



# LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

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## FOUR-STEP METHOD

Living Way Bible Study suggests this four-step method:

1. PERSONAL - The student prays for guidance from the Holy Spirit and answers the Personal Application questions at home using only the Bible (no commentaries).
2. SMALL GROUPS – The class meets for an opening and divides into small groups of 8–10 people. The Small Group Leader guides the group through the P.A. questions encouraging each to share their answers and add discussion.
3. THE MESSAGE – The lecture or message is given by a Pastor or lay person who has researched the material and presents the study giving personal experiences and complimenting, but not merely duplicating, the author's comments.
4. THE NARRATIVE – The author's comments or narrative, along with the P.A. questions for the next lesson, are given out at the door as the student leaves the class. At the next class meeting, before answering the P.A. questions, the Small Groups review the author's comments of the last lesson, and share what each has high-lighted as meaningful or important.

The first meeting of the class is an introduction to the study. Since the members of the small groups have no PERSONAL APPLICATION questions to discuss at the first meeting, they may use the time to get acquainted or to tell what they hope to receive by studying this course. At the first meeting the Lecturer presents background information about the course using the INTRODUCTION lesson as a guide.

Each lesson should be stapled together using the number of the lesson in the right hand corner of the page. To keep the lessons in order check the Bible text listed at the top of each page. The PERSONAL APPLICATION questions are attached to the author's narrative and will be the home study for the next class session.

With this 4-step method the student has the opportunity to study the particular section of Scripture covered by this lesson from four different approaches. This emphasizes the Bible text and gives the student a feeling of understanding and ownership for each section studied.



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1 & 2 KINGS  
- edited by Rev. Robert Wolff

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- married to Warren Becher Engelbart; they have three daughters and eight grandchildren.
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- now member of Hope Chapel Lutheran Church, Osage Beach, MO.
- active member of boards and committees. Taught Sunday School, Bible Classes and Vacation Bible School for many years. Sang in the "Lutheran Hour Choir".
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Bibliography for: FIRST SAMUEL

CONCORDIA SELF-STUDY BIBLE

MATTHEW HENRY COMMENTARY with comments of Thomas Scott

POPULAR COMMENTARY OF THE BIBLE: P. E. Kretzmann

THE EXPOSITORS BIBLE COMMENTARY

HALLEY'S COMMENTARY

WIERSEB'S EXPOSITORY OUTLINES ON THE OLD TESTAMENT

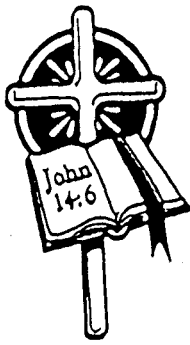
BELIEVER'S BIBLE COMMENTARY

COMPLETE WORKS OF JOSEPHUS

## 2 KINGS

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- Believer's Bible Commentary, William MacDonald
- Win the World, Warren Wiersbe



**LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY**  
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**2 KINGS**

Lois Engelbart

**Introduction**

According to historians, every civilization has progressed through this sequence;

from bondage to spiritual faith  
from spiritual faith to courage  
from courage to freedom  
from freedom to abundance  
from abundance to selfishness  
from selfishness to complacency  
from complacency to apathy  
from apathy to dependence  
from dependence to bondage

As we study 2 Kings, we will see God's chosen people move slowly but steadily through this sequence. During times of spiritual renewal they will climb the ladder and regain lost ground. But gradually sin will take its toll and bondage will become Israel's and Judah's fate.

As we begin the study of 2 Kings it is important to remember that 1 and 2 Kings were one book when first written. They were separated into two books by the translators of the Septuagint. (the Greek translation of the Old Testament)

1 Kings ended with the death of King Ahab. The throne of the northern kingdom of Israel was then given to Ahab and Jezebel's son, Ahaziah.

During the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had greatly declined spiritually. Jezebel, whose father was the high priest of Baal worship, added her father's false god to the many idolatrous gods already being worshiped in Israel.

At the same time, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was being ruled by godly King Jehoshaphat. After Jehoshaphat died, his son Jehoram, ascended Judah's throne and led Judah into the same sins which already prevailed in Israel. Jehoram was not his father's son spiritually.

The Biblical scholar, Matthew Henry, states, "The Holy spirit here sets before our eyes how flourishing kingdoms fall to decay – except they are preserved by God's protection."

The writer of 2 Kings is not known. Jeremiah is thought by Jewish historians to be its' scribe . This would account for silence about Jeremiah in 2 Kings while he is prominently mentioned in Chronicles.

2 Kings contains many interesting accounts:

- the raising of the Shunammite woman's son from death
- The confession of faith by the unnamed Israelite slave girl in Syria
- the healing of Naaman, the Syrian leper
- the death of the evil Queen Jezebel
- the fiery rapture of God's prophet Elijah
- the details of two revivals. One led by King Hezekiah and the other by King Josiah.

Both took place in Judah.

While there are positive events contained in 2 Kings, the negative reign of ungodly kings far outweighs the reign of godly kings. Israel's and Judah's landscapes were filled with false gods.

2 Kings continues the ministries of two notable prophets, Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was a strong fiery prophet who was a loner and preferred living in the wilderness. He was known for his fire and brimstone preaching to God's erring people. Elisha was known for acts of kindness. He fellowshipped with the people while ministering to them. He was a strong, faithful shepherd to Israel's sinful people.

Both Elijah's and Elisha's prophetic ministries were aimed at bringing the Israelites to their knees in repentance and back to Jehovah as their one true God. Both men had but one desire: to serve the Lord God, listen to His voice, and speak His word to God's wayward people.

Although neither prophet brought about reformation or general repentance, undoubtedly many individuals in Israel listened to their prophetic words and returned to worshipping Jehovah.

Elijah's and Elisha's ministries spanned 75, sin filled, years in Israel.

### **Downfall of Israel and Judah**

2 Kings notably portrays the downfall of both Israel and Judah. It contains the history of the last 130 years of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the last 264 years of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 721 B.C., while Judah was not conquered by the Babylonians until 586 B.C. Twelve kings would lead to Israel's demise. Sixteen Kings would rule Judah before it fell.

Spiritually 2 Kings vividly portrays the gradual but inevitable destruction of a society which has fallen from God's grace by turning it's back on the Lord. Rebellion against God always carries dire consequences.

The Israelites cry to have a king rule over them included the phrase, "Then we will be like all the other nations. . ." (1 Sam.8:20A) As you study 2 Kings you will see that God granted their forefather's wish. They, as a nation, became like their heathen neighboring nations.

### **God sends prophets to speak to His wayward people**

During the 264 year span encompassed in 2 Kings, God raised up major and minor prophets to call His people back to Himself. 2 Kings provides the necessary historical background to understand the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Micah, and parts of Ezekiel.

As we examine the lives of Israel's and Judah's leaders, we will become aware of similarities which presently exist in our nation, both good and bad. We will find cause to weep over deplorable, anti-God sentiment which existed in Israel and also exists in our beloved country. 2 Kings also contains reasons to rejoice when godly leaders call for repentance which leads to restoration.

### **Israel's beginning**

Joshua, who led God's people into the promised land, warned the people of Israel, "You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a Holy God; He is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, He will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after He has been good to you." (Joshua 24:19, 20) You will see the fulfillment of Joshua's warning as you study 2 Kings. The land flowing with milk and honey which God had given His chosen people was taken from them inch by inch, sin by sin, idol by idol, and battle by battle.

### **God does not leave His sinful people without a remedy**

It was from the tribe of Judah that God would one day give His chosen people a Savior. Today we are God's chosen people and therefore recipients of the salvation that the Son of David, the sinless Lamb of God won for us on Calvary. His perfect salvation is as old as sin, but as new as tomorrow. Let us rejoice in so great a salvation – in so great a Savior! Jesus the Christ!



## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Heavenly Father, You have told us that Your word is like fire. We pray that as we study Your word it would burn away the dross in our lives so that we can be clean vessels which clearly reflect You to the world in which we live. Amen.

#### 2 Kings 1:1-2

1. Which nation rebelled against Israel, and what had David done to them years earlier? (2 Sam. 8:2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What misfortune had occurred in King Ahaziah's life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who did Ahaziah call for and what did he want them to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Kings 1:3-4

4. Why did the Angel of the Lord personally appear to Elijah and what message did he bring to Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What command of God was Ahaziah directly defying? (Ex. 20:3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Examine your own life and list ways that you also fail to keep this commandment given to us by the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Kings 1:5-8

7. After Elijah had spoken to Ahijah's messengers, what did they do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What question did Ahaziah ask his messengers? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Once Ahaziah heard the description of the man what did he correctly conclude? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Name some reasons Ahaziah was familiar with Elijah. (1 Kg. 18, 1 Kg. 21:18-29) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 2 Kings 1:9-10

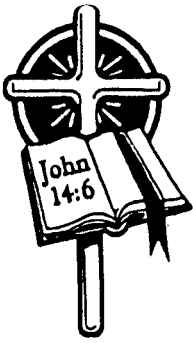
11. How many men were assigned to bring Elijah to King Ahaziah? What does the number of men tell us about Ahaziah's perception of Elijah?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Where was Elijah sitting when King Ahaziah's captain found him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What command did the captain give Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_
14. How did the captain address Elijah and do you think that he believed Elijah was a man of God? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How did Elijah answer the captain and what strong miracle accompanied his answer? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Should the accompanying miracle have been a surprise to King Ahaziah? (1 Kg 18: 36-38) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Kings 1:1-14

17. What did King Ahaziah do next and state your opinion of his action?  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. What did King Ahaziah do a third time and why were the third captain and his 50 men spared? \_\_\_\_\_
19. When Jesus was ministering here on earth, what did James and John want Him to do to a city in Samaria that did not welcome Him? How did Jesus respond to their request? (Lk 9:54-55) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Kings 1:15-18

20. God not only spared the lives of the King's men, what did the Angel of the Lord tell Elijah to do? \_\_\_\_\_
21. When Elijah appeared before King Ahaziah, had Elijah's message changed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. How did God fulfill His word spoken through His prophet Elijah? Who followed Ahaziah as the next King of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_



## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

### 2 Kings

Lois Engelbart

#### Introduction

King Ahab was dead, his life ended during a battle at Ramoth Gilead. The prophet Micaiah's stinging warning, "If you return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me. . . " (1 Kg. 22:28) was no longer being ridiculed. A stray arrow had found its way through Ahab's armor.

King Ahab's son ascended the throne left vacant by Ahab's death. We can only imagine the pride and misplaced happiness which Queen Jezebel felt as her own flesh and blood son, Ahaziah, became Israel's king.

Rarely do two evil people produce a good and godly child. Ahab and Jezebel were no exception. Their son Ahaziah has been called "The most shadowy of the Israelite Kings" (Rawlinson) He is said to have been weak, faithless and deplorably miserable.

Ahaziah's sister was the wife of godly King Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, who was heir to the throne in Judah. King Jehoshaphat's godly life had not influenced his son who was enticed by the excitement found in the ungodly behavior of his in-laws, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

Today many of us face similar situations with our children. These Ahabs and Jezebels are TV stars, x-rated movies, and the internet which become tools of Satan to draw our children into ungodly life styles. Positive, godly influences must be found in our homes and churches.

#### Moab's Revolt (vs. 1)

Chapter 1 begins with a short statement. "... Moab rebelled against Israel." The Moabites had been paying tribute to Israel since David's reign as King. Moab had a new energetic ruler named Mesha who rose up against Israel and successfully broke the heavy yoke inflicted on them for so many years. This account is recorded on "The Moabite Stone" which is the oldest specimen of Hebrew writing. It was discovered by a German archaeologist named Klein in 1878. We will study Moab's revolt further in Chapter 3.

#### Ahaziah's Demise (vs. 2-6)

God's word contained a warning which Ahaziah possibly had not heard since he was not a student of the Biblical scrolls. Moses had written, "When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof." (Deut. 22:8)

It is a matter of conjecture that Ahaziah's fall from the roof of his house was an act of carelessness. It was a bad thing that happened to a bad man. God's protective hand was deemed useless to Ahaziah. Even after his injurious fall he did not seek Jehovah's help. He turned instead to one of his false gods which his parents had taught him to worship, Baal-Zebul.

Baal-Zebul was a Syrian deity which meant "Lord of Life." That is why Ahaziah chose to seek its help. The Jewish worshippers of Jehovah called this false god Baal-Zebub, which meant "Lord of Flies." By the time of Christ, this deity had become a symbol of Satan. (John C. Whitcomb)

As Ahaziah's messengers were on their feet, headed for Ekron, the home of Baal-Zebul, the Lord God was giving instructions to His prophet Elijah. God's word was on Elijah's tongue when he intercepted Ahaziah's messengers. "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?" Then Elijah added God's punitive measure which would happen to Ahaziah, "He . . . will certainly die."

Idoltrous disobedience was not tolerated by God then nor is it tolerated by God now. God's first commandment must always remain first in our lives. "You shall have no other gods before Me." (Ex. 20:3) When God is first in our lives, He brings His peace to fill our hearts and sees us through even the most difficult times. Ahaziah needed God. Because Ahaziah had turned his back on the Almighty, he stood guilty and condemned before Him. Yet God graciously gave Ahaziah time to repent and turn his heart to the only True God. Yes, Ahaziah would die physically, but God did not desire his eternal death. God's Word tells us, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets, but worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Cor. 7:10) Ahaziah had worldly sorrow which led to death.

### **Ahaziah's Reaction to Elijah's Message (vs. 7-10)**

Sadly, Ahaziah's first words were not words of sorrow over his sin, they were angry "search & destroy" mission words. Elijah, who had brought him God's Word was to be found and killed. Ahaziah's godless, faulty reasoning led to the conclusion that if God's messenger were destroyed, God's Word would also be destroyed. Therefore, Ahaziah sent a military captain with 50 men to capture one man of God, Elijah.

Ahaziah's action tells us that he was aware of God's power which dwelt in Elijah. A company of 51 armed men were not needed to capture one ordinary unarmed man. Nor were 51 armed men enough to capture one "man of God," sent by God, protected by God and with the Word of God on his tongue.

It is a matter of interest that Elijah was sitting at the top of a hill. The captain and all 50 of his men were forced to look up to Elijah, God's man.

The captain's command to Elijah was backed by King Ahaziah's authority. "Man of God, the king says 'come down'." Elijah's answer was backed by the King of kings' authority. "If I am a man of God, may fire come down and consume you and your 50 men." God's authority and power collided with man's authority and power and it was not even a close contest. All 51 men lay dead, destroyed by fire from the Almighty, Jehovah.

### **Ahaziah Fails to Listen to God's Strong Word (vs. 11)**

King Ahaziah appeared undaunted, unwilling to accept God's word given to him, unwilling to repent, and not caring for the lives of his men. So he sent another group of 51 men to carry out the same mission which had just taken the lives of 51 men by fire from heaven. Most likely the second captain and company was Ahaziah's "special forces unit" since he was looking to the "arm of flesh" to save him. This time he was certain he would be successful. His special unit would know how to handle a belligerent "Man of God."

Elijah had not changed his position. He was still highly visible, sitting on top of the hill. The captain and his men were again forced to look up to God's prophet. The captain's command most likely came from a louder, more forceful voice than the first. But it was the same command, "Man of God, this is what the king says, 'come down at once'." Two words were added, "at once."

Have you ever called your children to help with a task? The first time you call them you simply ask them to come. The second time you strengthen your word to them with "at once."

Elijah, knowing he was God's man, again called God's judgment down on King Ahaziah's 51 men. Fire from heaven consumed them.

### **Ahaziah Sends a Third Team of Men (vs. 13-14)**

King Ahaziah called a third captain before him and again gave him the same instructions he had previously given, "Bring Elijah to me." As the third captain approached Elijah, he also looked up to Elijah seated on the hilltop. He not only looked up to Elijah, he also looked up to Elijah's God. His request was not "Come down at once," it was "Please have respect for my life and the lives of these 50 men, your servants!" Reverence for Elijah's God earmarked his humble request.

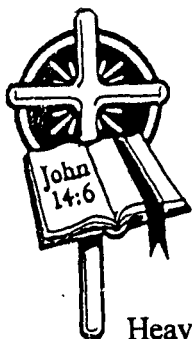
### **God Further Instructs Elijah (vs. 15-18)**

Our God is a merciful God. The third captain appealed to God's mercy and God heard and answered him. No fire consumed them—only God's kindness was shown to this group of men. They had humbled themselves before the Almighty. Fifty-two men now walked down the hill and into the king's presence. Only one man spoke; God's man, Elijah. His message had not changed. It was God's unchangeable word, "You will certainly die."

King Ahaziah died just as God had said through His prophet, Elijah. Since Ahaziah had no son, Joram succeeded him as king.

### **Conclusion**

When Jesus walked this earth He was despised and rejected by many groups of people. On one occasion a Samaritan village rejected Jesus. Two of His disciples, James and John wanted to become "Elijahs." They asked Jesus, "Lord do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" We are told that Jesus turned and rebuked them. (Lk. 9:51-55) Jesus described His mission among us with these words, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." (Jn. 3:17) We are the recipients not of His consuming fire, but of His costly, perfect salvation.



## LIVING WAY BIBLE STUDY

2 Kings 2:1-18  
Lesson 2

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Heavenly Father, You have appointed a special day for each of us to be escorted into Your glorious presence. Thank You that You have made our entry into heaven possible by the sacrificial death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### 2 Kings 2:1-3

1. What information had the Lord given Elijah? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where was Elijah going and what request did he make of Elisha? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Elisha respond and why do you think he responded as he did? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was located at Bethel? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What prophetic utterance did the prophets at Bethel make to Elisha? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Kings 2:4-5

6. What was Elijah's next destination and what did he again tell Elisha? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Both Bethel and Jericho were cities with prophetic schools. Who sent Elijah to both schools and why do you think Elijah was directed to speak with the students before being taken to heaven? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What "word of knowledge" did the young prophets at Jericho also have? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Kings 2:6-7

9. What was Elijah's next destination and what did he again ask Elisha to do? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How does Elisha's reply each time line up with Proverbs 27:10a? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What assembly stayed in the background and watched Elijah and Elisha? What promise is attached to our watching and waiting for the Lord's return? (2 Tim. 4:8) \_\_\_\_\_

12. Had the Lord given them full knowledge of what He was about to do, or simply limited knowledge? State your opinion of why they were waiting?
- 

## 2 Kings 2:8-14

13. What miracle did God perform through Elijah at Jordan's bank? \_\_\_\_\_
- 
14. Once Elijah and Elisha had crossed the Jordan, what question did Elijah ask Elisha? \_\_\_\_\_
15. List some possible answers to Elijah's question which might enter your mind.
- 
- 
16. Do you think the Lord was pleased with Elisha's request? State reasons for your answer. \_\_\_\_\_
17. List reasons stated in 1 Cor. 2:11-16 for desiring to have a double portion of the Holy Spirit. What does the Bible tell us about Stephen? (Acts 6:5,8 & Acts 7:55-56, 59-60) \_\_\_\_\_
- 
18. As Elijah and Elisha were walking together and talking, describe in your own words what happened. \_\_\_\_\_
19. What immediate reaction did Elisha have and why might he have had such a reaction? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Once Elisha had come to his senses, what item did he pick up, how did he use it and what were the results? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## 2 Kings 2:15-18

21. When Elisha had crossed back over the Jordan what request did the company of prophets make and why did they make it? \_\_\_\_\_
- 
22. Elisha said "No" once, but then allowed the 50 men to search for three days. What did they find? What had these same men prophesied earlier that day? What does their action tell us about their trust in God's word? Relate this to your own life. \_\_\_\_\_
-