



## Pastor's Bible Study

### Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Week Thirty-Seven 2 Kings 10 - 17

#### Review

Literary Period

The Divided Kingdom period of ancient Israel and Judah spanned from approximately 931 BCE to 586 BCE.

#### Review

- We've gotten rid of Ahab and Jezebel – Good riddance!
- But Ahab and Jezebel were only bad – Jehu will reign from 841 to 814 BCE and prove more despicable!
- Jezebel is one of the bad girls in the Bible, but was she the evilest bad girl?

#### Lecture Segment

2 Kings 10-17 covers a tumultuous period in the history of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, focusing primarily on the northern kingdom of Israel. Here's an overview of the key events and themes in these chapters:

##### **Jehu's Reign in Israel (Chapter 10)**

Jehu, anointed as king by Elisha's servant, carries out a brutal purge of Ahab's family and Baal worshippers in Israel. He:

- Executes 70 of Ahab's sons in Samaria
- Kills 42 relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah
- Destroys the temple of Baal and eliminates Baal worship in Israel

However, Jehu fails to fully follow God's laws, continuing the sins of Jeroboam by maintaining the golden calves at Bethel and Dan

##### **Athaliah's Reign and Joash's Coronation (2 Kings 11)**

After the death of King Ahaziah of Judah, his mother Athaliah seized power by murdering the royal family. However, Ahaziah's sister Jehosheba managed to hide the infant Joash, the rightful heir to the throne. Six years later, the high priest Jehoiada orchestrated a coup to overthrow Athaliah and crown Joash as king.

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Key events:

- Athaliah's murderous rise to power
- Joash's rescue and concealment in the temple
- Jehoiada's carefully planned coup
- Joash's coronation at age seven
- Athaliah's execution
- Renewal of the covenant with God and destruction of Baal worship

#### Reigns of Joash and Subsequent Kings (2 Kings 12-16)

These chapters detail the reigns of several kings in both Judah and Israel:

##### Judah:

- Joash (Jehoash): Initially righteous, but later turned away from God
- Amaziah: Mixed record of obedience and disobedience
- Azariah (Uzziah): Generally good king, though he suffered from leprosy
- Jotham: Followed in his father's footsteps
- Ahaz: Wicked king who introduced idolatry

##### Israel:

- Jehoahaz: Evil reign, leading to oppression by Aram
- Jehoash: Some military successes, but continued in idolatry
- Jeroboam II: Long and prosperous reign, but spiritually corrupt
- Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah: Series of short, violent reigns

#### Fall of Israel (2 Kings 17)

This chapter recounts the final downfall of the northern kingdom of Israel:

- Hoshea becomes the last king of Israel
- Assyria besieges Samaria for three years
- Israel is conquered and its people exiled
- The chapter provides a theological explanation for Israel's fall, citing their persistent idolatry and disobedience to God

Throughout these chapters, we see a recurring pattern of kings either following God's ways or turning to idolatry. The consequences of their choices affected not only their personal fates but also the destinies of their kingdoms. The fall of Israel serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of abandoning God's covenant



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#### Conclusion Week 37

- The Southern Kingdom will fall to the Babylonians when they take Jerusalem on August 14, 586
- Northern Kingdom has fallen to the Assyrians in 722

Deuteronomy 4:25 - 31

<sup>25</sup> After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and arousing his anger, <sup>26</sup> I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. <sup>27</sup> The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you. <sup>28</sup> There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. <sup>29</sup> But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>30</sup> When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. <sup>31</sup> For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

Next week:

**Read 2 Kings Chapters 18 through 25**