

**WEEK 7: 2 KINGS**

**DAY 1: ELISHA THE PROPHET**

**2 Kings 1 to 13**

1. Last week we looked at the book of 1 Kings. We learned that the united kingdom was divided into two kingdoms. There was the southern kingdom of Judah. There was the northern kingdom of Israel. All the kings of the northern kingdom were evil. The kings and the people worshipped idols.

What two things did God help Elijah show to the people of the northern kingdom?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Elijah showed the people that Baal was a false god. He showed them that the Lord God is the true God.

Today we begin to look at the book of 2 Kings. In this book we learn about another prophet called Elisha. 2 Kings tells us much about the kings of the southern kingdom. This book tells us how God punished the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. We shall learn that Elisha followed Elijah as prophet in the northern kingdom.

- (1) God gave the prophet Elisha a double share of His Spirit.
- (2) Elisha used God's gift to do miracles to help people.

Take your Bible and read 2 Kings 2:9 to 15. Which prophet is named first in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Elijah is named first. We learned much about Elijah in 1 Kings. Now we will learn about Elisha from the book of 2 Kings. Look carefully at these two names:

Eli-j-ah            Eli-s-ha

The names are almost alike. Only their middle letters are different. You know that j comes before s in the A-B-C's. This will help you remember that Elijah comes before Elisha in the Bible. We read about Elijah in 1 Kings. We read about Elisha in 2 Kings.

To the people of which kingdom did God send the prophets Elijah and Elisha?

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4. God sent both prophets to the northern kingdom. Before Elijah died, God told him to do certain things. Here is one thing God told Elijah to do.

1 Kings 19:16:

... and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

From this verse who was to follow Elijah as prophet? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Elisha was to follow Elijah as prophet in the northern kingdom.

1 Kings 19:19:

So he (Elijah) departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his mantle (or coat) upon him.

When Elijah threw his coat on Elisha, this was a sign. Elisha knew that God was calling him to serve Him. He left the work of farming and went with Elijah.

In which book of history do we read about the prophet Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. We read about Elijah in 1 Kings. But in 2 Kings we read about Elisha. While Elisha was with Elijah he saw him do many miracles. God sometimes gives power to do miracles. You know that the Lord Jesus did miracles. He healed people. He raised people from the dead. Jesus was God and had this power. Read about the last miracle Elijah did.

2 Kings 2:8:

Then Elijah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water (of the River Jordan) and the water was parted to the one side and the other, till the two of them (Elijah and Elisha) could go over on dry ground.

Where did Elijah get the power to do this miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Elijah got his power from God. You remember that in the time of Joshua God stopped the River Jordan. The people of Israel walked across on dry ground. Now God was ready to take Elijah to heaven.

2 Kings 2:9:

When they had crossed Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "I pray you let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

From this verse what did Elisha ask for that showed he wanted God's power in his life? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Elisha asked for a double share of Elijah's spirit. The spirit which he was talking about was God's Spirit in Elijah. Elijah told Elisha that he must see Elijah taken away. Then he would get what he wanted. Elisha followed Elijah closely.

2 Kings 2:11-12:

And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father!"

Did Elisha see Elijah taken to heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think that God gave Elisha a double share of His spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Elisha saw Elijah being taken up to heaven. God kept His promise which was spoken by Elijah. God gave Elisha a double share of His Spirit. The eldest son in a family of Israel inherited a double share. Elisha called Elijah his father. He was asking for the double share.

In which kingdom did Elisha follow Elijah as prophet? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Elisha followed Elijah as God's prophet in the northern kingdom. God gave Elisha a double share of His Spirit. Elisha used God's power to do miracles to help people. God wanted the people to know that He is the true God.

In your Bible read 2 Kings 2:13 to 15. Now who was able to do miracles with God's gift? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Elisha was able to do miracles. He took Elijah's coat and struck the waters of the Jordan. The waters divided as they did for Elijah. Elisha crossed over on dry ground. The sons of the prophets were young prophets who were learning. They saw what Elisha did. Read again what they said.

2 Kings 2:15:

... "The spirit of Elijah (or God's Spirit) rests on Elisha."

What did God give Elisha a double share of? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. God gave Elisha a double share of His Spirit. God would use His prophet to do many miracles to help people. He helped the people of Jericho.

2 Kings 2:19-21:

Now the men of the city (Jericho) said to Elisha, "...this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful." He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." ... he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it, and said, "Thus says the Lord, I have made this water wholesome (or good).

From these verses who used God's gift to help people? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Elisha did this. God wanted His prophet to show the people that He is the true God. Only God's power could make the waters good. Many people came to Elisha for help. He had a double share of God's Spirit.

In your Bible read 2 Kings 4:1 to 7. Whose power did Elisha use to do miracles to help people?  
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14. Elisha used God's power to do many miracles. Try to find time to read the rest of 2 Kings chapter 4. You will find that Elisha used God's power to raise a dead child. He also made poisoned food good. Later he used God's power to feed 100 men with just a few loaves of bread.

What did God give Elisha so he could do miracles to help people?  
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15. God gave Elisha a double share of His Spirit. Elisha used God's power to help many in the northern kingdom. He did many things that could only be done by God's power.

What do we call the things Elisha did by God's power? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. Elisha used God's power to do miracles to help people. You can read about 13 different miracles in 2 Kings chapters 2 to 13. These miracles showed that the Lord God is the true God.

Elisha followed Elijah as prophet in which kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Elisha followed Elijah in the northern kingdom. God wanted the people to know that the Lord God is the true God. Tomorrow we shall see that the people refused to listen. They continued to worship false gods. We shall see how God had to punish them.

Elisha followed Elijah as prophet in the northern kingdom. What did God give Elisha?  
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What did Elisha use God's gift to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. God gave Elisha a double share of His Spirit. Elisha used God's gift to do miracles to help people.

Does God give His Spirit to His servants today? \_\_\_\_\_

What good things does God give His servants power to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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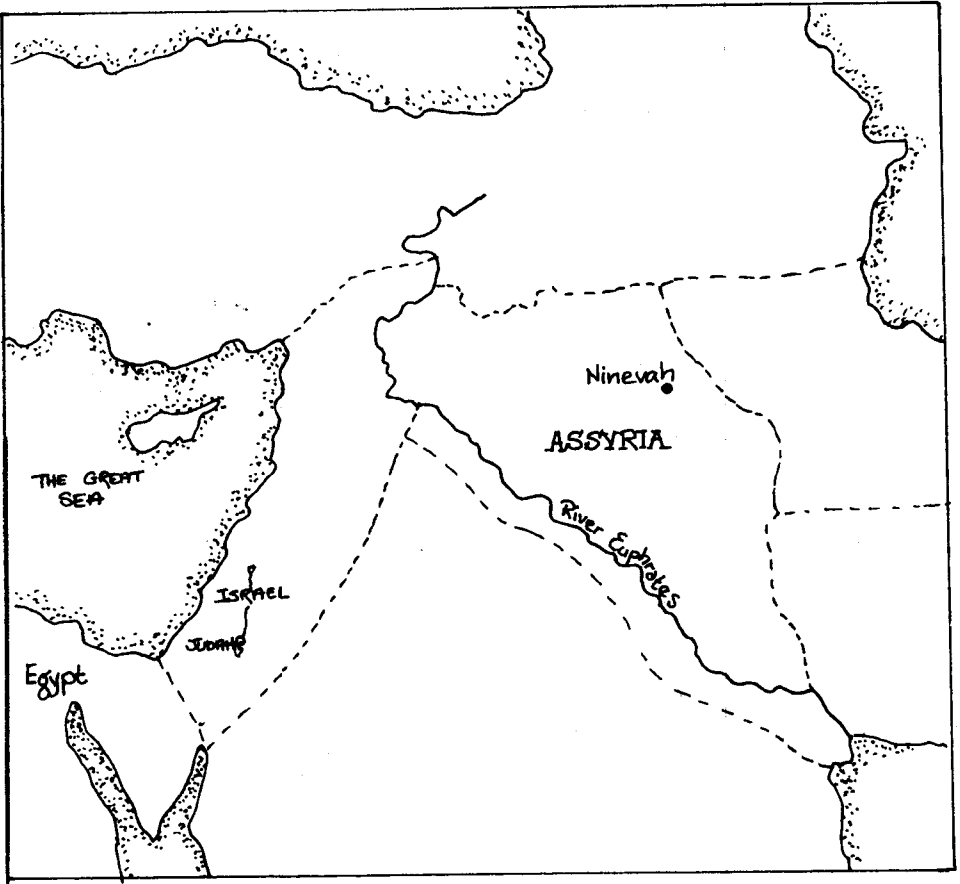
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19. Be ready to share your answers in class.

Elisha followed Elijah as prophet in the northern kingdom. What did God give Elisha?  
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What did Elisha use God's gift to do? \_\_\_\_\_



**The People of Israel Were Taken to Assyria**

**WEEK 7: 2 KINGS**

**DAY 2: THE END OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM**

**2 Kings 14 to 17**

1. We are looking at the book of 2 Kings. We learned that Elisha followed Elijah as prophet in the northern kingdom.

What did God give to Elisha? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Elisha use God's gift to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. God gave Elisha a double share of His Spirit. Elisha used God's gift to do miracles to help people.

But the people of the northern kingdom refused to obey the true God. They continued to worship Baal and other false gods. You remember that all the kings of the northern kingdom were evil. Today we shall learn that God punished the people of the northern kingdom

God punished the people of the northern kingdom by letting them be taken to Assyria.

In your Bible read 2 Kings 17:5 to 14. Read verse 5 again. In this verse, the king of what country came to Samaria in the land of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. It was the king of Assyria. Samaria was the main city of the northern kingdom. You remember that Jeroboam was the first king of the northern kingdom. We find the same words about him in 1 and 2 Kings. The words are: Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

2 Kings 17:21-22:

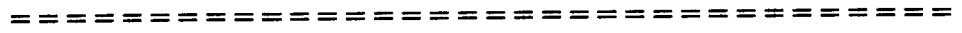
... And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord and made them commit great sin. The people of Israel walked in all the sins which Jeroboam did; they did not depart from them.

From these verses, who walked in all the sins which Jeroboam did? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. It was the people of Israel. This means the people of the northern kingdom. They walked in all the sins which Jeroboam did. They continued to worship idols. God had promised to bless Jeroboam and the people. But He also warned them that if they disobeyed, He would punish them. They refused to obey. They sinned by worshipping Baal and other idols. God had to punish them.

Think about the time of the judges. What kind of nations did God use to punish His people?  
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5. In the time of the judges the people forgot God. They worshipped idols. God used heathen nations to punish them. Under the kings, the people of the northern kingdom still sinned against God. This is what God said He should do to punish them.

1 Kings 14:15:

the Lord will smite Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and root up Israel out of this good land which he gave to their fathers, and scatter them beyond the Euphrates (a river).

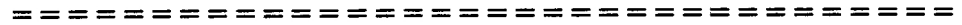
Beyond the Euphrates was the country of Assyria. On the map facing this page, find Assyria. Draw a line under its name.



6. Assyria is the land to which God said He would take the people. He would use the heathen people, the Assyrians, to punish Israel. God waited 200 years for Israel to repent. He sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to warn them. The people of the northern kingdom refused to listen to God's message.

Why did God have to punish the people of the northern kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. The people of the northern sinned against God. They continued to disobey Him. They worshipped idols. God said that He would punish them. He would let a heathen nation take them away. Their kingdom would end. Read about three of the wicked kings.

2 Kings 15:17-18:

...Menahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel .. he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart all his days from all the sins of Jeroboam.

2 Kings 15:27-28:

...Pekah ... did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

2 Kings 17:1-2:

...Hoshea ... did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

What do these verses say the kings of the northern kingdom did in the sight of the Lord?

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8. The kings did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. The people also sinned against God. God said He would use a heathen nation to punish them. God would let the Assyrians take the people of the northern kingdom. They would take them as prisoners to Assyria. The end of the northern kingdom was near.

In which book of history do we read how God punished the people of the northern kingdom?

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9. The book of 2 Kings tells us about this. The king of Assyria attacked the northern kingdom.

2 Kings 15:29:

In the days of Pekah king of Israel Tiglathpileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abelbethemaacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried the people captive (as prisoners) to Assyria.

From this verse, where were some of the people of the northern kingdom taken to?

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10. People from some of the cities were taken to Assyria. Assyria was a heathen nation. The Assyrians treated their prisoners badly. When they conquered a nation they carried away the people. This was Israel's punishment. The northern kingdom was ending. The people were being taken to Assyria.

Who said He would punish the people of Israel in this way? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. The people of Israel sinned against God. God said He would punish them. The king of Assyria came a second time.

2 Kings 17:5-6:

Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land (the northern kingdom of Israel) ... and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria.

As god allowed the heathen nation of Assyria to punish Israel, what did the king do to the people?

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12. The king of Assyria carried them away. God punished the people of the northern kingdom.

2 Kings 17:7:

And this was so, because the people of Israel sinned against the Lord their God.

Why did God let the people of the northern kingdom be taken to Assyria?

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13. It was because the people sinned against God They forgot Him and worshipped idols. God let them go on for a long time. Then He punished them. Only a few escaped being taken to Assyria.

To which kingdom did these people belong? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. They belonged to the northern kingdom. They were taken away from their own land. There was no longer a northern kingdom of Israel. The people were prisoners in a strange land. God had warned them many times that this would be their punishment. But they did not listen.

When you study the story of some tribes today, you can see this happening. One tribe in Malawi had many good prophets. They tried to get their people to do good. But evil men led the people into witchcraft. Today this tribe is still troubled by much witchcraft. Perhaps you see good leaders helping your people today. Perhaps you also see evil men who deceive people and keep them in darkness. The church should be calling people to do right.

To what country were the people of the northern kingdom taken? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. They were taken to Assyria. The king of Assyria brought other people to live in the northern kingdom. Many of these heathen people lived in Samaria. Later they married the very poor people who had been left in Israel. These mixed people came to be called Samaritans. The Samaritans were hated by the Jews even in New Testament times.

The people of the northern kingdom sinned against God. How did God punish them?  
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16. They were taken to Assyria. Sin must be punished even today. Sometimes God lets us go on in sin for a long time. But the price of sin must be paid. Sometimes we see people in sin. They seem to be having a good time instead of suffering for sin. We must remember that that is not the end of the matter.

Your people need to be reminded of God's love. They also need to be reminded that God keeps His word. Prepare a sermon to preach about the people of the northern kingdom. Take your thoughts from the lessons of the last few days. On another paper write the big things you will say. Preach the sermon if you can. Bring your paper to class.

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17. The people of the northern kingdom sinned against God. How did God punish them?  
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**WEEK 7: 2 KINGS**

**DAY 3: GOOD KING HEZEKIAH OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM**

**2 Kings 18 to 23**

1. We are learning many things about the history of God's people. We are now looking at the second period called the Rule of Kings. We have seen that the kingdom was divided. There was the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

The people of the northern kingdom sinned against God. How did God punish them?

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2. God let them be taken to Assyria. There was no longer a northern kingdom of Israel. There was only one kingdom left. It was the southern kingdom of Judah. This is what happened to the kingdoms.

2 Kings 17:18-19:

Therefore God was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of His sight; none was left but the tribe of Judah only. Judah also did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced.

Read the verses again carefully. Who besides Israel did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God?

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3. The people of Judah also sinned. The people of the southern kingdom disobeyed God's commands. Many of the kings of Judah were evil. But a few good kings did rule in the southern kingdom. We shall learn about one of the good kings today.

- (1) Hezekiah who ruled the southern kingdom after Ahaz was a good king.
- (2) He helped the people of Judah to worship the true God.

As we learned, what kind of kings ruled in the northern kingdom of Israel?

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4. All the kings who ruled the northern kingdom were evil. But Hezekiah ruled the southern kingdom. He was a good king.

2 Kings 18:1-3:

... Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign . . . And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

Whose son was Hezekiah? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz. Ahaz was an evil king. He was a king of Judah but he did as the kings of Israel did.

2 Kings 16:2-3:

...he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God, as his father David had done, but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He (Ahaz) even burned his son as an offering.

Another son, Hezekiah, became king after his father Ahaz. He was not like his father. Hezekiah trusted and worshipped the true God. He helped the people of Judah worship the true God.

Open your Bible and read some of the things that Hezekiah did. Read 2 Kings 18:3-8. Was Hezekiah a good king or a bad king? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Some of the kings who ruled the southern kingdom were evil. They led the people to forsake the true God and worship idols. But Hezekiah was a good king. We have read some of the good things he did. He took away the high places where idols were worshipped. He cut down Asherah, a heathen idol. He broke up the snake that Moses had made because people were worshipping it. Hezekiah was helping his people worship the true God.

Hezekiah was a good king. What kingdom did he rule? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Hezekiah ruled the southern kingdom of Judah. He loved and trusted God.

2 Kings 18:6-7:

For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments which the Lord commanded Moses. And the Lord was with him; wherever he went forth, he prospered.

What kind of king was Hezekiah? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. He was a good king. You remember that the people of the northern kingdom sinned. God punished them. They were taken to Assyria. The Assyrians now came and attacked the kingdom of Judah. They shouted lies to the people of Judah. These are some of the words of the king of Assyria.

2 Kings 18:32-33:

... do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, The Lord will deliver us. Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

Who was the good king who ruled the southern kingdom of Judah at this time?

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9. The good king was Hezekiah. The king of Assyria told lies about the true God. He wanted to make the people of Judah afraid. He wanted them to leave the true God. Hezekiah was helping his people trust and worship God. Read what he did.

2 Kings 19:1-2:

When King Hezekiah heard it, he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord. And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah.

What king do you think would pray and ask a prophet for help? Is it a good king or an evil king? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. I am sure you agree that a good king would do these things. Hezekiah did not trust himself. He did not trust in false gods. He led his people in the right way. The book of 2 Kings shows that he was a good king.

Hezekiah helped the people of Judah to worship whom? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. He helped them to worship the true God. You remember that God gave His messages through prophets. Isaiah was a very good prophet. He is known as one of the Big Prophets. This is because God gave him many messages for His people. Hezekiah wanted a message from God to tell him what to do. This is the message Isaiah gave him.

2 Kings 19:6-7:

... 'Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled (or cursed) me. Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'

Who did Hezekiah help to worship the true God? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Hezekiah helped the people of Judah. He received the words from God through Isaiah. Isaiah said that the king and the people of Judah should not be afraid. God, who they trusted, would deliver them. Their enemies, the Assyrians would go away.

What did Hezekiah help the people of Judah to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Hezekiah helped the people of Judah to worship the true God. The king himself trusted God. God answered his prayer. The kingdom of Judah was saved. The Assyrians suddenly returned to their own land.

Which book of history tells us about King Hezekiah? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. We are looking at the book of 2 Kings. We have learned how the northern kingdom of Israel ended. The people were taken to Assyria. This book also tells us about the southern kingdom of Judah. Most of the kings who ruled Judah were also evil. But some were good.

Who was the good king who ruled the southern kingdom of Judah after Ahaz?

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What did he help the people of Judah to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Hezekiah was a good king. He helped the people of Judah to worship the true God. The people of Judah stopped worshipping idols. For a while they worshipped the true God. But when Hezekiah died other evil kings ruled. The people of Judah worshipped idols again. Tomorrow we shall see that God had to punish the people of Judah.

Think of what Hezekiah did to help his people worship God. He took away the idols. He prayed to God. He asked God's prophet to help him. He trusted God.

Write some things a pastor or church leader can do to help people trust God.

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16. Be read to talk about this in class.

Who was the good king who ruled the southern kingdom of Judah after Ahaz?

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What did he help the people of Judah to do? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 7: 2 KINGS**

**DAY 4: THE END OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM**

**2 Kings 23 to 25**

1. We have learned that the northern kingdom of Israel came to an end. One kingdom was left. It was the southern kingdom of Judah.

Who was the good king who ruled the southern kingdom of Judah after Ahaz?

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What did he help the people of Judah to do? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Hezekiah was a good king. He helped the people of Judah worship the true God. Most of the kings who ruled the southern kingdom were evil. Only a few were good. When good kings ruled, the people worshipped the true God. When evil kings ruled, the people forgot. They worshipped idols. The people of Judah continued to sin against God. Today we shall learn that God punished them in two ways.

- (1) They were taken to Babylon.
- (2) The temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed.

After the northern kingdom ended, what kingdom was left? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. It was the southern kingdom of Judah. A few good kings like Hezekiah ruled Judah. But after Hezekiah, Manassen ruled. He was a very evil king. He led the people of Judah into great sin. Hezekiah's grandson, Josiah, was the last good king to rule the southern kingdom. While Josiah ruled, the people worshipped the true God. All the kings who followed him were evil. The people of Judah continued to sin against God. God would have to punish them.

In your Bible read 2 Kings 24:1 to 3.

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4. God sent some heathen nations against Judah. You remember that the northern kingdom was taken away to Assyria. The southern kingdom would also be taken from their land.

2 Kings 23:27:

And the Lord said, "I will remove Judah also out of My sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off (or destroy) this city which I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house (or temple) of which I said, My name shall be there.

Two things would happen to the people of Judah because of their sin. They would be taken away from their own land. Their temple and the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed.

What does God have to do to people who continue to sin against Him?\_\_\_\_\_

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5. God must punish them. God never punishes people without warning them. God had been warning Judah for many years. God had spoken again and again through His prophets. Read one of God's messages through the prophet Isaiah.

2 Kings 20:16-18:

Then Isaiah said, ... Hear the word of the Lord: Behold the days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried away to Babylon. .

From this verse, to what country did Isaiah say Judah would be taken?

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6. Isaiah said they would be taken to Babylon. God would use this heathen nation to punish His people. The people did not listen to God's warnings. God gave another warning through the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 35:13:

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Go and say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will you not receive instruction and listen to my words?

Jeremiah 35:17:

...Behold, I am bringing on Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them and they have not listened.

Who told Jeremiah that he would punish Judah?\_\_\_\_\_

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7. God said He would punish the people of Judah. They would be taken to Babylon. Babylon was on the other side of the Euphrates River, as Assyria was. Babylon was farther south.

The people of Judah were God's people. Why did God allow their enemies from Babylon to come and punish them? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. It was because they continued to sin against God. God said He would have to punish them. He punished them in two ways. The first was that they were taken to Babylon.

In your Bible read 2 Kings 24:10 to 16. Read verse 16 again. In this verse, how many prisoners were taken to Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. In this verse only, 8,000 prisoners were taken. This did not count the king's family and the important men in verse 15. Only the poorest of the people were left in the land.

What is the first way in which God punished the people of Judah?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) The temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed.

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10. The people of Judah were taken to Babylon. This was the way that God punished them. There was also a second punishment.

2 Kings 25:8-10:

... a servant of the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem. And he burned the house of the Lord, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem... And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

From these verses, what did the enemies of Judah destroy first? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. They first destroyed the temple. Then they destroyed the rest of the city. These were two ways God punished the people of Judah.

- (1) They were taken to Babylon.
- (2) Their temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed.

Do you think God was happy to punish His people in this way? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. We know that God is a God of love. He did not want to punish His people. He warned them again and again. God is holy and He hates sin. God He loves the sinner. He is ready to forgive him if he repents. The people of Judah refused to listen to God's warnings. They continued to sin against God.

What happened to the temple and the city of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. The temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed. The beautiful temple which Solomon built was burned and broken. The city walls were broken down.

2 Kings 25:14:

And they took away the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service.

The temple and city were destroyed. In what other way did God punish Judah?

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14. The people of Judah were taken to Babylon. They could no longer live as they wanted to. They must work for the people of Babylon. They could no longer worship God in their temple. They would be told to worship the gods of Babylon. Perhaps you remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were told to worship a golden image in Babylon. There was no temple of the true God in Babylon.

What is the second way God punished the people of Judah?

(1) They were taken to Babylon.

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Their temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed. Seventy years later God allowed them to return. The people of Judah returned from Babylon. They rebuilt the temple. Then they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. We shall see in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Kamau wanted his children to understand the Bible. He believed that the writings would help his children follow God. Each evening Kamau told his family stories from the Bible. He told them about Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, and the other people. One night he told them how the people of Judah were taken to Babylon. When he finished his son said, "But Father, what does this teach us for our lives?"

What would you say if your son asked you this question? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. Be ready to share your answer in class.

The people of Judah continued to sin against God. In what two ways did God punish them?

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_

# WEEK 7: 2 KINGS AND CHRONICLES

## DAY 5: WHY 1 AND 2 CHRONICLES WERE WRITTEN

1. We are learning the story of God's people Israel. We are studying the 12 books of history. The people of the northern kingdom sinned. They were taken to Assyria.

The people of Judah also continued to sin. In what two ways did God punish them?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. God punished the people of Judah in two ways: They were taken to Babylon. The temple and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed.

We first studied the period of history called the Rule of God. Now we have looked at four books which show us the Rule of Kings.

In the proper places write the names of the books we have studied.

Books of History		
Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Rule of God	Rule of Kings	Rule of Foreign Kings
1. _____	4,5 _____	10 Ezra
2. _____	6,7 _____	11 Nehemiah
3. _____	8,9 1&2 Chronicles	12 Esther

3. We have studied Joshua, Judges and Ruth. They tell us about the Rule of God. We have also studied 1&2 Samuel, and 1&2 Kings. They tell us about the rule of kings. 1&2 Chronicles also tell us about the Rule of Kings. We shall begin to look at these two books today. We shall learn:

- (1) 1&2 Chronicles tell many of the same stories as the books of Samuel and Kings.
- (2) 1&2 Chronicles were written for the people of Judah who returned from Babylon.

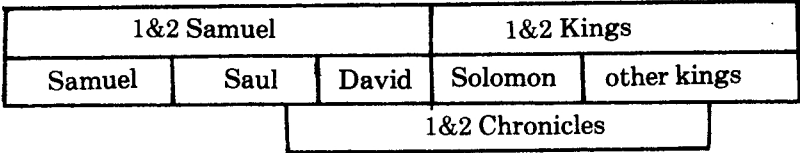
What kind of books are 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles?

4. These are all books of history. They tell about God's people Israel during the Rule of Kings. In 1&2 Samuel we learned about Samuel who did the work of prophet, priest and judge. Then we learned about Saul, the first king of the united kingdom. We also learned about David, the second king. In 1 Chronicles we read many of these same stories.

1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chronicles tell about which period of history?

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5. They tell about the Rule of Kings. 1&2 Kings tell about King Solomon. They tell how the kingdom was divided. In these books we learned about the evil kings of the northern kingdom. We also saw that a few of the kings of the southern kingdom were good. Perhaps this picture will help you remember what is in these books.



Do 1&2 Chronicles tell many of the same stories, or many different stories from those in Samuel and Kings?

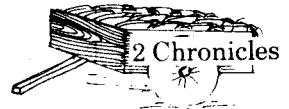
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6. 1&2 Chronicles tell many of the same stories. In 1 Chronicles we read again about King David. In 2 Chronicles we read again about King Solomon. In 2 Chronicles we also read about other kings. They are the kings of the southern kingdom of Judah.

1&2 Chronicles tell about David, Solomon and the kings of the southern kingdom. What other four books tell us many of the same stories? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. These four books are 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings. We can say they are something like a farmer who goes to his fields. He may harvest two or three things at the same time. Perhaps he will have pumpkins, maize, and beans in the same wagon. But if he chooses out the maize, he may have only two wagons full.



What two books of history tell many of the same stories as 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings?

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8. The books which tell the same stories as Samuel and Kings are 1&2 Chronicles. 1&2 Chronicles were written for the people of Judah who returned from Babylon. You remember that the people of Judah sinned against God. One way God punished them was that they were taken to Babylon. They remained there for 70 years. Then God opened the way for them to return to Canaan. They needed to understand what God was doing with his people.

Do you think the people understood more clearly about God after they had been punished for 70 years?

9. It seems that the people learned much during their time in Babylon. They saw that God is the true God. They saw that worshipping idols brings many troubles. They were ready to return to Canaan and not worship idols again. God opened the way for them to return. We shall learn about their return later on. Many of the older people were now dead. They knew all the things God had been doing. But the younger people needed to learn the history of their nation. This is why the books of 1&2 Chronicles were written. God chose someone to write the history. We do not know his name. But he wrote with the understanding of the time spent in Babylon.

Which two books of history tell many of the same stories as the books of Samuel and Kings?  
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10. 1&2 Chronicles tell many of the same stories. But they tell them in a new way. They explain how God was working with His people. They tell more about the families of Judah. They tell more about the temple and the way of worshipping God. They tell more about God's special plan for His people. 1&2 Chronicles were written for the people of Judah who returned from Babylon.

You see that God's people are now called the people of Judah. Write some of the other names given to God's people in the books of history.  
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11. God's people were called: Israel, the Israelites, the children of Israel, the people of Israel, or the Jews. But now it was only the people of Judah who were left. There were a few from the tribe of Benjamin and a few from the tribe of Levi.

Ezra 1:5:

Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, every one whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem.

1&2 Chronicles were written for the people who returned from Babylon. What were they called?  
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12. They were called the people of Judah. You remember that God punished the people of Judah because they sinned. They were taken to Babylon. After 70

years God opened the way for His people to return from Babylon. When they got back to Canaan, they did not want to sin against God again. They needed to know how to worship God. They needed to know that God still had a plan for them. It was through the people of Judah that God planned to send the Lord Jesus. The writer of 1&2 Chronicles was thinking of all these things. He wrote for the people of Judah.

What were the people of Judah doing at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. The people of Judah were returning from Babylon. In 1&2 Chronicles we read about the kings of Judah. We see very little about the kings of the northern kingdom. God promised to send Jesus through the tribe of Judah. That is why the writer of Chronicles tells us so much about Judah. You remember 1&2 Chronicles tell many of the same stories as Samuel and Kings.

For whom were the books of 1&2 Chronicles written? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. They were written for the people of Judah who returned from Babylon. If you wrote "the people of Judah" that is not enough. It was for the ones returning from Babylon. In these books we read much about the temple. The writer explains God's laws about how to worship and serve God. He explains the work of the priests and the Levites in the temple.

What two books of history tell many of the stories as the books of Samuel and Kings? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. These books are 1&2 Chronicles. The writer wanted to help people love and worship the true God.

For whom were these two books written? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. They were written for the people of Judah who returned from Babylon. But they help us too. They help us understand God's plan. They help us see that God loved His people. He wanted them to serve Him. We can see that God kept on working with the few who were faithful to him.

Othiambo says that he does not understand the Old Testament. He does not know why God chose the people of Israel. He does not know why God kept on working with them when they disobeyed. He does not know what difference it makes in his life that God had a chosen people.

What difference do you think it would make in your life if God had not worked with the people of Judah? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Be ready to talk about this in class if there is time.

What two books of history tell many of the same stories as 1&2 Samuel and 1&2 Kings? \_\_\_\_\_

For whom were these two books written? \_\_\_\_\_

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