

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (August 28) – 2 Kings 10

The God who creates and keeps covenant intervenes repeatedly throughout biblical history. This Lord both punishes the wicked and supports those whose heart is completely His (2 Chronicles 16:9). This is our God who guides all history even despite the poor decisions of His people. He establishes the throne of David from whom would spring forth the Savior of His people, whose Kingdom will have no end. (Luke 1:33).

Jehu desires to display his zeal for the Lord. At times, however, he goes beyond the directives God had given. He does well in doing what is right in God's eyes, but does not turn from the sins of Jeroboam (vv. 30–31).

Tuesday (August 29) – 2 Kings 11, 12

The Lord preserves the house of David by preserving the life of young Joash (vv. 2–3). Instructed by Jehoiada the priest, Jehoash (Joash) reigns as king, doing right before the presence of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest. The Lord still works through His saving and instructing word in our lives of faith this day.

Although Joash leads the people faithfully as he cares for the things of God's house, he is eventually killed for forsaking the Lord (v. 20). Let us faithfully serve our God and together as His people share in godly worship in our churches.

Wednesday (August 30) – 2 Kings 13

After Jehoahaz begins his reign by doing evil, he turns to the Lord and seeks His favor. The Lord listens and saves the people from oppression by the Syrians. Although the people once more live in safety, they also continue to live in their sins. As God's people today, let us no longer live under the authority of sin but in repentant faith in our Savior's grace.

The time of the prophet Elisha's death is near. The Lord provides a miracle through the prophet of God as a dead man is raised. The Lord who is the life-giving spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45) will also give life to our mortal bodies through the power by which He subdues all things to himself (Philippians 3:21). Hazael, king of Syria, oppresses God's people, but the Lord is gracious remembering His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord preserves His heritage forever, keeping His people in His grace to life everlasting.

Thursday (August 31) – 2 Kings 14

Amaziah, son of Joash, does right in the sight of the Lord. Yet he does not remove the high places that are such a snare to the people. In allowing these places to remain, the king gives opportunity for sin to continue among God's covenant people. As His people today, let us make no provision for the sinful nature (Romans 13:14), but clothed in Christ let us walk in His ways to the glory of His holy name.

Despite the unfaithfulness of His people, the Lord still preserves the Davidic kingdom so that the promised Messiah will one day come. This is He who will govern His own in peace for always! (Isaiah 9:6).

Friday (September 1) – 2 Kings 15, 16

King Azariah does right in the Lord's sight and so is blessed by God. However, he does not remove the high places of false worship. Moreover, he presumes to enter God's house and offer the sacrifice of incense, a task reserved for ordained men (2 Chronicles 26:16). For these reasons God strikes him with disease to the day of his death. The Lord is impartial and sees all sin. May the Lord save us from personal pride, that great sin of Adam who wanted his way rather than the way of his Lord.

Many kings continue to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord. Captives are now taken to Assyria as the judgment of God falls upon the people. The record of the evil of Ahaz concludes chapter 16. Ironically, it is Ahaz that will receive the sign of the Lord that a virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:14).

Saturday (September 2) – 2 Kings 17

The nation of Judah, always ruled by a descendent of David, has good kings and bad kings. The people waffle back and forth between the true worship of God and idolatry. But the northern nation of Israel embraces idolatry fully. Not one of its kings ever sought the Lord. Therefore, God allows the northern ten tribes to be completely destroyed by the Assyrian empire, leaving the tribe of Judah as the remnant of God's original Israelite people. (Hence, the word Jew, which is a shortening of Judah.)

In chapter 17 we find the origin of the despised Samaritans. They are foreign pagans, brought in to resettle the vacated land of Israel. But the new inhabitants do not know how to worship God rightly and are plagued by lions. The Assyrian king sends a priest from the conquered Israelites to teach them the "worship" of God. But consider that Israel and her priests have just been destroyed for unrepentant idolatry. The Samaritans, named for Samaria, capital city of Israel, are taught a corrupted form of worship by a priest who was likely an idolater himself, to which the Samaritans also add many of their own pagan traditions. This is why the Jews despise them in the New Testament. The story highlights the importance of faithful pastors who resist the importation of foreign practices into the worship of the church.

Sunday (September 3) – 2 Kings 18

Unlike his father, Hezekiah is a man of God, doing what is right in the sight of the Lord. He removes the false worship, including the high places, and trusts in his God! And so, the Lord is with him, and he prospers. Also, his reform succeeds as he restores pure worship among the people once more. May the Lord bless our worship in His word and Spirit. May He remove from our midst any impurities that displease Him, and, as He serves us, may we rightly serve the God of our salvation!