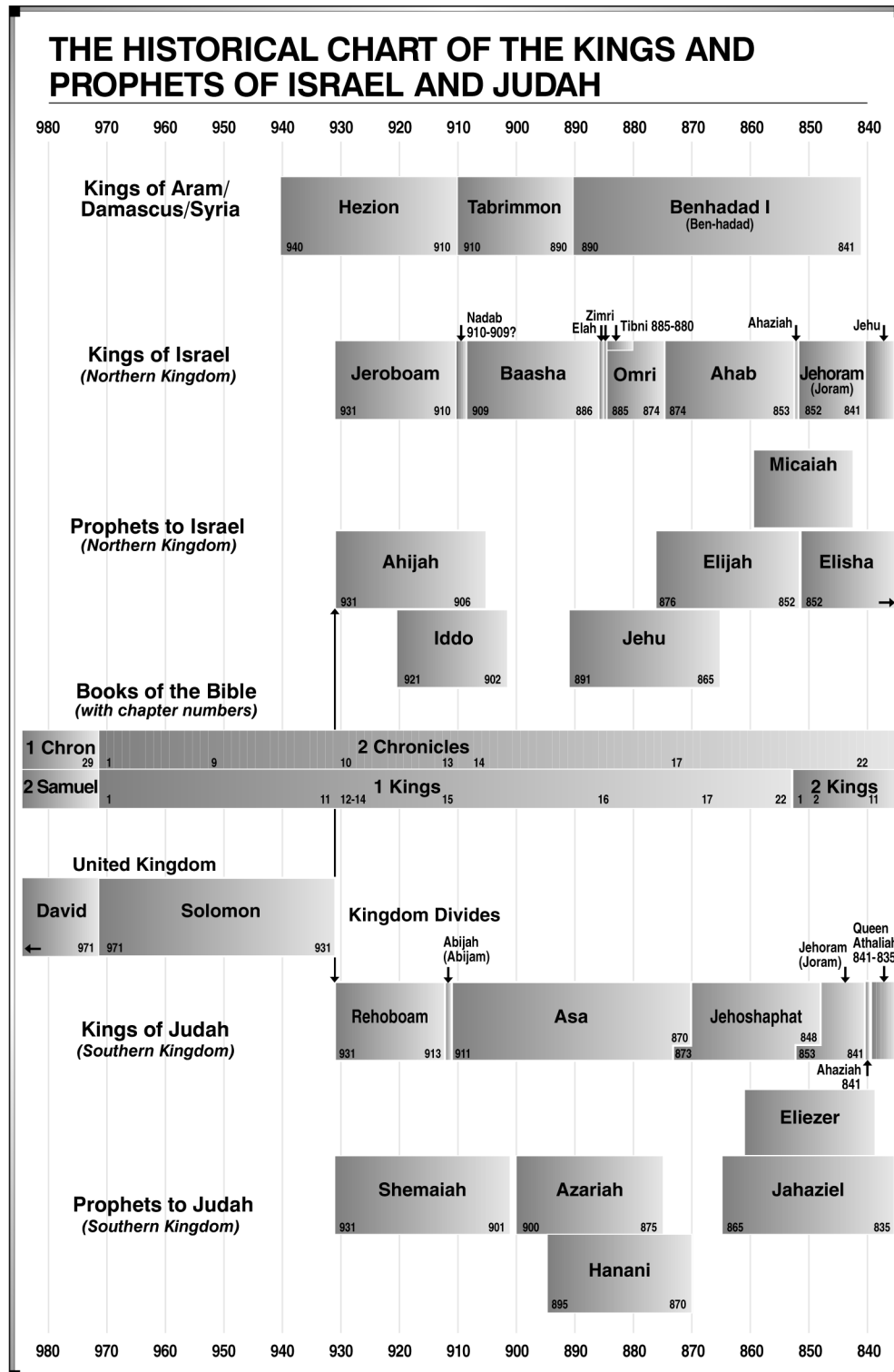


THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

B.C.	Kings of Israel	Prophets to Israel	Enemies	Prophets to Judah	Kings of Judah	B.C.
810	 Jehoahaz (Joahaz) 814-798 Son of:					810
800	 Jehoash (Joash) 798-782 Son of:			Man of God		800
790	 Jeroboam II 793-753 Son of:	Jonah 784-772		Prophet	 Amaziah 796-767 Son of:	790
					 Uzziah (Azariah) 790-739 Son of:	

Passing the Mantle

The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah



Passing the Mantle

The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah

