

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME TWO  
THE STORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE—A SURVEY OF JOSHUA—ESTHER  
2 KINGS: FROM COMPROMISE TO CAPTIVITY  
A SURVEY OF 2 KINGS



### The Heart of the Matter

Second Kings revolves around a principle of life that not even God violates: persistent sin may be forgiven, but its consequences cannot be erased. The book of 2 Kings plays out this truth on a national scale, as the newly divided nation of Israel faltered time and again in its commitment to God's plan for them. Where they were to be a light to the world, they instead wallowed in the darkness of the surrounding people. The few faithful followers of God during this time struggled against the tide of sin and rebellion. Nonetheless, they saw their nation fall to outside powers and watched their people—who knew better from the beginning—endure judgment. Let's trace Israel and Judah's slow slide into exile, asking ourselves along the way how we would react in the face of such a strong opposition to God's will and ways.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Background Information

Second Kings is a direct continuation of 1 Kings. The end of 1 Kings portrays the nation of Israel in dire circumstances due to their sin. Second Kings continues to trace that history until the inevitable judgment that came as a result of their rebellion against God.

#### 2. From Bad to Worse

After beginning with a focus on the northern kingdom (chapters 1–10), 2 Kings divides its focus between north and south (11–17). Once the Assyrians forced the northern kingdom into exile, the book concludes with a focus on the southern kingdom until their exile to Babylon (18–25).

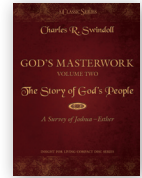


### Starting Your Journey

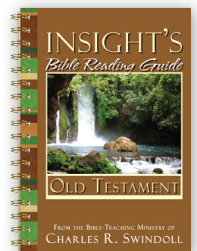
What if your nation is in its final days of stability or influence in its region or the world? Could it be that you will be called upon in your sphere of influence to be as a prophet of old, to speak the truth to those without hope?



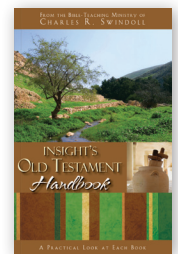
### Tools for Digging Deeper



**God's Masterwork  
Volume Two  
The Story of God's  
People—A Survey  
of Joshua—Esther**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
CD series



**Insight's Bible Reading  
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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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# SECOND KINGS

	Northern Kingdom Israel	Both Kingdoms (Alternating)	Southern Kingdom Judah
	CHAPTERS 1-10	CHAPTERS 11-17	CHAPTERS 18-25
<b>Northern Prophets</b>	Elijah Elisha	Jonah Amos Hosea	
<b>Southern Prophets</b>		Obadiah Joel Micah Isaiah	Nahum Zephaniah Jeremiah Habakkuk
<b>Northern Kings</b>	Ahaziah to Hoshea		
<b>Southern Kings</b>		Jehoram to Zedekiah	
<b>Key Chapters</b>	17 and 25		
<b>Theme</b>	God is patient, but He does not allow persistent sin to go unpunished.		
<b>Key Verses</b>	17:22-23		
<b>Christ in 2 Kings</b>	Foreshadowed in the faithfulness of some Judean kings; seen in the healing ministry and compassion of Elisha		

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**A CHART OF THE KINGS OF "ISRAEL" AND "JUDAH"**

**The Kingdom of "Israel"**  
**(NORTH)**

Jeroboam Nadab Baasha Elah Zimri Omri Ahab Ahaziah Jehoram Jehu Jehoahaz Jehoash Jeroboam II Zachariah Shallum Manahem Pekahiah Pekah Hoshea	Assyrian Captivity (722 BC)
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(All 19 northern sovereigns were evil.)

Civil War Begins  
930 BC

Northern Prophets: Jonah, Amos, Hosea, (plus Elijah and Elisha)

**The Kingdom of "Judah"**  
**(SOUTH)**

Rehoboam Abijah *Asa *Jehoshaphat Jehoram Ahaziah Athaliah *Joash *Amaziah *Uzziah *Jotham Ahaz *Hezekiah Manasseh Amon *Josiah Jehoahaz Jehoiakim Jehoiachin Zedekiah	Babylonian Captivity (586 BC)
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(\*Of 20 sovereigns, only eight were good.)

Southern Prophets: Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum,  
Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Jeremiah

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