

# 4234, Book of 2 Kings

A Sequel to 1 Kings

**AUTHOR:** Unknown.

**DATE WRITTEN:** Shortly before 587 B.C. except for chapters [2 Kings 24-25](#) which were written about 550 B.C.

**PURPOSE:** To give an account of the reigns of the kings from Ahaziah (North) and Jehoram (South) until the Fall of each Kingdom; and to demonstrate God's pursuit of His people through the message of His prophets.

**TO WHOM WRITTEN:** The nation of Israel.

**MAIN THEME:** The history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, from the latter part of the reign of Ahaziah in Israel, and Jehoram in Judah, up to the time of the captivities.

As far as the history of Israel is concerned it is a dark picture of degenerate rulers and sinful people ending in slavery.

The kingdom of Judah was also on the down grade, but judgment was not visited upon her as quickly because of the influence of a number of good kings who reigned during this period; See analysis of 2 Chronicles, [4236](#).

The interest of the book largely centers on the record of the lives of the two prophets, Elijah and Elisha.

**SPIRITUAL MESSAGE:** The powerful influence of rulers upon a nation.

**KEY WORDS:** Captured Kingdoms.

**KEY VERSES:** [2 Kings 17:13-14](#).

Source: Thompson Chain Reference Bible, used by permission from Kirkbride Publishing

**SYNOPSIS:** The book may be divided into three parts.

**I. Mainly the History of the Last Days of Elijah.**

1. He calls down fire from heaven to destroy his enemies,—[2 Kings 1:9-12](#).
2. The dividing of the Jordan River,—[2 Kings 2:8](#).
3. His translation,—[2 Kings 2:11](#).  
For other references to his life. See [1112](#), [4298](#).

**II. Mainly the History of Elisha.**

1. He asks for a double portion of grace,—[2 Kings 2:9](#).
2. He divides the Jordan,—[2 Kings 2:14](#).
3. He heals the waters,—[2 Kings 2:19-22](#).
4. The cursing of the mocking children,—[2 Kings 2:23-24](#).
5. The procuring of water from an army,—[2 Kings 3:15-20](#).
6. The increasing of the widow's oil,—[2 Kings 4:1-7](#).
7. The raising of a dead child to life,—[2 Kings 4:18-37](#).
8. The healing of the deadly stew,—[2 Kings 4:38-41](#).
9. The feeding of the multitude,—[2 Kings 4:42-44](#).
10. The healing of Naaman, the leper,—[2 Kings 5:5-15](#).
11. The smiting of Gehazi with leprosy,—[2 Kings 5:20-27](#).
12. The causing of the iron to swim,—[2 Kings 6:1-7](#).
13. The disclosing of the plans of the king of Syria,—[2 Kings 6](#).
14. Smites the Syrians with blindness,—[2 Kings 6:18-20](#).
15. His prophecy of plenty for a famine-stricken city,—[2 Kings 7:1-18](#).
16. Secures the restoration of her land to the Shunammite woman,—[2 Kings 8:3-6](#).
17. Prophecies concerning the exaltation of Hazael,—[2 Kings 8:7-15](#).
18. Commands the anointing of Jehu as king,—[2 Kings 9:1-6](#).
19. Retains his prophetic power on his deathbed,—[2 Kings 13:14-19](#).
20. The post-mortem manifestation of divine power at his grave,—[2 Kings 13:20-21](#).  
The secret of his power: his desire for the reception of a double portion of grace enabled him to live in the spirit of continual victory. See [1117](#), [4299](#).

**III. Other Notable Events in the History of Judah and Israel.**

1. Jehu's execution of divine judgment upon Joram, Ahaziah, Jezebel, seventy of Ahab's children, and the worshipers of Baal,—[2 Kings 9-10](#).
2. The good reign of Joash (Jehoash),—[2 Kings 11-12](#).
3. The reign of evil kings in Israel, followed by the captivity of the ten tribes,—[2 Kings 13-17](#).
4. The good reign of Hezekiah,—[2 Kings 18-20](#).
5. The evil reign of Manasseh,—[2 Kings 21](#).
6. Josiah, the last of the good kings,—[2 Kings 22-23](#).
7. A series of evil kings in Judah lead to the captivity of the nation and the destruction of Jerusalem,—[2 Kings 25](#).

**PROMINENT PEOPLE:** Elijah, Elisha, Widow of Shunem, Naaman, Hazael,

Ben-Hadad, Jehu, Jezebel, Ahab, Ataliah, Jehoash, Hezekiah, Sennacherib, Isaiah, Manasseh, Josiah, Jehoiakim, Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Jehoiachin.

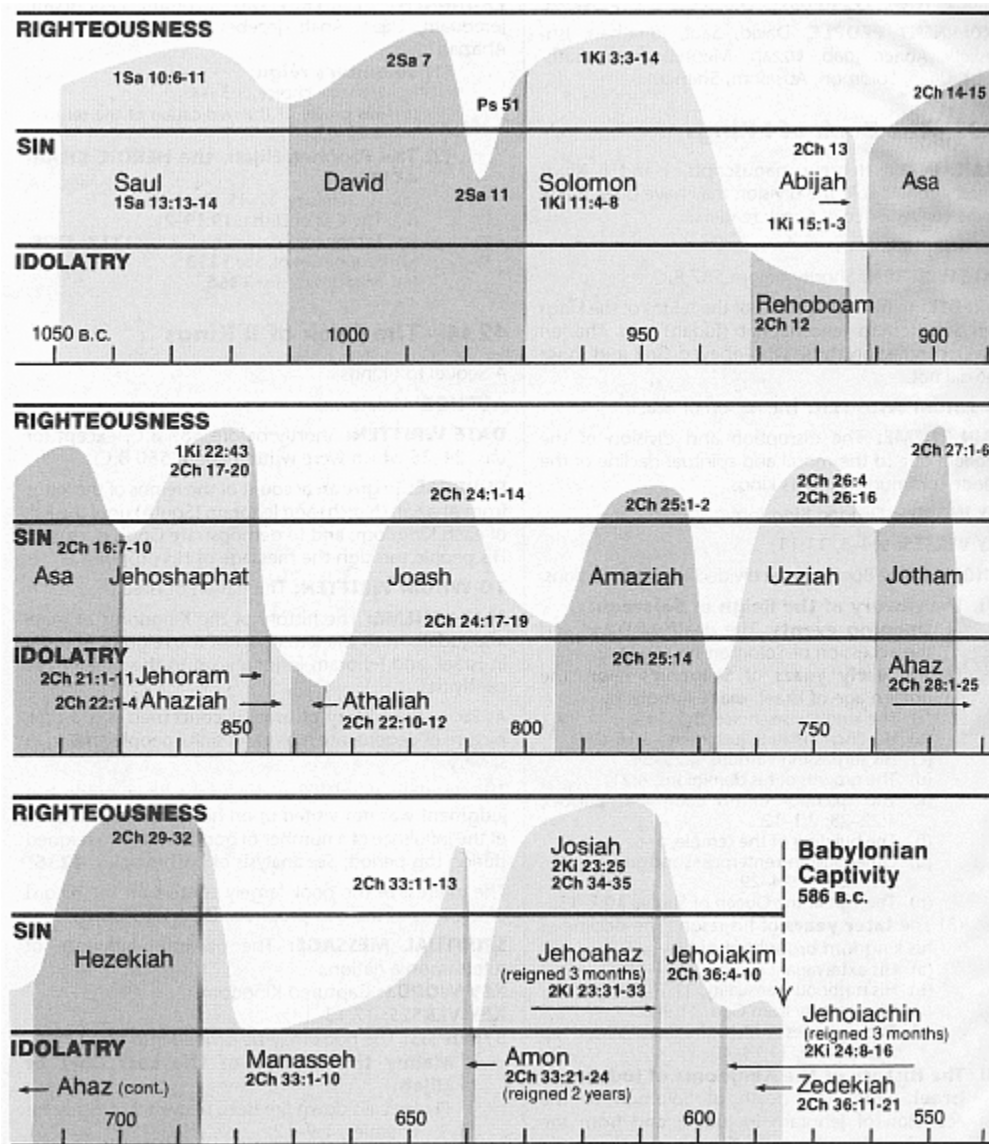
## **Chart: Primary Causes of the Babylonian Captivity**

The diagram portrays the moral heights and depths in the lives of the kings of Judah, and these patterns were followed by their people—leading to the downfall of the kingdom.

Kings such as David, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah were spiritual giants in spite of their defects.

Because of these rulers, the nation was saved from destruction for a long period.

But a large majority of the kings, as shown in the drawing, did not live on the high plane of righteousness but descended into gross sins and idolatry, which brought on them divine judgments and ended in the captivity in Babylon.



Thompson Chain Reference Bible.