

BIG WORD: 2 Kings

Homework for Chapters 23:28—25:30
Discussion Dates: 19 December 2013 (in house)
and 20 December 2013 (online)

DAY ONE: Overview

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God's Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 2 Kings 23:28—25:30.

If possible, read it all in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

DAY TWO: King Jehoahaz of Judah

READ 2 Kings 23:28—34 and 2 Chronicles 36:1—4.

Who was Jehoahaz?

How old was he when he became king?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

Describe the end of his reign. What caused him to leave the throne?

DAY THREE: King Jehoiakim of Judah

READ 2 Kings 23:34—24:5 and 2 Chronicles 36:4—8.

Who was Jehoiakim?

What was his real name?

Who changed his name?

Why?

How old was he when he became king?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

At the beginning of Chapter 24, King Jehoiakim runs into some international troubles. What happened?

What treasures were removed from Jerusalem?

According to 24:3 (and following) who or what is the cause of this destruction?

DAY FOUR: King Jehoiachin of Judah

READ 2 Kings 24:6—16 and 2 Chronicles 36:9—10.

Who was Jehoiachin?

How old was he when he became king?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

We've had a few kings with very short reigns and yet obvious legacies. How does one create such an impression on history in short timeframes?

Describe the deportation to Babylon. Who was taken?

What treasures were taken?

What reason was given for this?

DAY FIVE: King Zedekiah of Judah

READ 2 Kings 24:17—25:7 and 2 Chronicles 36:10—13.

Who was Zedekiah?

Who made him king over Judah?

How long did he reign?

What legacy did he leave?

Why did he rebel against Babylon?

Let's talk about this king's death. Consider his appointment to the throne, his relations, and the length of his reign. Why do you think his was so public, violent and cruel?

DAY SIX: The End of Jerusalem and Judah

READ 2 Kings 25:8—27 and 2 Chronicles 36:14—23.

What happened to Jerusalem?

Many of the citizens of Judah had already been deported to Babylon. What happened to those remaining?

What happened to the Temple and national treasures?

Why did all of this happen?

Whom did the king of Babylon appoint to rule over the land?

What instruction did he give to the people?

What happened next?

At the very end of 2 Kings we see something strange: the return of King Jehoichin. Describe the circumstances around this. What caused his reinstatement?

How long had he been in prison?

I struggle to believe there were no ties attached to this newfound freedom. What do you think of all this?

DAY SEVEN: What's the point?

As you look back over the whole study of Kings, which stories stand out to you most? Why?

What have you learned about God during this study?

Over the past few months we've explored a number of applications we can make from these lessons. Which impact you the most? Which ones do you intend to implement?