

God or Tyrants: A Study of 1 & 2 Kings

Lesson 09: The Point of No Return

Assignment for next week:

- Read 2 Kings 13:1 – 17:41
- According to some, the average length of an earthly empire is 590 years¹. Others calculate the average length along the lines of 250 years². In these chapters of 2 Kings, we begin to see the beginning of the end for the Kingdom of Israel (the Northern Kingdom).
 - What might be the difference in the assessment of a secular historian verses the Holy Spirit in what accounted for the downfall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
 - Identify at least THREE lessons that can be learned for the nations of today from the narrative of 2 Kings and the downfall of empires.
- Ponder the following questions (*taken from the Whole Bible Project, copyright NPH*):
 - **Monday:** [2 Kings 13] Some Christians struggle in their faith. They may look like hypocrites because they often fall, sometimes in very public ways. But are all struggling Christians hypocrites?
 - **Tuesday:** [2 Kings 14] Is political success always a manifestation of God's blessing for faithfulness? Is our country currently experiencing a "famine" of the Word of the Lord? Where has this occurred in recent history?
 - **Wednesday:** [2 Kings 15] Our citizenship is in heaven. Should we still pursue peace in society and government today?
 - **Thursday:** [2 Kings 16] How has syncretism infiltrated many Christian churches today? Why do you think the writer of 2 Kings spent so much time telling us about Ahaz' idolatry?
 - **Friday:** [2 Kings 17] Did God give Israel enough time to repent? How much time does the Lord give us to repent?
 - **Saturday:** [Entire Reading] Find ONE passage from this section and put it to memory.

¹ <https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-average-duration-length-of-a-human-empire>

² <https://www.times-standard.com/2017/06/28/the-average-age-of-an-empire-a-mere-250-years/#%3A~%3Atext%3DThe%20average%20age%20of%20empires%2Cin%20the%20search%20for%20power>