

## The Book of 2 Kings

# 15

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we continue the narrative of **1 Kings** into its sister book, **2 Kings**. You will recall that the twin books of **1 Kings** and **2 Kings** originally comprised just one book. It was because the single book was too large to be contained easily in one scroll that the compilers of the Septuagint decided to divide the book into two parts. And this was how in our Bibles, the three books – **Samuel, Kings** and **Chronicles** – became six books: **1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles** and **2 Chronicles**.

For this reason, you should start reading **2 Kings** as the continuation of the story that it is. In fact, before you begin reading **2 Kings**, it would be helpful to go back and review **1 Kings 22:51-53** first. Then start with **2 Kings 1:1**.

The story of **2 Kings** is the continuing chronicle of the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah. Although a great variety of events take place in this book, there are four principal periods that provide the backbone to the narrative:

- The ministry and translation of Elijah (**1:1-2:18**)
- The ministry of Elisha (**2:19-13:20**)
- The repair of the Temple under Joash (**12:1-18**)
- The fall of Samaria and the captivity of Israel (**17:7-41**)
- Sennacherib's failed siege of Jerusalem (**18:17-37**)
- The covenantal reforms of Josiah (**23:1-25**)
- The fall of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah (**24:1-25:30**)

This morning we will be reading **2 Kings 1-12** in one sitting. As you read, answer for yourself the following two questions:

- What is the most important lesson that Elisha learned in the events leading up to the taking up of Elijah to heaven? (**2:1-18**)
- Although Jehu was faithful in destroying the worship of Baal, what was he not faithful in doing? (**10:18-31**).

# Memory Verse

But now, by dying to what once bound us,  
we have been released from the law so that we  
serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not  
in the old way of the written code.

Romans 7:6

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!