

1 KINGS 22-2 KINGS 5

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

We reach the end of 1 Kings where we see the death of King Ahab. Ahab is known as the most wicked king in Israel's history and dies while being struck by a random arrow. What seemed like a crazy chance most likely was not an accident but the sovereign hand of God. We then head to 2 Kings, where we see a kingdom that is splintered and eventually **exiled**. To be exiled means to be taken from your home to a foreign place. This is what happens to God's people. Throughout this book, we will see the Northern Kingdom of Israel fall to the Assyrians Empire in 722 BC and the Southern Kingdom of Judah fall to the Babylonian Empire in 586 BC.

Prophets play a key role in the book of 1 and 2 Kings, and really throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The prophet Elijah is one of the most famous. We see Elijah miraculously part the Jordan River and then pass his role to a **prophet** named Elisha. As a reminder, a prophet is someone who proclaims God's word for both the present and the future. Elijah is taken up to Heaven in a whirlwind with a chariot of fire. Elisha takes over and asks God for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. In 2 Kings 4, we see Elisha perform many miracles. These included the widow's oil, the poisoned stew, and the feeding of one-hundred people. Elisha was performing all of these miracles by the power of God, so that God would receive the glory.

In 2 Kings 5, there is a famous story of a man named Naaman. Naaman was the commander of the Syrian army and was well-respected. However, Naaman had a big problem. He had a terrible skin disease called **leprosy**. Leprosy was a painful and embarrassing disease that had no cure. Naaman's wife had a servant who was a follower of the God of Israel. The servant girl suggested that Naaman should visit the prophet Elisha. Elisha took her advice and journey to Israel, which was considered the Syrian's enemies. When he arrived, Elisha did not come out, but sent messengers to tell Naaman to bathe in the water seven times and then he would be healed. Even though Naaman hesitated, he went ahead and bathed in the river seven times. This would have been considered humiliating. However, it worked! Naaman was healed. Just like Naaman, God wants to offer us healing, not only physically but spiritually. Jesus is the one who heals us spiritually and makes us new!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	● God uses miracles to show His mighty power
KEY STORIES:	● Ahab's Death ● Elijah ascends to Heaven ● Elisha's Miracles ● Naaman Healed
KEY VERSES:	● 2 Kings 2:11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ● 2 Kings 2:15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. ● 2 Kings 5:14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.
WORDS TO KNOW:	● Exiled ○ To be taken from your home to a foreign place. ● Prophet ○ Someone who proclaims God's word for both the present and the future ● Leprosy ○ A painful and embarrassing disease that had no cure

Reflection Questions

1.	What is the book of 2 Kings known for?
2.	Who does Elijah pass the role of prophet to?
3.	What were some of the miracles that Elisha performed?
4.	What do we learn from the story of Naaman's healing?