

The Second Book of the Kings

Chapter 1

Ahaziah, king of Israel, was seriously ill after a fall. He tried to send messengers to the temple of a false god to ask about his future.

But the Lord sent Elijah the prophet to intercept the messengers and tell them that the king would die.

The king sent 50 soldiers to arrest Elijah but as they approached Elijah, fire from heaven destroyed them.

The king sent another 50 soldiers. They too were destroyed by fire from heaven.

A third group of 50 was sent. They begged Elijah to spare them. The Lord told Elijah to go with them to the king.

Elijah then told the king to his face that he would soon die because he had tried to ask a false god about his future. Not long after this, Ahaziah died.

Dear Lord, please don't let us ever get involved
with false religion

Chapters 2, 3

The Lord revealed to Elisha and other prophets that Elijah would be taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Elisha said to Elijah

"Let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

Then a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

The spirit of Elijah then came to rest on Elisha and he began to do miracles by the power of the Lord.

Holy Spirit of God,
please increase your influence in my life

Chapter 4

A poor widow whose husband had been a prophet asked Elisha for help when a creditor demanded her two sons as slaves.

All she had was a small pot of oil, not enough to pay her debts.

Elisha told her to get many jars, and start pouring oil from the pot into the jars.

As she and her sons did this, the oil did not run out. Elisha told her to sell the oil to pay off her debts.

At another time Elisha brought back to life a dead child. He also once brought about a miraculous multiplication of bread.

Dear God, you once worked miracles
by the prayers of Elisha.

Please let miracles be done in our day

Chapter 5

Naaman was an army commander for the king of Aram. Naaman enjoyed success and favor, but he was a leper. He heard about Elisha and the king sent him to Elisha with gifts of gold, silver and garments to request healing.

When Naaman reached Elisha's house, Elisha sent him a message:

"Bathe 7 times in the Jordan River."

At first Naaman was angry at this message, having expected Elisha to see and heal him personally.

But then he humbly bathed 7 times in the Jordan and his flesh became clean once more.

Elisha declined Naaman's gifts.

But after Naaman left Elisha, Elisha's servant Gehazi caught up with Naaman and deceitfully obtained some silver.

Elisha confronted Gehazi about this and Gehazi became a leper.

Dear God, please heal everyone who has leprosy

Chapter 6

The king of Aram was at war with Israel. But each time he planned an attack, Elisha warned the king of Israel and the attack was foiled. The king of Aram therefore sent soldiers to capture Elisha. Elisha prayed to God for help and the soldiers were temporarily blinded.

While they were blinded,

Elisha led them to the king of Israel.

The king of Israel asked Elisha "Shall I kill them?"

Elisha told him not to kill them
but to feed them and let them go.

After this there was peace for a time
between Aram and Israel.

Dear God, please bless our enemies,
and help us be kind to them

Chapters 7 – 13

During Elisha's life time,
there were many kings in Israel and Judah.

A number of these kings were assassinated.

Elisha also died and was buried in a tomb.

Once when a dead man was put in Elisha's tomb,
the man came back to life.

Dear God, please help us love you the way
Elisha loved you

Chapters 14 – 18

After the death of Elisha, kings continued to come to power
and be assassinated in Judah and Israel.

It was then that the king of Assyria invaded Israel and Judah.

Hezekiah, king of Judah, a good man,
prayed to God for help.

Dear God, please give us leaders who pray

Chapter 19

King Hezekiah asked the prophet Isaiah for advice.
Isaiah said to the king:

"The Lord says 'Do not be afraid of the King of Assyria. He shall not enter Jerusalem. I will protect this city and save it.'"

That same night the angel of the Lord struck the Assyrian camp with a type of plague which killed thousands of men. The Assyrians then went back to their own land and did not attack Jerusalem.

Dear God, please protect
(the city where I am living now)

Chapter 20

King Hezekiah became ill and was dying. Hezekiah begged the Lord to cure him.

The Lord told Isaiah the prophet to tell Hezekiah: "I will add 15 years to your life."

The king recovered and lived for another 15 years.

Dear God, please cure (..a sick person..) the way you cured Hezekiah

Chapters 21 – 25

Josiah king of Judah was a good leader who loved the Lord and promoted religious reform.

But most other kings of Judah and Israel at this time were not good.

The country was invaded by the king of Babylon who deported most of the population to Babylon. Only the poorest people in the countryside were left behind.

Dear God, please give the world good leaders