

# 2 Kings



## Reading the Bible Together

February 2016

### What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

### Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

### 2 Kings : What can we expect?

2 Kings is a selective history of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah running from the reign of King Ahaziah (Israel) and King Jehosaphat (Judah) through to the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians in 722BC and the fall of the southern kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians in 586BC.

It was a time of complex and shifting political power involving the bordering states of Syria, Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia as well as other kingdoms further away such as Egypt, Assyria and Babylon.

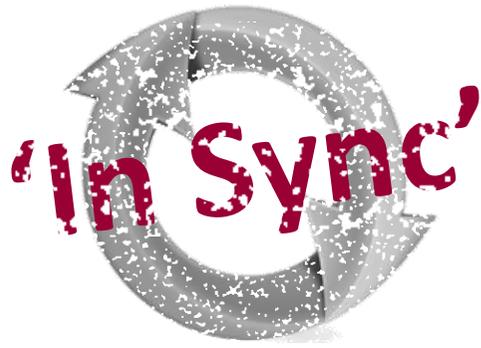
A dominant figure in the first part of 2 Kings is the prophet Elisha, the successor to Elijah. There are many miracles in the ministry of Elisha – oil for a widow, the raising of a child from the dead, the neutralizing of poison in a stew, the healing of Naaman of leprosy, a floating axe-head. Elisha is a foreshadowing of Jesus.

The background to 2 Kings is the book of Deuteronomy and the warnings that were given to Israel through Moses to serve and obey the LORD, otherwise they would experience God's judgment. Each king (along with the nation itself) must choose whether to follow God or to worship idols. In 2 Kings, the reigns of nearly 30 kings are summarised, and many of them fail to live faithfully and to rule wisely. There is a repeated cycle of reformation, sin, and decline. The most righteous kings are Hezekiah and Josiah.

### How to read?

2 Kings has 25 chapters, so could easily be completed by reading a chapter a day for a month.

**In-Sync for March : Nahum – Malachi**



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