

The Book of 2 Kings

16

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 finish our study of **2 Kings**, this time reading **chapters 13-25**.

The pivotal event in this section of **2 Kings** is the invasion by Assyria. In **chapter 17**, we read the account of the fall of Samaria and the exile of the northern kingdom, Israel (and a lengthy explanation of why God allowed this to take place).

At this time, Assyria's Sennacherib also besieges Jerusalem, with the intent of destroying Judah just as he had already done to Israel. But the outcome of this siege is totally unexpected, due to the miraculous intervention of God.

Up until the time of Sennacherib's invasion, the record of **Kings** has been following the kingly succession of both Israel and Judah. But from **chapter 18** onwards, only the kings of Judah are chronicled, since the northern kingdom no longer exists.

The book of **2 Kings** ends with the southern kingdom, Judah, also being taken into exile – not by Assyria, but by Babylon, which had subsequently conquered Assyria. The span of time between the exile of the northern kingdom (Israel) and the exile of the southern kingdom (Judah) was about 136 years.

Grab a comfortable chair and let's begin reading **2 Kings 13-25**. As you read, take particular note of how the Bible records the faithfulness (or unfaithfulness) of each king to the Covenant of Sinai. You will notice that although Judah had some good kings (as well as some very wicked kings), there was not one good king (as defined by the Sinai Covenant) in the whole of the northern kingdom's history.

Here are some questions for you to answer for yourself:

- What is the main reason for the fall of the northern kingdom (Israel)? (**17:7-23**).
- Why did God intervene in the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem? (**chapters 18-19**).
- Which king did God regard as the worst of all and why? (**21:1-16**).

Memory Verse

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

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!