OLD TESTAMENT · HISTORY · BOOK 12 OF 66

2 Kings

They would not hear (17:14)

25	Jeremiah	c. 852–561 B.C.	722 · 586
Chapters, 719 Verses	The Prophet	About 290 Years	Samaria and Jerusalem Fall

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

Elisha carries on Elijah's work (1:1–8:15); Jehu ends Ahab's house (8:16–12:21); **Israel** falls to Assyria (13–17); **Judah** falls to Babylon (18–25).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 719 verses.

I 1:1–8:15 · 209 verses

Elijah and Elisha

The whirlwind, the mantle, and Elisha's miracles.

II 8:16–12:21 · 129 verses

Jehu and Joash

Ahab's house ends; a boy king repairs the temple.

III 13–17 · 153 verses

Israel Falls

The last kings of Israel and the fall of Samaria.

IV 18–25 · 228 verses

Judah Falls

Hezekiah, Josiah, and Jerusalem burned.

DATES B.C. (APPROXIMATE)

From Elisha to the Exile

Two falls frame the book: Samaria in 722 B.C. and Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

2:11
c. 852
Elijah taken up; Elisha begins

9:1–10:36
841
Jehu ends the house of Ahab

17:6
722
Samaria falls to Assyria

19:35
701
Sennacherib's army struck down

22:8
622
The book of the law found

23:29
609
Josiah slain at Megiddo

25:8–10
586
Jerusalem and the temple burned

25:27
c. 561
Jehoiachin released in Babylon

2 KINGS 5

Naaman the Leper

A great Syrian captain learns that God's healing comes by humble obedience, not by riches or rank.

5:2–3
A Little Maid
A captive girl points him to the prophet

5:10
Go Wash
"Wash in Jordan seven times"

5:11–12
Wroth
Naaman wants a grander cure

5:14
Clean
"His flesh came again like … a little child"

> *"Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."*
>
> 2 Kings 5:15 (KJV)

Jesus said, "Many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian" (Luke 4:27).

Elisha and the Kings

MAP

Elisha and the Kings

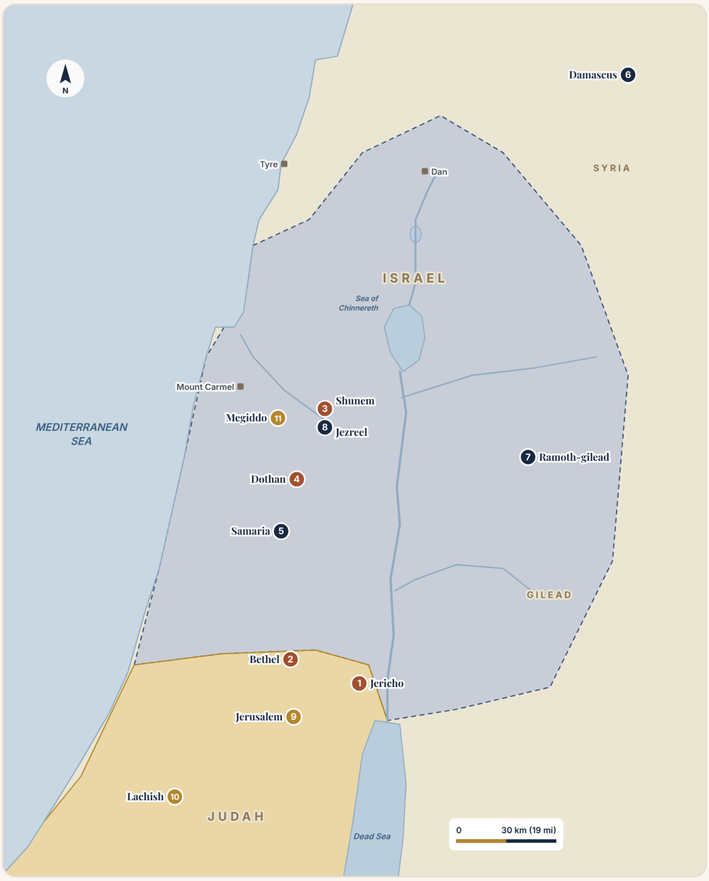
The places of Elisha and the kings of Israel and Judah. Rust markers belong to Elisha, navy to Israel and Syria, and gold to Judah. The numbers match the cards below.

2 KINGS 2–23

Elisha and the Kings

Israel and Judah from Elisha to Josiah

c. 852–609 B.C. · Borders approximate



Elisha — Chapters 2–8

Israel and Syria — Chapters 5–17

Judah — Chapters 11–25

Judah (gold), Israel (blue) — The two kingdoms

"Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

2 KINGS 6:16 (KJV)

Borders and sites are approximate.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 2:4–22

Jericho

Elisha. Elijah is taken up beyond Jordan; Elisha heals the spring.

2 2:23–25

Bethel

Elisha. The young men who mock the prophet are judged.

3 4:8–37

Shunem

Elisha. The Shunammite's son is raised to life.

4 6:13–17

Dothan

Elisha. The mountain full of horses and chariots of fire.

5 6:24–7:20; 17:5–6

Samaria

Israel and Syria. Siege and famine, then plenty; taken by Assyria after three years.

6 5; 8:7–15

Damascus

Israel and Syria. Home of Naaman the leper; Hazael made king of Syria.

7 9:1–13

Ramoth-gilead

Israel and Syria. A young prophet anoints Jehu king over Israel.

8 9:14–37

Jezreel

Israel and Syria. Jehu slays Joram and Jezebel, as Elijah had said.

9 11–12; 18–20; 25

Jerusalem

Judah. Joash saved; Hezekiah delivered; the city burned in 586 B.C.

10 18:14–17; 19:8

Lachish

Judah. Sennacherib's camp; Hezekiah sends tribute.

11 23:29–30

Megiddo

Judah. Josiah is slain by Pharaoh-nechoh.

2 KINGS 2–8

Elisha's Ministry

Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit, and God used him in mercy to kings and to ordinary people alike.

1 2:9–14

The Mantle

"Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" The Jordan parts again.

2 4:1–7

The Widow's Oil

The oil flows until every vessel is full.

3 4:32–37

The Shunammite's Son

The child is raised to life.

4 4:38–44

Death in the Pot

The pottage healed; a hundred men fed with twenty loaves.

5 6:1–7

The Axe Head

"The iron did swim."

6 6:15–17

Chariots of Fire

"LORD, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see."

> *"Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."*
> 2 Kings 6:16 (KJV)

2 KINGS AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 6

Jehu and Joash, Why Israel Fell, Hezekiah Trusts the LORD

2 KINGS 9–12

Jehu and Joash

God judged the house of Ahab, as Elijah had foretold, and preserved the line of David through a hidden child.

JEHU IN ISRAEL	JOASH IN JUDAH
Anointed king by a son of the prophets 9:6	**Hidden six years in the house of the LORD** 11:3
Jezebel thrown down at Jezreel 9:33–37	**Crowned at seven: “God save the king”** 11:12
Destroys Baal out of Israel 10:28	**Repairs the house of the LORD** 12:4–15
“Took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD” 10:31	**Did right “all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him”** 12:2

2 KINGS 17

Why Israel Fell

Chapter 17 explains the fall of Samaria in God’s own terms.

17:7
They Sinned Against the LORD
The God who brought them out of Egypt.

17:13
God Sent Warnings
“By all the prophets, and by all the seers.”

17:14
They Would Not Hear
They “hardened their necks” like their fathers.

17:16
They Made Idols
Two calves, a grove, and the worship of Baal.

> *“Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of His sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.”*
>
> 2 Kings 17:18 (KJV)

2 KINGS 18–20

Hezekiah Trusts the LORD

When the Assyrians surrounded Jerusalem, Hezekiah spread the letter before the LORD.

1 · 18:4
Idols Broken
Even the brasen serpent, called Nehushtan.

2 · 18:5
He Trusted
“He trusted in the LORD God of Israel.”

3 · 19:14–19
The Letter
Spread before the LORD in His house.

4 · 19:35
The Angel of the LORD
185,000 Assyrians smitten in one night.

5 · 20:5–6
Fifteen Years
“I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears.”

6 · 20:17
A Warning
All shall be carried to Babylon.

> *“O LORD our God, I beseech Thee, save Thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that Thou art the LORD God, even Thou only.”*
>
> 2 Kings 19:19 (KJV)

Carried Away Captive

MAP

Carried Away Captive

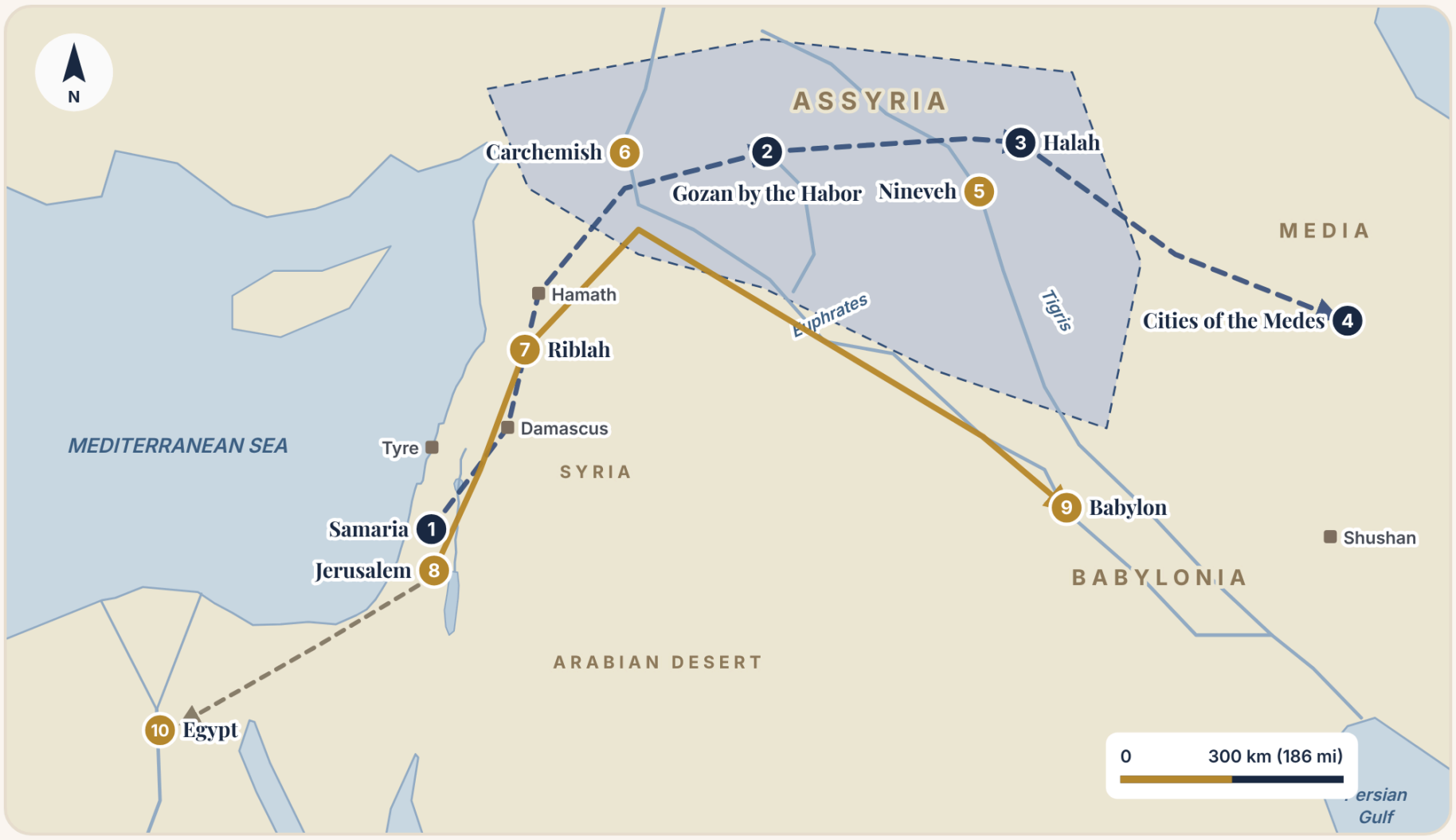
Israel was carried to Assyria in 722 B.C.; Judah was carried to Babylon in 597 and 586 B.C. Navy markers belong to Israel and gold to Judah.

2 KINGS 17; 24–25

Carried Away Captive

Israel to Assyria, Judah to Babylon

Samaria 722 B.C. · Jerusalem 597 and 586 B.C. · Routes approximate



Israel carried to Assyria
722 B.C. (17:6)

Judah carried to Babylon
597 and 586 B.C. (24:14–16; 25:11)

The remnant flees to Egypt
After Gedaliah is slain (25:26)

The Assyrian heartland
Nineveh, Halah and Gozan

"So Judah was carried away out of their land."

2 KINGS 25:21 (KJV)

Routes follow the usual roads along the Euphrates; Halah and some other sites are approximate.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 17:5–6

Samaria

Israel. Taken by the king of Assyria in 722 B.C. after a three-year siege.

2 17:6

Gozan by the Habor

Israel. Israel placed "in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan."

3 17:6; 18:11

Halah

Israel. One of the places of Israel's captivity in Assyria.

4 17:6

Cities of the Medes

Israel. Israel also placed "in the cities of the Medes."

5 19:36–37

Nineveh

Judah. Sennacherib returns home and is slain in the house of his god.

6 23:29; 24:7

Carchemish

Judah. Babylon takes all from "the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates."

7 23:33; 25:6–7, 20–21

Riblah

Judah. Zedekiah blinded; Judah's leaders judged by Nebuchadnezzar.

8 24:10–16; 25:8–11

Jerusalem

Judah. Jehoiachin taken in 597 B.C.; the city and temple burned in 586 B.C.

9 24:15; 25:11, 27–30

Babylon

Judah. Judah carried away; Jehoiachin later lifted up out of prison.

10 23:34; 25:26

Egypt

Judah. Jehoahaz taken there; the people flee there after Gedaliah's murder.

Josiah and the Fall of Jerusalem

2 KINGS 22–23

Josiah and the Book of the Law

A king who turned to the LORD with all his heart when God's word was found again.

22:1
Age Eight
Josiah begins to reign

22:8
The Book Found
In the house of the LORD

23:3
The Covenant
Renewed before the LORD

23:21–23
The Passover
None like it since the judges

2 KINGS 23:25
No King Like Him
"And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him."

2 KINGS 24–25

The Fall of Jerusalem

The last four kings of Judah would not turn, and the LORD did what He had said.

23:31–34
Jehoahaz
Three months; taken to Egypt by Pharaoh-nechoh.

23:36–24:7
Jehoiakim
Serves Nebuchadnezzar, then rebels.

24:8–16
Jehoiachin
Three months; taken to Babylon with ten thousand captives.

24:17–25:7
Zedekiah
Rebels; Jerusalem besieged, taken, and burned.

The book ends with hope: Jehoiachin, a son of David, is lifted up out of prison in Babylon and eats at the king's table "all the days of his life" (25:27–30).

Christ in 2 Kings, Key Themes and Key Verse

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in 2 Kings

The prophets, the kings and the exile all prepare the way for the coming King.

2:11 · ACTS 1:9–11

Taken Up into Heaven

Elijah went up by a whirlwind; Christ ascended and will come again.

4:42–44 · JOHN 6:9–13

Bread for the Many

Elisha fed a hundred men with twenty loaves; Jesus fed five thousand with five.

5 · LUKE 4:27

Grace to the Gentiles

Naaman the Syrian was cleansed; the gospel goes to all nations.

25:27–30 · MATTHEW 1:11–12

David's Line Preserved

Jechonias (Jehoiachin) is named in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

God Keeps His Word

Every warning and promise of the prophets comes true.

10:10; 24:2

Sin Has Consequences

Israel and Judah reap what they sowed.

17:7–18

God Is Patient

He sent prophets again and again.

17:13

Trust in the LORD

Hezekiah spreads the letter before Him.

18:5; 19:14–19

The Power of God's Word

Josiah's heart is tender when the law is read.

22:11–19

Mercy to All

A Syrian leper and a widow are helped.

4:1–7; 5:14

Unseen Protection

They that be with us are more.

6:16–17

No God But the LORD

Now I know there is no God in all the earth but in Israel.

5:15; 19:19

Hope Beyond Judgment

David's line survives in exile.

25:27–30

KEY VERSE

"Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God."

2 Kings 17:14 (KJV)