

## OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY MEETING WORKBOOK

Assigned chapters: 2 KINGS 1-2

**PLEASE NOTE** - The references below are taken from the 86-22 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

\*\*\* si p. 69 Bible Book Number 12—2 Kings \*\*\*

Bible Book Number 12—2 Kings

Writer: Jeremiah

Places Written: Jerusalem and Egypt

Writing Completed: 580 B.C.E.

Time Covered: c. 920–580 B.C.E.

THE book of Second Kings continues to trace the turbulent course of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Elisha took up the mantle of Elijah and was blessed with two parts of Elijah's spirit, performing 16 miracles, compared with the 8 of Elijah. He continued to prophesy doom for apostate Israel, where only Jehu provided a brief flash of zeal for Jehovah. More and more, Israel's kings became bogged down in wickedness, until the northern kingdom finally crumbled before Assyria in 740 B.C.E. In the southern kingdom of Judah, a few outstanding kings, notably Jehoshaphat, Jehoash, Hezekiah, and Josiah, swept back the tide of apostasy for a time, but Nebuchadnezzar at last executed Jehovah's judgment by devastating Jerusalem, its temple, and the land of Judah in 607 B.C.E. Thus Jehovah's prophecies were fulfilled, and his word was vindicated!

(2 Kings 1:1) 1 After the death of A'hab, Mo'ab revolted against Israel.

\*\*\* si p. 69 par. 2 Bible Book Number 12—2 Kings \*\*\*

2 Since Second Kings was originally part of the same roll as First Kings, what has already been said concerning Jeremiah's writership applies equally here, as do the proofs of the book's canonicity and authenticity. It was completed about 580 B.C.E. and covers the period beginning with the reign of Ahaziah of Israel in about 920 B.C.E.

and ending in the 37th year of Jehoiachin's exile, 580 B.C.E.—1:1; 25:27.

(2 Kings 1:2) 2 It was then that A·ha·zi'ah fell down through the grating in his roof chamber in Sa·mar'i·a and was injured. So he sent messengers and said to them: "Go, inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub the god of Ek'ron to find out whether I will recover from this injury."

ws15 12/15 p. 23 par. 1 Jehovah Will Sustain You \*\*\*

IF YOU have ever been seriously ill, you may have asked, 'Will I get better?' Or perhaps a family member or a friend is sick and you wonder if he or she will get well again. It is normal to want good health for yourself and for the people you love. In the Bible, we read about some who were not well and who wanted to know if they would get better. For example, King Ahaziah, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, wondered if he would recover from an injury. And later, King Ben-hadad of Syria was sick and asked if he would get better.—2 Kings 1:2; 8:7, 8.

\*\*\* rr chap. 7 p. 75 par. 14 The Nations "Will Have to Know That I Am Jehovah" \*\*\*

14 The Philistines had migrated from the island of Crete to the land that Jehovah later promised to Abraham and his descendants. Both Abraham and Isaac had dealings with these people. (Gen. 21:29-32; 26:1) By the time the Israelites entered the Promised Land, the Philistines had grown into a powerful nation with a formidable military force. They worshipped false gods, such as Baal-zebub and Dagon. (1 Sam. 5:1-4; 2 Ki. 1:2, 3) At times Israel joined in worshipping those gods.—Judg. 10:6.

(2 Kings 1:8) 8 So they said to him: "He was a man with a garment of hair and a leather belt around his waist." Immediately he said: "It was E·li'jah the Tish'bite."

\*\*\* w72 11/1 p. 666 What the Way You Dress Tells About You \*\*\*

### YOUR APPEARANCE CAN CONNECT YOU WITH OTHERS

The way you dress tells something about you in another way. It can identify you with a certain group or class. This was true even thousands of years ago, when the Bible was being written. For example, in the book of Second Kings we read of messengers reporting back to King Ahaziah and telling of meeting a man who gave them a certain message. The king asked: "What was the appearance of the man?" When they described his garments, the king said immediately: "It was Elijah." How did he know? Because Elijah wore the distinctive garment of a prophet.—2 Ki. 1:2, 7, 8; compare 2 Kings 2:13, 14; Matthew 3:4.

(2 Kings 2:2) E·li'jah said to E·li'sha: "Stay here, please, because Jehovah has sent me on to Beth'el." But E·li'sha said: "As surely as Jehovah is living and as you are living, I will not leave you." So they went down to Beth'el.

(2 Kings 2:4) E·li'jah now said to him: "E·li'sha, stay here, please, because Jehovah has sent me on to Jer'i·cho." But he said: "As surely as Jehovah is living and as you are living, I will not leave you." So they came to Jer'i·cho.

(2 Kings 2:6) E·li'jah now said to him: "Stay here, please, because Jehovah has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said: "As surely as Jehovah is living and as you are living, I will not leave you." So both of them went on.

(Read Deuteronomy 32:7.) True, their eyesight may have dimmed, their pace may have slowed, and their speech may have softened, but they are young at heart, and they have made "a good name" with Jehovah. (Eccl. 7:1) Remember why Jehovah treasures them. Continue to show them

honor. Be like Elisha. He insisted on staying close to Elijah on their last day together. Three times Elisha declared: "I will not leave you."—2 Ki. 2:2, 4, 6.

\*\*\* w19 June p. 16 par. 9 Rely on Jehovah When Under Stress \*\*\*

9 When Jehovah told Elijah to delegate responsibility to Elisha, He provided Elijah with a much-needed companion, who no doubt helped him bear his emotional burdens. Likewise, when we confide in a trusted friend, he or she can help us carry our emotional burdens. (2 Ki. 2:2;

(2 Kings 2:23) 23 He went up from there to Beth'el. As he was going along the way, some young boys came out from the city and began to jeer at him, and they kept saying to him: "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

\*\*\* w05 8/1 p. 9 par. 6 Highlights From the Book of Second Kings \*\*\*

2:23, 24. The main reason for this mocking of Elisha appears to be that a bald man was wearing Elijah's official garment. The children recognized Elisha as Jehovah's representative and simply did not want him around. They told him to "go up," that is, keep going up to Bethel or be taken up as Elijah had been. The children evidently reflected the antagonistic attitude of their parents. How vital that parents teach their children to respect God's representatives!