

WEEK 24 — BATTLE FOR FAITH IN ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Date: roughly 848-750 BC

The Story: God, as he does in our own lives, works in the midst of the tumult of Israel and Judah. He blesses faithfulness, punishes evildoers, and even shows his grace to sinful people who might yet turn back to him. Covering about a century, this week's readings take us through the remainder of the ministry of Elisha and the stories of four kings in Israel, four in Judah, and Judah's sole ruling queen. Ahab's royal line in Israel comes to a sudden end; David's royal line in Judah nearly does, too. Yet faith endures, and religious reforms are enacted in Judah, albeit briefly. The first writing prophets, Jonah and Amos, appear around this time. Jonah learns that God reaches out to all people, even the wicked, violent Assyrians in Nineveh. Amos cries out that destruction from God will soon come upon Israel if the nation does not repent.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

JUNE 12 2 KINGS 5-7

Today's reading continues Elisha's adventures. By his ministry, the non-Israelite leper Naaman is healed, a borrowed ax head is recovered, an enemy army is captured, and Samaria is rescued from a famine-inducing siege. Elisha ministers God's grace to Israel, which has largely turned away from God, and sometimes even to its enemies. Will their hearts turn back to God?

Date: sometime between very roughly 848 and 842 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 5:1 to 6:23

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 5

JUNE 13 2 KINGS 8-9

Today's reading comes as Elisha's ministry is winding down. Fulfilling God's command to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:15-16, Elisha, heir of Elijah's ministry, instigates regime changes in Aram and Israel. Jehu's rise to power in Israel starts the end of Ahab's wicked monarchy. Meanwhile, in Judah, King Jehoram marries into Ahab's family (2 Kings 8:18), and this affiliation with that ungodly family brings trouble for Judah's royal family.

Date: probably shortly before or during 842 BC to 841 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 8:7 to 9:37

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 6:1-23 • 2 Kings 8:1-6

JUNE 14 2 KINGS 10 • 2 CHRONICLES 21:4 to 23:21

Today's reading begins with Jehu wiping out the rest of Ahab's family and the Baal cult in Israel. Will Israel at last have a king who obeys the Lord? Then the reading returns to Chronicles' account of these events. To the material from Kings it adds the story of a warning letter Elijah had once sent to Judah's King Jehoram. We read about the rise and fall of Athaliah, Judah's sole ruling queen, relative (likely daughter) of Ahab (see 2 Chronicles 21:6 and 22:2), who nearly eliminates the royal line of David.

Date: about 841 BC (2 Kings 10) • 848 to about 835 BC (2 Chronicles 21:4 to 23:21)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 10 • 2 Chronicles 21:12 to 22:9

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 11

JUNE 15 2 CHRONICLES 24 • 2 KINGS 11-12

Today's reading is uplifting, then heart-breaking. Young King Joash, rescued by the high priest, grows up to be a godly man. He restores God's temple, bringing renewed honor to God. But in his later years he abandons God and murders the son of the priest to whom he owes his life. In response, the Lord delivers Judah into the hands of a much smaller army, and Joash dies in dishonor. 2 Kings 11-12 shares the same story of Athaliah and Joash as 2 Chronicles 22-24, but with a shorter version of the tragic ending.

Date: about 841-796 BC

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 11-2 • 2 Chronicles 24:17-27

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 12:1-16 • 2 Kings 13:10-25

JUNE 16 2 KINGS 13-14 • 2 CHRONICLES 25

Today's reading covers a period of relative stability in Israel and shares one final story from Elisha's ministry, a final gift of grace for a king who is not faithful to God. It also covers Judah's King Amaziah, who does right in God's eyes—at first. But when he turns away from the Lord, his unfaithfulness leads to his demise.

Date: about 814-767 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 13 • 2 Chronicles 25 • 2 Kings 14:23-29

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 14

JUNE 17 JONAH

Today's reading introduces our first writing prophet (prophet whose story or prophecies are written in his own book). Jonah, from Israel in the time of King Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25), is sent to proclaim a warning to Nineveh, a great but wicked city in Assyria. Jonah wants nothing to do with their repentance, which he realizes will bring them God's mercy; he wants to see them destroyed by the Lord. But God, who desires to show mercy to all peoples, uses a certain huge fish to persuade Jonah to do what God has sent him to do.

Date: maybe between roughly 770 and 750 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Jonah

Kids' Reading*: Jonah 1-2

JUNE 18 AMOS 1-4

Today's reading brings us to our second writing prophet, Amos, in the time of Judah's King Uzziah and Israel's King Jeroboam II (1:1); he is a contemporary of Jonah. His message is a stern warning: God, who punishes all the surrounding nations for their sins (1:3 to 2:5), will soon punish Israel for theirs. In the time of Jeroboam II, the wealthy in Israel were growing richer, but the poor were growing poorer. Amos speaks against the wealthy in Israel, who enjoy power and luxury but fail to care about the poor and weak or the decline of the nation. For such conduct among Israel's powerful, God will overthrow the nation.

Date: around very roughly 762 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Amos 1-2 • Amos 4

Kids' Reading*: Jonah 3-4

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

2K 5:27 (T)

2K 6:24 (V), 25 (T), 31-32 (V)

2K 7:3-4 (T, V), 13 (T), 17 (V), 20 (V)

2K 8:28-29 (V)

2K 9:15 (V), 32 (S)

2K 10:14 (V), 17 (V), 32 (V)

2K 11:8 (V), 15-16 (V), 18 (V), 20 (V)

2K 12:20-21 (V)

2K 13:7 (V)

2K 14:19-20 (V)

2Chr 24:21-26 (V)

2Chr 25:3-4 (V), 13-14 (V), 21-24 (V), 27-28 (V)

Am chapter 1 (T), 1:3-12 (V)

Am chapter 2 (T), 2:4-6 (V), 9 (V), 13-16 (N, V)

Am chapter 3 (T), 3:11-15 (T), 11-12 (V)

Am chapter 4 (T), 4:10-11 (T, V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

2K 8:15 (V)

2K 9:7-10 (V), 24-28 (V), 31-37 (V)

2K 10:24-25 (V), 27 (T)

2K 11:1-2 (V)

2Chr 25:11-12 (V)

Am 1:13-15 (V)

Am 4:2 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

2K 6:26-30 (T, V)

2K 8:12 (V)

2K 10:6-11 (V)

Am 2:7 (S, V)

C = Circumcision

N = Nudity

S = Sexuality

T = Dark/Sensitive Themes

V = Violence