

Insights From 2 Kings

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Insights From 2 Kings

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

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2 Kings

- There were times when God spoke to Elijah through the angel of the Lord (2 Kings 1:3). This may have been a preincarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.
- There was a time when God sentenced a king to death because he inquired of an idol instead of Him (2 Kings 1:4).
- Elijah was a hairy man (2 Kings 1:8).
- God can send fire down from heaven (2 Kings 1:10).
- God can kill the wicked at any time (2 Kings 1:10). The only reason the wicked aren't already dead and in Hell is because of God's great mercy and compassion.
- Elijah didn't allow himself to be arrested by the soldiers who were sent to kill him. Instead he prayed that God would kill them with fire (and God did – *twice*) (2 Kings 1:10, 12). No other prophet or apostle in the Bible prayed that type of prayer. The only exception are the two witnesses who will be in the world during the seven-year tribulation, who will likewise use fire to kill those who come against them (Revelation 11:5). Given that Elijah will be in this world during that era (Malachi 4:5) and that Elijah never died (2 Kings 2:11), it's possible that Elijah will be one of those two witnesses.
- After fire from heaven killed the 51 people who Ahaziah sent to arrest and kill Elijah, Ahaziah didn't repent. Instead he sent a second group of 51 people (2 Kings 1:11, 13). When God killed those people with fire as well, Ahaziah then sent a *third* group. It seems Ahaziah was incapable of learning from God's rebuke.
- Of the 153 people who Ahaziah sent to kill Elijah, only 51

survived. Two-thirds were killed with fire, but one-third lived because they didn't seek to harm Elijah (2 Kings 1:15). The other place in the Bible where the number 153 appears is John 21:11 – it's the number of fish that Peter caught after Jesus rose from the dead. These passages may be pointing to the truth taught in Zechariah 13:8-9, that two-thirds of the Jews will be killed during the tribulation era and one-third will repent and enter into the millennium.

- On the day when God was going to take Elijah into heaven, both Elisha and the sons of the prophets knew about it in advance. It didn't surprise them (2 Kings 2:3, 5) Since God has revealed to us the signs that must take place before the rapture of the Church occurs (Revelation 12:1-5), the rapture shouldn't take us by surprise either.
- On the day when God was going to take Elijah into heaven, Elijah tried to leave Elisha behind three times but Elisha refused to leave him (2 Kings 2:6). As a result, Elisha was rewarded with a double portion of Elisha's spirit (2 Kings 2:10). Elisha had to witness Elijah's departure in order to get that gift, and that wouldn't have happened if Elisha had allowed Elijah to continue on alone.
- There was a time when Elijah parted the Jordan river and crossed it on dry ground (2 Kings 2:8).
- Elijah knew when the day had come that God was going to take him away to heaven (2 Kings 2:9). It didn't surprise him.
- Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:11). A chariot of fire and horses of fire were involved.
- When Elijah was taken up to heaven, his mantle fell from

him and was left behind (2 Kings 2:13). It appears Elijah took the rest of his clothes with him (along with whatever else he was carrying at the time). The idea that people will leave all their clothes behind at the rapture, along with whatever happens to be in their pockets, isn't stated anywhere in the Bible.

- There was a time when Elisha parted the Jordan river (2 Kings 2:14).
- It seems it's possible for one person's spirit to rest upon another person (2 Kings 2:15). It's not clear how that works, but Elijah's spirit somehow rested upon Elisha.
- There was a time when Elisha used salt to heal waters that made the land around Jericho barren (2 Kings 2:21).
- Elisha didn't heal the poisoned waters by praying over them. Instead he cast salt into them and that healed them (2 Kings 2:21-22). When this book was written, the spring of waters that was near Jericho was still healed.
- As Elisha went to Bethel, a large group of little children came out of the city and told him to “go up”. In other words, they wanted him to depart from the earth, just like Elijah (2 Kings 2:23). It seems that those children hated the God of Israel and wanted His prophets to die.
- God holds children responsible for their actions (2 Kings 2:24). He doesn't ignore their sins.
- The worship of Baal was worse in God's sight than the worship of the golden calves (2 Kings 3:2).
- Jeroboam made Israel sin (2 Kings 3:3). He created the golden calves and taught the Israelites to worship them.
- Elisha didn't want to help the wicked king Jehoram. The

only reason Elisha intervened was because the righteous king Jehoshaphat was with them (2 Kings 3:13-14).

- When a minstrel played for Elisha, the hand of God came upon him (2 Kings 3:15).
- In the days of Jehoshaphat, God wanted Moab to be utterly destroyed. The Lord wanted their cities destroyed, their trees destroyed, their wells destroyed, and every good piece of land that they owned destroyed (2 Kings 3:19).
- God used the sun shining on water in the valley to deceive the Moabites and give the victory to Israel, Judah, and Edom (2 Kings 3:22-23).
- Even though God commanded the Israelites to destroy every city in Moab, they didn't destroy the royal city Kirharaseth (2 Kings 3:19, 25). They spared the most important city in the entire country, in disobedience to what God commanded them to do. Israel had a long history of not destroying the cities and nations that God commanded them to destroy (and that continual disobedience caused them a great deal of problems and pain).
- When the king of Moab saw that he was losing, he took his oldest son and offered him on the wall of Kirharaseth as a burnt offering (2 Kings 3:27). After the Israelites witnessed this, they stopped fighting (even though they had won) and left, allowing the royal city to stand. That's not what God commanded the Israelites to do, but it's what they did.
- In ancient times, if someone died and owed money, their children were sold into slavery to pay their debt (2 Kings 4:1).

- When a woman went to Elisha and told him that a creditor was coming to sell her children into slavery to pay the family's debts, Elisha didn't offer to give her any money (2 Kings 4:2).
- Elisha didn't want anyone to witness the woman filling the empty vessels she had borrowed with oil (2 Kings 4:4).
- In the miracle of the oil filling the empty vessels, Elisha told the woman what to do but he wasn't present when it happened (2 Kings 4:4). This is a recurring theme in many of his miracles: he told people to go and do something, and he wasn't present when they did it.
- Elisha told the woman who was in debt in advance that she was going to be filling up the vessels she borrowed with oil. That meant she knew that the amount of oil she would end up with depended on the number of empty vessels she could obtain (2 Kings 4:4).
- There was a time when Elisha blessed a pot of oil so that it didn't run out until all the empty vessels in the house had been filled (2 Kings 4:4).
- The great woman who lived in Shunem was very hospitable to Elisha (2 Kings 4:10).
- It seems Elisha didn't speak to the woman in Shunem directly. Instead he had Gehazi talk to her on his behalf, even though she was standing right there in front of him (2 Kings 4:13). This is another recurring theme in Elisha's life. He often had his servants act as his intermediaries, instead of talking to people himself.
- Elisha told Gehazi to ask the woman in Shunem if she wanted someone to speak to the king about her, or the

captain of the host (2 Kings 4:13). Those were the two most powerful people in the nation (who apparently both knew Elisha and were willing to do what he told them to do). However, the woman refused to ask Elisha for anything at all in return for her hospitality.

- Gehazi was the one who told Elisha that the woman in Shunem didn't have any children (2 Kings 4:14). Giving her a child was Gehazi's idea. It wasn't something the woman asked for.
- Although the husband of the woman in Shunem was old, it's possible that she herself was young (2 Kings 4:14). Gehazi said her *husband* was old.
- There was a time when Elisha blessed someone with the ability to conceive a son (2 Kings 4:16-17). God can cause women to conceive and have children.
- When the husband of the woman in Shunem asked her why she wanted to go see Elisha, she didn't tell her husband that their son had just died. Instead she said that everything would be fine (2 Kings 4:23). There are times when women say that everything is fine, even though things are not fine at all and they're very upset.
- It seems the woman in Shunem rode a donkey, but her servant determined how fast the donkey traveled (2 Kings 4:24). Apparently that's how things worked back then.
- Elisha didn't refer to the great woman by her name. Instead he called her "the Shunammite" (2 Kings 4:25). At no point are we ever told her name.
- When the great woman grabbed Elisha's feet, Elisha told Gehazi that God had hidden the situation from him and hadn't told him what was going on (2 Kings 4:27). As far

as we know, this is the only time in Elisha's life that God hid something like this from him.

- It's possible for our soul to be vexed (2 Kings 4:27).
- The woman at Shunem didn't tell Elisha what happened to her son (2 Kings 4:28). She never actually told him that her son was dead. Elisha may not have known until he got to the house and saw the child.
- The woman at Shunem blamed Elisha for her pain (2 Kings 4:28). She told Elisha that she hadn't asked for a son (which was true – she didn't). Even Gehazi didn't claim that she wanted a child. All he said was that the woman didn't have one.
- After the woman at Shunem spoke to Elisha, he told Gehazi to go to her home and lay Elisha's staff on the child's face (2 Kings 4:29-30). This followed his usual practice of having someone else do things, instead of doing them himself. It seems the only reason Elisha went personally was because the woman refused to leave.
- Gehazi was unable to use Elisha's staff to heal the child (2 Kings 4:31). As far as we know, this is the only time that Elisha's usual practice of having other people do things failed. That makes two unusual things about this story: God didn't tell Elisha what was going on, and when Elisha's commands were followed they accomplished nothing.
- When Elisha arrived at the house of the woman at Shunem and saw that the child was dead, he prayed to God. But prayer alone wasn't enough to bring the child back to life. He had to do quite a bit more before the child lived again (2 Kings 4:33-35).

- When Elisha prayed over the child who had died, he was alone. There was no one else in the room with him (2 Kings 4:33).
- Right after the child was raised from the dead, he sneezed seven times (2 Kings 4:35).
- Elisha is one of the only people in the Old Testament who raised the dead (2 Kings 4:35). The other was Elijah.
- After the child who died was raised back to life, Elisha told Gehazi to call the child's mother (2 Kings 4:36). He didn't go to her himself. Instead he had his servant bring her to him.
- Someone gathered wild gourds and put them into a pot, even though they didn't know what they were (2 Kings 4:39). That was a terrible idea, as they turned out to be poisonous.
- The sons of the prophets told Elisha that the pottage was poisonous (2 Kings 4:40). However, they didn't ask him to do anything about it. This was another recurring theme in Elisha's life. The woman at Shunem didn't ask Elisha to raise her son from the dead, and the woman in debt didn't ask Elisha for money. Instead they just told Elisha their problems.
- When there was poison in the pot, Elisha didn't fix the problem by praying over it (2 Kings 4:41). Instead he cast some meal into the pot, and that healed it.
- There was a time when Elisha fixed a pot of poisoned pottage (2 Kings 4:41).
- There was a time when Elisha used a small amount of food to feed a large group of people (2 Kings 4:44).

- Naaman, the captain of the Syrian army, was an honorable man (2 Kings 5:1). There are very few people in the Old Testament who God said were honorable. It's amazing that this was how God described the captain of the army of Israel's enemy. In those days that Syrians were *actively sending raiding parties against Israel* (2 Kings 5:2).
- God used Naaman to give deliverance to Syria (2 Kings 5:1). This means Israel and Judah weren't the only nations that God delivered in Old Testament times.
- When the Syrian raiding parties invaded Israel, they took captive from Israel a little maid (2 Kings 5:2-3). She's the one who said that Elisha could cure Naaman of his leprosy. Without her, Naaman wouldn't have even known about Elisha.
- When the little maid from Israel said that Elisha could cure Naaman of his leprosy, even the king of Syria believed it (2 Kings 5:5). It seems that none of the Syrians doubted it, which is amazing. The only person in this story who *did* doubt it was the king of Israel (2 Kings 5:7). Jesus said that although there were many lepers in Israel in those days, only Naaman the Syrian was healed (Luke 4:27). In those days the Gentiles had more faith in the God of Israel than the Israelites did. (Perhaps that's because the Israelites were busy worshiping the golden calves).
- When Naaman went see Elisha he took with him 10 talents of silver, 6000 pieces of gold, and 10 changes of clothing (2 Kings 5:5). This was an enormous amount of money. Naaman was willing to pay Elisha the equivalent of millions of dollars! Naaman wasn't asking to be treated for nothing.

- Elisha told the king of Israel to let Naaman come to him (2 Kings 5:8). The reason Elisha gave was so Naaman would know there was a prophet in Israel.
- When Naaman went to Elisha's house, Elisha didn't go out and speak to him. Instead Elisha sent a messenger to speak to him (2 Kings 5:10). This was Elisha's standard practice. It seems Elisha avoided interacting with people whenever he could.
- Naaman knew about the God of Israel (2 Kings 5:11).
- It seems Naaman didn't realize that Elisha often performed his miracles by having other people go and do things, without him being present (2 Kings 5:11).
- Naaman's servants persuaded him to do what Elisha said, instead of going away angry (2 Kings 5:13). It seems they cared about Naaman and wanted him to be cleansed.
- There was a time when Elisha cured a Syrian of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:14). This was the only time he cleansed anyone of leprosy. According to Jesus, this was because the Israelites lacked faith (Luke 4:27). The Israelites could have been healed as well, but they just didn't believe.
- When Naaman returned to Elisha, he said that he now knew that there was no God in all the earth but in Israel (2 Kings 5:15). This miracle convinced him that the God of Israel was the only true God. (If it had convinced the Israelites as well, and they had turned from their idolatry as Naaman did, then their history would have been radically different. But that didn't happen. None of the miracles of Elijah or Elisha convinced them to turn from their idolatry. Naaman believed, but the Israelites didn't.)
- Elisha refused to accept payment for performing miracles

(2 Kings 5:16). There's no record of him ever accepting payment for a miracle that he ever performed.

- After Naaman was healed of his leprosy, he requested that he be given as much dirt from Israel as could be carried by two mules (2 Kings 5:17). It seems he wanted to use that dirt in some way to worship the God of Israel. It's possible he intended to use it to build an altar to God in Syria out of dirt from the promised land (as the Mosaic Law commanded in Exodus 20:24).
- After Naaman was healed of his leprosy, he told Elisha that he would no longer offer sacrifices to any pagan gods (2 Kings 5:17). This means Naaman turned away from his idolatry to worship God alone – which was something the Israelites refused to do. Once Israel began worshiping the golden calves, they *never* departed from idolatry.
- Gehazi coveted the reward that Naaman had offered to Elisha, even though Gehazi wasn't the one who cured Naaman (2 Kings 5:20).
- Gehazi used a lie to deceive Naaman into giving him a very large sum of money (2 Kings 5:22-23). Even though Gehazi was an eyewitness to Elisha's miracles and knew firsthand about God's great power, he didn't hesitate to defraud Naaman and lie to him. It seems Gehazi had no fear of God (even though he really should have).
- It seems the house of Elisha was a tower (2 Kings 5:24).
- When Elisha asked Gehazi where he had gone, Gehazi told him that he hadn't gone anywhere (which was a lie) (2 Kings 5:25). It's amazing that Gehazi thought he could get away with lying to Elisha.
- Elisha told Gehazi that it wasn't the right time to receive

rewards for helping others (2 Kings 5:26). There's a time when it's appropriate, and a time when it's not.

- Elisha told Gehazi that because he took a reward from Naaman, Naaman's leprosy would cleave to him and his descendants forever (2 Kings 5:27).
- When the axe head that one of the sons of the prophets was using fell into the water, he cried out (2 Kings 6:5). However, he didn't ask Elisha to anything about it.
- When the axe head that one of the sons of the prophets was using fell into the water, Elisha cut down a stick and cast it into the water. That caused the iron axe head to float (2 Kings 6:6). This is another instance where Elisha didn't solve a problem by praying over it. Elisha usually either did something, or had someone else do something.
- The warnings that Elisha gave to the king of Israel about Syrian camps saved the king multiple times (2 Kings 6:10). Elisha kept saving the king's life, even though every single king of Israel was wicked from the day Jeroboam founded the kingdom.
- The servants of the king of Syria knew that Elisha was the one who was telling the king of Israel their secret plans (2 Kings 6:12).
- When the king of Syria learned that Elisha was in Dothan, he invaded Israel and sent a large army against that city (2 Kings 6:14). It seems the king of Syria thought that his army was more powerful than the God who Elisha served.
- It seems Elisha could see the heavenly army that was at Dothan, even though his servant couldn't (2 Kings 6:16). It's possible that after he saw the chariot and horses of fire that took up Elijah, he remained able to see them

from then on.

- Elisha didn't want his servant to be afraid of the Syrian army (2 Kings 6:17). There's a recurring theme in the Bible that God doesn't want us to be afraid of the wicked.
- The heavenly army that surrounded the Syrian army at Dothan had horses of fire and chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:17). This was the second time that Elisha had seen such things.
- When the Syrian army came down to the city, Elisha didn't pray that God would kill them (2 Kings 6:18). Although Elijah prayed that God would send down fire from heaven to consume the people who the king sent to kill him (2 Kings 1:10), Elisha didn't do that when he was in a similar situation.
- After God smote the Syrian army with blindness, Elisha told them that the path they were on was the wrong path, and the city they were at was the wrong city (2 Kings 6:19). In other words, Elisha lied to them. There's a recurring theme in the Bible of God using lies to deceive His enemies into doing things they otherwise wouldn't have done (1 Kings 22:22-23, 2 Kings 7:6, 2 Thessalonians 2:11).
- God can blind people so they don't understand what's going on (2 Kings 6:19).
- Elisha didn't allow the king of Israel to smite the Syrians that he led to Samaria (2 Kings 6:22-23). Elisha told the king that he wouldn't have killed those he had taken captive, so he couldn't kill these men either. Instead he told the king to feed them and send them home, which he did.

- After the king of Israel provided food and drink for the Syrian army and sent them away, the bands of Syria no longer entered into the land of Israel (2 Kings 6:23).
- During times of famine, some of the Israelites engaged in cannibalism (2 Kings 6:28-29). However, the people they murdered and ate weren't other adults, but were their own children.
- Elisha referred to the king of Israel as the son of a murderer (2 Kings 6:32). Ahab, the father of the king, murdered Naboth and stole his vineyard.
- When Elisha said that the following day food would be sold at ordinary prices in the gate of Samaria, the king's attendant didn't believe it (2 Kings 7:2). Since he didn't believe it, he never got to partake in it. There are times when God takes away His promises from those who don't believe in them.
- The lepers who found out that the Syrian army had fled were worried that if they didn't share that good news, something bad would happen to them (2 Kings 7:9). It seems they thought they would suffer some kind of judgment or curse from God.
- When the king of Israel was told that the Syrians had left, it was the middle of the night (2 Kings 7:12).
- When the king of Israel was told that the Syrians had left, it seems he didn't doubt that their camp was indeed empty. However, he thought it was a trap to lure them out of the city (2 Kings 7:12).
- The servants of the king of Israel told him that it wasn't going to do any harm to send someone out to check if the Syrians had left. It's true that those scouts might be killed

by the Syrians, but they were going to die from hunger anyway so it was worth the risk (2 Kings 7:13).

- Although the servants of the king asked for five horses to go check the Syrian camp, they ended up only taking two horses (2 Kings 7:14).
- The king of Israel didn't send his servants to the Syrian camp. Instead he sent his servants after the army of the Syrians to see where they had gone (2 Kings 7:14-15). When they followed the trail of the Syrian army to the Jordan river, they found garments and vessels strewn along the way – which was evidence the army had indeed left in a panic.
- After the Syrians fled, a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley were sold for a shekel in the gate of Samaria, just as God said would happen (2 Kings 7:16). God always keeps His promises.
- When the king learned that the Syrian army had fled, he appointed his attendant to be in charge of the city gate. That attendant was then tramped to death (2 Kings 7:17). Elisha said that the attendant would see the crisis end but wouldn't get to partake in it, and that's exactly what happened.
- God killed the attendant who didn't believe His word (2 Kings 7:17). Without faith it's impossible to please God.
- The son of the woman at Shunem actually died (2 Kings 8:1). He wasn't just sick.
- After Elisha raised the son of the woman of Shunem back to life, he told her that there would be a famine upon the land for seven years (2 Kings 8:1). It's interesting that he told *her* to move her family, and not her husband. Since

her husband was old and isn't mentioned again after her son was raised from the dead, it's possible he was dead by this point. (As an aside, there's no record of Elisha ever speaking to her husband at all.)

- God can send a famine upon the land (2 Kings 8:1).
- In the days of Elijah there was a famine in Israel for 3 years (1 Kings 18:1, Luke 4:25). In the days of Elisha there was a famine in Israel for 7 years (2 Kings 8:1). As more time passed and the Israelites refused to repent of their idolatry, God's judgments got worse.
- Since the woman at Shunem had been gone for 7 years, she had to go before the king of Israel to get her house and her land back (2 Kings 8:3).
- It seems that Gehazi hadn't yet become a leper when the 7 years of famine ended, since he was still Elisha's servant and could still enter into the presence of the king (2 Kings 8:4). It's possible that the stories of Elisha's miracles aren't arranged in chronological order, and the healing of Naaman didn't happen until after the famine ended.
- The king of Israel asked Gehazi to tell him all the great things that Elisha had done (2 Kings 8:4). The king was interested.
- While Gehazi was telling the king that Elisha had raised someone from the dead, at that very moment the woman whose son he had raised from the dead came before the king to ask him to return her house and her land (2 Kings 8:5-6). The king granted her request (and return the fruits of her land as well, from the day she left until the day she returned).
- Not only was the son of the woman at Shunem raised

from the dead, but God (through Elisha) also told her to leave the land for seven years to save her from a famine, and God also got both her house and land returned to her, along with the fruits of her land (2 Kings 8:6). The woman took care of Elisha, and God took care of her.

- When Benhadad sent Hazael to Elisha to ask if he would recover from his illness, Hazael brought Elisha a present of every good thing that was in Damascus (2 Kings 8:9). The gift was so large that it took 40 camels to carry it. (There's no evidence that Elisha accepted it.)
- Elisha knew that Benhadad was going to be killed by Hazael, not by his illness (2 Kings 8:10). It seems Benhadad would have recovered if Hazael hadn't killed him.
- After Elisha told Hazael that Benhadad was going to die, he stared at Hazael for so long that Hazael became ashamed (2 Kings 8:11). It seems this was because Elisha knew that Hazael was going to murder Benhadad.
- Even though the Israelites were wicked and idolatrous, Elisha didn't want harm to come to them (2 Kings 8:12).
- The day after Hazael told Benhadad that Elisha said he would recover, Hazael murdered Benhadad (2 Kings 8:15). Hazael did it by taking a thick cloth, dipping it in water, and spreading it upon Benhadad's face so that he died. It's possible he chose this method to make it look like Benhadad died of his illness.
- Both Jehoshaphat and his son Jehoram reigned at the same time (2 Kings 8:16). Apparently Jehoram began reigning while his father was still alive and still king.
- Jehoram's wife was the daughter of Ahab (2 Kings 8:18). It

seems she was an idolater, and led Jehoram to worship idols (just as Solomon's wives lured him into idolatry).

- The reason God wasn't willing to destroy Judah for a long time was for the sake of David (2 Kings 8:19). God showed mercy to Judah because of the faithfulness of David.
- One of the reasons God anointed Jehu as king over Israel was to avenge the murder of His servants and His prophets, who Jezebel killed (2 Kings 9:7). There are times when God raises up rulers to avenge the murder of His people.
- God commanded Jehu to kill the entire house of Ahab (2 Kings 9:7). There are times when God utterly destroys a family because of its sins.
- When a young man anointed Jehu as king, he told Jehu that God said the dogs would eat Jezebel in Jezreel (2 Kings 9:10). That's exactly what happened.
- There's a recurring theme throughout the Bible that not being buried after death is a terrible thing (2 Kings 9:10).
- The captains of the army of Israel though the prophet who asked to speak to Jehu was crazy (2 Kings 9:11).
- Jehu had a reputation for driving his chariot furiously (2 Kings 9:20). Apparently his driving style was so distinctive that people could tell it was him from a distance.
- Jehu met Joram (the king of Israel) and Ahaziah (the king of Judah) in the land that once belonged to Naboth (2 Kings 9:21).
- Jehu accused Jezebel of witchcraft (2 Kings 9:22).
- When Joram tried to flee from Jehu, Jehu drew a bow with his full strength and smote him between his arms (2

Kings 9:24). The arrow went out Joram's heart and killed him.

- After Jehu killed Joram, Jehu told Bidkar to cast Joram's corpse into the field that once belonged to Naboth (2 Kings 9:25-26). Jehu said he wanted to do this to fulfill the word of God.
- Jehu referred to the curse that God put upon Ahab as a burden (2 Kings 9:25).
- It seems God confronted Ahab over Naboth's murder the day after it happened (2 Kings 9:26).
- Jehu claimed that Naboth's sons were also killed when Naboth was killed (2 Kings 9:26). However, there's no evidence that's true. Jehu may have been exaggerating what happened.
- When Jezebel heard that Jehu was in Jezreel, she painted her face (2 Kings 9:30). That didn't save her.
- When Jehu entered into the gate of the palace, Jezebel asked him if Zimri had peace after he killed his master (2 Kings 9:31). That didn't save her either.
- When Jezebel asked Jehu a question, he ignored her (2 Kings 9:32).
- When Jehu told the palace eunuchs to throw Jezebel down, they did so (2 Kings 9:33). Jehu then ran over her with his chariot. It's not clear if she was killed by the fall, or by being trampled.
- After Jezebel was killed, Jehu went into the palace and ate and drank. He then told people to bury Jezebel (2 Kings 9:34-35). However, by that time all they could find left of her body was her skull, her feet, and the palms of

her hands. The rest of her corpse had been eaten by dogs (just as God had said).

- Ahab had 70 sons (2 Kings 10:1).
- Ahab didn't raise his sons. Instead they were raised by other people (2 Kings 10:1).
- Jehu sent a letter to the people who were taking care of Ahab's sons. He told them to take the best son of Ahab, set him on Ahab's throne, and then fight for the house of Ahab (2 Kings 10:3). It seems Jehu wanted to fight the sons of Ahab on the battlefield.
- The people who received Jehu's letter refused to fight for Ahab's sons. They told Jehu they would do whatever he wanted them to do (2 Kings 10:4-5). They weren't willing to risk their lives to defend Ahab's children (even though they were the ones who had raised them).
- When Jehu told the elders who raised Ahab's sons to behead them, they obeyed (2 Kings 10:6-8). After they beheaded them, they brought the severed heads to Jehu in baskets. Jehu then piled them up in heaps by the city gate. (Elisha warned the prophet who anointed Jehu as king to immediately flee as soon as he had anointed him. It's easy to see why.)
- Jehu told all the people of Jezreel that none of the words of God would fall to the earth, and everything God spoke concerning the house of Ahab would surely come to pass (2 Kings 10:10). Even though Jehu knew that God always keeps His promises, he never repented of worshiping the golden calves – even though God was very clear about the fate of those who worshiped idols instead of Him.
- Jehu killed all those who remained of the house of Ahab

(2 Kings 10:11). He didn't leave any survivors. God used Jehu to destroy Ahab's entire house, just as He promised He would (2 Kings 10:17).

- Jehu killed 42 brothers of Ahaziah, the king of Judah (2 Kings 10:14).
- Jehu told the Israelites that Ahab served Baal a little, but he was going to serve Baal much (2 Kings 10:18-19). This was a lie. Jehu's plan was to gather all of the Baal worshipers together so he could kill them all at once.
- All the Baal worshipers throughout Israel came to Jehu (2 Kings 10:21). Not a single one failed to attend. It's possible this was because Jehu said he would put to death any Baal worshiper who didn't come (2 Kings 10:19).
- When the Israelites who worshiped Baal went to Jehu, the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other (2 Kings 10:21).
- When Jehu went into the temple of Baal, he told the worshipers of Baal to make sure that there were no servants of the Lord among them (2 Kings 10:23). Jehu didn't want to kill anyone who served the Lord.
- When the worshipers of Baal went into the temple to offer sacrifices to Baal, Jehu told the 80 men who were outside that whoever let any Baal worshiper escape would be put to death (2 Kings 10:24).
- Jehu's men killed the Baal worshipers (2 Kings 10:25-27). They also broke down the image of Baal and the temple of Baal.
- Jehu put an end to Baal worship in Israel (2 Kings 10:28).

- Jehu didn't depart from the idolatry of the golden calves (2 Kings 10:29).
- God told Jehu that because he did what God commanded him to do (he destroyed Ahab's house), his children would sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation (2 Kings 10:30). This came to pass.
- There are times when God blesses children because of the faithfulness of their parents (2 Kings 10:30).
- Jehu didn't take heed to walk in the law of God with all his heart (2 Kings 10:31). Although he was eager to kill God's enemies, he wasn't willing to walk in God's ways.
- In the days of Jehu, God began to take away Israel's territory and give it to their enemies (2 Kings 10:32). The Lord used Hazael to do this (just as He said He would).
- When Athaliah learned that her son Ahaziah was dead, she murdered all of the royal seed (2 Kings 11:1) In other words, she murdered her children and grandchildren so she could claim the throne of Judah for herself.
- Jehosheba saved Joash from being killed (2 Kings 11:2). She was his aunt.
- Joash was hidden in the temple for six years (2 Kings 11:3).
- Jehoiada the priest organized the overthrow of Athaliah (2 Kings 11:5).
- It seems that the overthrow of Athaliah took place on the sabbath (2 Kings 11:5).
- The spears and shields that Jehoiada gave to the men who helped him overthrow Athaliah once belonged to David (2 Kings 11:10). That means they were hundreds of

years old.

- When Jehoiada brought out Joash to make him king, he put the crown upon him and he gave him the testimony (2 Kings 11:12). This may have been a copy of the Mosaic Law, or some portion of it.
- Joash was made king before Athaliah was killed (2 Kings 11:13).
- When Athaliah saw people celebrating the anointing of Joash as king, she cried out "Treason" (twice) (2 Kings 11:14). However, she was the one who was actually guilty of treason, since she murdered the royal family and took power for herself.
- Jehoiada didn't want Athaliah to be killed while she was still in the temple (2 Kings 11:15). Instead she was killed outside it.
- Jehoiada made a covenant between God and the Jews, that they should be God's people (2 Kings 11:17). They didn't keep that covenant.
- When Joash became king over Judah, the Jews went into the temple of Baal and destroyed it (2 Kings 11:18). They also killed Mattan, the priest of Baal.
- Joash was also called Jehoash (2 Kings 11:21). He began to reign when he was 7 years old.
- Jehoash (Joash) only did what was right in God's sight while Jehoiada was around to instruct him (2 Kings 12:2). There are some people who will only do what's right as long as a certain person is in their life.
- Jehoash (Joash) wanted the breaches in the temple to be fixed. Although he told the priests to use the money that

they collected to fund the temple repairs, they failed to do so (2 Kings 12:5-6).

- When Jehoiada wanted to raise money to repair the temple, he took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it by the altar (2 Kings 12:9-11). The money that was put into it was used to pay the people who did the repairs.
- When money was taken out of the temple chest and put into bags, there were two people who came and did it together. It wasn't done by a single person (2 Kings 12:10).
- The temple is called the house of the Lord (2 Kings 12:11). This is true nearly every time the temple is mentioned in the books of 1 and 2 Kings. It's almost always called a house.
- When Hazael decided to attack Jerusalem, Jehoash (Joash) didn't inquire of God or cry out to Him for help. Instead he robbed God by stealing the treasure from the temple, and used that money to bribe Hazael to leave (2 Kings 12:18). In the end Joash didn't trust in God and had no faith that God could save them from Hazael.
- Joash was murdered by his own servants (2 Kings 12:20-21).
- When Jehoahaz cried out to God because the Syrians were oppressing Israel, God listened to him and saved them (2 Kings 13:4-5). God did this even though Jehoahaz never repented of his idolatry. The reason God saved them was because He saw how Israel was being oppressed.
- There are times when God hears people when they cry out to Him, even though they haven't repented of their

sins (2 Kings 13:4-5).

- Even though God delivered the Israelites from the Syrians, the Israelites didn't repent of their idolatry (2 Kings 13:6).
- Elisha died from an illness (2 Kings 13:14).
- When Elisha became sick, Joash (the king of Israel) wept (2 Kings 13:14). Even though Joash wasn't a righteous man, he cared about Elisha and didn't want him to die.
- Elisha told Joash (the king of Israel) that when he shot the arrow, it represented a victory over Syria. Yet when Elisha told him to shoot arrows, he only shot three and then stopped (2 Kings 13:17-18). Joash should have kept going until he ran out of arrows, but he didn't. Since he stopped short, he wasn't going to win enough battles against the Syrians to win his war against them.
- Someone was raised from the dead by touching Elisha's bones after Elisha died and was buried (2 Kings 13:21). This means God used Elisha's corpse to perform a miracle.
- The reason God was gracious and compassionate to Israel, in spite of their idolatry, was because of the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (2 Kings 13:23).
- Jehoash recovered from Syria the Israelite cities that Benhadad conquered during the reign of Jehoahaz (2 Kings 13:25). That's what he gained from shooting those three arrows.
- Both Israel and Judah had a king named Joash (2 Kings 14:1).

- It was written in the book of the law of Moses that fathers shall not be put to death for the sins of their children, and children shall not be put to death for the sins of their fathers. Each person could only be put to death for their own sins (2 Kings 14:6). Since God destroyed the entire house of Ahab, that means all of Ahab's relatives and descendants must have also been wicked.
- Amaziah killed 10,000 Edomites in the valley of salt (2 Kings 14:7). This filled him with pride, and that pride caused him to fall.
- Jehoash (the king of Israel) warned Amaziah (the king of Judah) not to attack him (2 Kings 14:10). Amaziah didn't listen and attacked him anyway – and lost. After he lost, Jehoash took him captive, broke down part of the wall around Jerusalem, and took the treasure out of the temple and the palace. He took hostages as well (2 Kings 14:13-14). Amaziah's pride destroyed him.
- Amaziah was murdered by people who conspired against him (2 Kings 14:19). It turns out Amaziah wasn't as invincible as he thought he was.
- God spoke through the prophet Jonah that some of Israel's territory would be restored, which was fulfilled by Jeroboam (son of Joash) (2 Kings 14:25). This means Jonah did more than what's recorded in the book of Jonah.
- The reason God used Jeroboam (son of Joash) to recover some of Israel's territory was because Israel was bitterly afflicted (2 Kings 14:26). Yet even that didn't cause Israel to repent of their idolatry.
- God cared about the affliction of Israel, even though the

Israelites were idolatrous and refused to repent (2 Kings 14:26).

- The reason God saved Israel was because He didn't want to blot out their name from under heaven (2 Kings 14:27). The Lord didn't want them to be utterly destroyed.
- When Zachariah (descendant of Jeroboam) reigned over Israel, it fulfilled the promise God made to Jehu that his fourth generation would sit on the throne of Israel (2 Kings 15:12). God kept that promise, even though Jehu and his descendants were idolatrous.
- After Menahem murdered Shallum (the king of Israel), he killed everyone who lived in Tiphseh and the surrounding area, including pregnant women (2 Kings 15:16). It seems he did this because they refused to accept him as the rightful king. This means his reign over Israel began with an act of mass murder.
- When Pul (the king of Assyria) invaded Israel, Menahem gave him 1000 talents of silver so that he would leave (2 Kings 15:19). This was an enormous amount of money.
- Menahem raised the money he gave to Pul by taxing the wealthy people in Israel (2 Kings 15:20). Even in ancient times, kings taxed the wealthy.
- Pekah murdered Pekahiah (who was the king of Israel, and the son of Menahem) (2 Kings 15:25).
- During the reign of Pekah, part of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians. The Israelites who lived in that territory were exiled from the promised land and taken away as captives to Assyria (2 Kings 15:29).
- Hoshea murdered Pekah, the king of Israel (2 Kings 15:30). It should be noted that Pekah murdered Pekahiah

to become king, and Pekahiah's father murdered Shallum to become king.

- There are times when God sends enemies against a nation (2 Kings 15:37).
- Ahaz (king of Judah) burned his son alive as a human sacrifice (2 Kings 16:3).
- When Rezin and Pekah waged war against Ahaz, Ahaz asked Tiglathpileser (the king of Assyria) to save him from the king of Syria (Rezin). Ahaz paid him to do this by robbing the holy temple of God of its silver (2 Kings 16:7-8). He could have repented of his sins and cried out to God to save him, but he chose to rob God instead.
- There's a long history of kings of Judah refusing to trust God in times of distress, and instead robbing God's holy temple in order to pay a pagan king to save them (2 Kings 16:8).
- When Ahaz asked the king of Assyria (Tiglathpileser) to save him from his enemies, the king did so. Tiglathpileser conquered the capital of Syria and killed the king who was waging war against Ahaz (2 Kings 16:9). There are times when wicked people carry out wicked plans that accomplish their objectives. (However, that doesn't mean it pleased God, or that it was the right thing to do.)
- When Ahaz saw a pagan altar in Damascus, he decided he wanted one that was just like it. Urijah the priest then built one for him. That pagan altar was then placed in the holy temple of God, and was used to offer sacrifices instead of the original altar (2 Kings 16:10-15). This means Ahaz corrupted the temple, the sacrificial system, and the worship of God. Ahaz didn't care how God required people to worship Him, and changed things to

suit his own wicked desires.

- Ahaz deliberately damaged some of the items in the temple that were used to worship God (2 Kings 16:17).
- Hoshea (king of Israel) wasn't as evil as the kings of Israel that came before him (2 Kings 17:2). That didn't save him. He should have repented of his idolatry and sought righteousness, but he didn't. Being less evil than his forefathers didn't save him from destruction.
- When the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea had conspired against him, the king of Assyria put him in prison (2 Kings 17:4).
- In the 9th year of the reign of Hoshea, the king of Assyria conquered Samaria, took the Israelites captive, and carried them away into Assyria (2 Kings 17:6). That was the end of the kingdom of Israel.
- We must not fear other gods (2 Kings 17:7). We must only fear the Lord.
- We must not walk in the ways of pagans. Instead we must walk in the ways of God (2 Kings 17:8).
- It's a terrible thing when kings enact wicked and pagan laws (2 Kings 17:8).
- God knows about sins that are committed in secret. Those sins aren't hidden from Him (2 Kings 17:9).
- The Israelites filled their land with idols (2 Kings 17:10).
- When the Israelites burned incense in the high places, they were copying the practices of the heathen who God cast out of the land (2 Kings 17:11). The use of high places was a pagan practice that was forbidden by the Mosaic Law – and yet even the righteous kings of Judah refused

to get rid of them.

- Wickedness provokes God to anger (2 Kings 17:11).
- God used all the prophets to testify against Israel and Judah. The Lord commanded those nations to turn from their evil ways and keep His commandments. However, they refused to listen (2 Kings 17:13-14).
- Part of repentance includes turning away from our sins and obeying God's commandments (2 Kings 17:13).
- When God commanded Israel and Judah to turn from their evil ways, they chose to harden themselves (2 Kings 17:14). They refused to listen to God and refused to repent.
- God doesn't want us to be like the pagans who are around us. Instead He commands us to walk in His ways (2 Kings 17:15).
- The Israelites worshiped the stars (2 Kings 17:16)
- The Israelites burned their children alive as human sacrifices to idols (2 Kings 17:17). God commanded them to stop, but they refused.
- The murder of children provokes God to anger (2 Kings 17:17-18).
- The reason God removed Israel was because He was very angry with them (2 Kings 17:18). The Lord commanded them to repent, and stop shedding innocent blood and worshiping idols, but they refused.
- God exiled Israel from the promised land before He exiled Judah. However, Judah didn't keep God's commandments either (2 Kings 17:18-19).

- Jeroboam drove Israel away from following God (2 Kings 17:21). He made the two golden calves and led the Israelites to worship them. This was an enormous sin, and one the Israelites never turned away from. They were still worshipping the golden calves when the king of Assyria removed the Israelites from the promised land (2 Kings 17:22-23).
- Since the foreigners who were living in Samaria didn't fear the Lord, God sent lions among them and killed some of them (2 Kings 17:25). God required those who lived in Samaria to fear Him, even though they weren't Israelites.
- The Assyrians recognized that God was the one who sent the lions that were killing the foreigners who had taken up residence in Samaria (2 Kings 17:26). They even recognized it was happening because those new people didn't know God's ways, and that God was punishing them for that.
- Even though a priest was brought to Samaria to teach the foreigners who lived in Samaria how to fear God, those people still worshiped idols (2 Kings 17:29). Although they learned to fear God (2 Kings 17:32), they didn't turn from their idolatry.
- When the king of Assyria settled new pagan nations in Israel, they committed the same sins as the nations who were carried away out of the promised land (2 Kings 17:33).
- When the book of 2 Kings was written, the Israelites were still rebelling against God. They hadn't repented or changed (2 Kings 17:34-40).
- In the middle of a chapter that explains how the Israelites were wicked and rebelled against God, the text takes the

time to say that God changed Jacob's name to Israel (2 Kings 17:34).

- God wrote down His commandments for Israel (2 Kings 17:37). He used Moses to do this.
- God commanded the Israelites to not forget the covenant He made with them (2 Kings 17:38).
- God told the Israelites that if they feared Him then He would deliver them out of the hand of all their enemies (2 Kings 17:39).
- Hezekiah removed the high places (2 Kings 18:4). None of the kings who came before him were willing to take that step (even the good ones). Hezekiah was the one who was finally willing to obey God and get rid of them.
- Hezekiah destroyed the idols in Judah (2 Kings 18:4).
- When the bronze serpent that Moses made became an object of worship, Hezekiah destroyed it (2 Kings 18:4).
- There was no king before or after Hezekiah who trusted God more than him (2 Kings 18:5).
- The reason the Israelites were taken away as captives to Assyria was because they didn't obey the voice of the Lord their God (2 Kings 18:12). They wouldn't obey His commandments.
- When Hezekiah sent a message to the king of Assyria and apologized for rebelling against him, the king of Assyria demanded that he pay 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold (2 Kings 18:14). This was an enormous amount of money.
- When the king of Assyria invaded Judah, Hezekiah didn't inquire of God, or cry out to God, or inquire of the

prophets. Instead he robbed God's holy temple and gave its treasure to the king of Assyria (2 Kings 18:15-16). Hezekiah was yet another king who chose to rob God instead of calling upon Him in his time of distress.

- Hezekiah even cut off the gold from the doors of God's temple in order to send it to the king of Assyria (2 Kings 18:16).
- The king of Assyria told Hezekiah that he shouldn't trust in the Lord their God to save them (2 Kings 18:22). This was a major theme of his message to Jerusalem, and one that was repeated multiple times. The king of Assyria did *not* want the Jews to trust in God to save them, and he said so repeatedly.
- Rabshakeh tried to convince the Jews that God was on the side of the Assyrians (2 Kings 18:25). That was a lie.
- When Hezekiah heard the words of Rabshakeh, he didn't go to Isaiah himself. Instead he sent other people to speak to the prophet on his behalf (2 Kings 19:2).
- God said that when Rabshakeh reproached Him, he was guilty of blasphemy (2 Kings 19:6).
- Rabshakeh sent a message to Hezekiah, telling him to not let the God in whom he trusted deceive him (2 Kings 19:10). It seems Rabshakeh heard that God had said He was going to save Jerusalem, and he didn't want the Jews to believe it.
- After Hezekiah read the letter that Rabshakeh sent him, he spread it before God in the temple and prayed (2 Kings 19:14-15).
- God dwells between the cherubims (2 Kings 19:15).

- The God of Israel is the only God. There is no other (2 Kings 19:15).
- Hezekiah wanted God to demonstrate to all the nations of the world that He was the only God (2 Kings 19:19).
- In God's message against Sennacherib, He said that Sennacherib had blasphemed the Holy One of Israel (2 Kings 19:20-22).
- God told Sennacherib that the reason he was victorious was because it was God's will for him to succeed, and to destroy the cities that he had conquered (2 Kings 19:25). Sennacherib was actually carrying out the plan that God had established long ago (even though he didn't realize it).
- God decides the future of nations long in advance (2 Kings 19:25).
- There are times when God uses wicked and pagan rulers to carry out His plan (2 Kings 19:25).
- God told Sennacherib the reason the inhabitants of the nations he conquered had little power was because it was God's will for him to defeat them (2 Kings 19:26). God told Sennacherib that he had defeated weak nations, not strong nations.
- Sennacherib was full of rage against God (2 Kings 19:27).
- God is able to force kings to do things that they don't want to do (2 Kings 19:28).
- God was going to defend Jerusalem and save it for His own sake, and for the sake of David (2 Kings 19:34).
- The night after God spoke to Hezekiah, the angel of the Lord went into the camp of the Assyrians and killed

185,000 of them (2 Kings 19:35). The angel of the Lord can kill entire armies.

- Even though Sennacherib knew the power of God (because God had slaughtered his entire army in a single night), he didn't repent and worship God. Instead he continued to worship his idols (2 Kings 19:37).
- Sennacherib was murdered by two of his own sons while he was worshiping an idol (2 Kings 19:37). Sennacherib fell by the sword in his own land, just as God promised.
- When Hezekiah was told that his illness was going to kill him, he greatly wept (2 Kings 20:3). He didn't want to die.
- Before Isaiah left the middle court after telling Hezekiah that he was going to die, the word of God came to him (2 Kings 20:4). God can answer prayers very quickly.
- God referred to Hezekiah as the captain of His people (2 Kings 20:5). There's a recurring theme of God referring to kings as captains (1 Samuel 10:1, 13:14).
- There are times when God grants prayers to save people from certain death (2 Kings 20:5). Prayer really can change things.
- The reason Hezekiah lived another 15 years was because God granted his prayer to extend his life (2 Kings 20:6). Because his life was extended, his son Manasseh was born (2 Kings 20:21, 21:1). The wickedness of Manasseh is the reason why God destroyed Judah and Jerusalem (2 Kings 21:11-13, 23:26, 24:3). That means Hezekiah's wish led directly to the destruction of his nation. It would have been far better for Judah if Hezekiah had died of his illness and Manasseh had never been born.
- When God told Hezekiah that He was going to heal him,

Isaiah didn't just pronounce him healed. Instead a lump of figs was placed on the boil that was going to kill Hezekiah, and he then recovered (2 Kings 20:7).

- Hezekiah wanted a sign that God was going to heal him (2 Kings 20:8). Even though God said he would be healed and able to go to the temple in three days, Hezekiah wasn't willing to wait that long. He wanted God to give him a sign.
- God changed the direction of the sun in the sky for a period of time to show Hezekiah that He was going to keep His word and would surely heal him (2 Kings 20:9-11). That's an *enormous* sign to give over such a small request.
- God is unimaginably powerful (2 Kings 20:11).
- It seems that when the men of Babylon came to see Hezekiah, he didn't spend his time telling them about the glories of God. Instead he spent his time trying to impress them with how great and wealthy he was (2 Kings 20:13). Hezekiah was immensely proud of his wealth.
- Isaiah told Hezekiah that God said that in the days to come, everything that was in Hezekiah's house would be carried away to Babylon. Even his descendants would be taken away and turned into eunuchs (2 Kings 20:17-18). Although Amos interceded with God when the Lord told him that judgment was coming upon Israel (Amos 7:1-3), Hezekiah didn't. Hezekiah could have cried out to God and asked Him to have mercy on his house and his descendants, but he didn't.
- When Isaiah told Hezekiah that in the days to come people from Babylon would take everything in his house and turn his descendants into eunuchs, Hezekiah said it

didn't matter to him. As long as there was peace and truth in *his* days, he was happy. He didn't care what happened to his descendants in the future (2 Kings 20:19). The man who greatly wept when he thought that *he* was going to die had no tears to shed about the fate of those who would come after him. In the end, Hezekiah only cared about himself and his own comfort.

- Manasseh didn't begin reigning over Judah until after Hezekiah died (2 Kings 20:21) Since he began reigning when he was 12 years old (2 Kings 21:1), that means he was born during the 15 extra years of life that God gave to Hezekiah.
- Manasseh committed the same abominations as the heathen who God cast out when He gave the Israelites the promised land (2 Kings 21:2).
- Manasseh created altars for Baal (2 Kings 21:3).
- Manasseh worshiped the stars of heaven (2 Kings 21:3).
- Manasseh put pagan altars in the holy temple of God (2 Kings 21:4-5). He turned the holy temple of God into a place of idolatry and paganism.
- Manasseh burned his son alive as a human sacrifice (2 Kings 21:6).
- Manasseh put an idol in the holy temple of God (2 Kings 21:7).
- In order for the Israelites to remain in the promised land, they had to do everything God commanded them (2 Kings 21:8). But they didn't.
- Under the reign of Manasseh, the Jews were more wicked than the pagan nations that used to live in the promised

(2 Kings 21:9).

- Manasseh was more wicked than the Amorites (2 Kings 21:11).
- Those who introduce others to idolatry are causing them to sin (2 Kings 21:11).
- God said that because of the abominations of Manasseh, He was going to bring evil upon Judah and Jerusalem. The Lord said that He was going to wipe Jerusalem the way that a person wiped a dish and turned it upside down (2 Kings 21:12-13).
- There are times when the sins of a ruler are so great that God decides to utterly destroy that ruler's nation (2 Kings 21:13).
- God referred to the Jews as His inheritance (2 Kings 21:14).
- God said the Jews had provoked Him to anger from the day their forefathers left Egypt until the present day (2 Kings 21:15).
- Manasseh filled one end of Jerusalem to the other with innocent blood (2 Kings 21:16).
- Amon (king of Judah and son of Manasseh) was murdered by his servants in his own house (2 Kings 21:23).
- Josiah began reigning over Judah when he was 8 years old (2 Kings 22:1).
- Josiah walked in all the ways of David (2 Kings 22:2). He did what was right in the sight of God and didn't turn away to the right or the left.

- By the time Josiah became the king of Judah, the temple had fallen into disrepair (2 Kings 22:5). Josiah wanted to repair it.
- While the temple was being repaired, the book of the law of God was found (2 Kings 22:8). It seems it had previously been lost.
- In the 18th year of Josiah's reign, Shaphan read the book of the law to Josiah after it was found in the temple (2 Kings 22:10). It seems this was the first time Josiah had heard it.
- When Josiah heard the words of the book of the law, he was filled with grief (2 Kings 22:11).
- Josiah knew the sins of his forefathers had kindled God's wrath against Judah (2 Kings 22:13).
- Huldah was a female prophet (2 Kings 22:14).
- When Josiah wanted to inquire of God, the high priest didn't use the Urim and Thummim. Instead the people Josiah sent went to a prophet (2 Kings 22:14). Since the law had been lost, it's possible that in those days no one knew how to inquire of God using the Urim and the Thummim.
- Even though Josiah repented and did what was right in God's sight, the Lord was still going to destroy Judah and send the Jews into exile (2 Kings 22:16). Josiah's righteousness and repentance was unable to save his nation. There are times when it's too late for a nation to repent, and the judgment of God *cannot* be stopped. The best Josiah could do was delay national destruction until after he died.
- God told Josiah that His wrath against Judah couldn't be

quenched (2 Kings 22:17). Even repentance couldn't save Judah. It was too late.

- God wants people to humble themselves before Him when they hear His law and His judgments (2 Kings 22:19).
- God told Josiah that he wouldn't live to see all the evil that God was going to bring upon Judah (2 Kings 22:20). That's exactly what happened.
- Josiah read all the words of the book of the covenant to all the people of Judah (2 Kings 23:2).
- Josiah made a covenant before God that all the Jews would keep all of God's commandments with all of their heart and soul (2 Kings 23:3). This covenant wasn't kept.
- Josiah commanded Hilkiah to remove from the temple all the vessels that were made for worshiping idols. Those vessels were then burned (2 Kings 23:4). It's disturbing that the priests left them in the temple until the king commanded them to throw them out.
- Josiah destroyed the high places throughout Judah that were used to worship false gods (2 Kings 23:5).
- The reason Josiah defiled Tophet was so the Jews could no longer use it to burn their children alive as human sacrifices to Molech (2 Kings 23:10). Josiah put a stop to that practice.
- Josiah destroyed the pagan altars that the kings of Judah had made (2 Kings 23:12).
- Solomon built pagan high places near Jerusalem for the false gods Ashtoreth, Chemosh, and Milcom. Josiah destroyed them (2 Kings 23:13). It seems that all the

previous righteous kings left them there.

- Josiah destroyed the high place and the altar at Bethel, which Jeroboam had made (2 Kings 23:15). That altar was still around, even after the Israelites were removed from the promised land.
- When Josiah burned bones upon the altar at Bethel, he was fulfilling the word of the Lord that was proclaimed by a man of God hundreds of years earlier (2 Kings 23:16).
- Burning bones upon an altar polluted it and made it unclean (2 Kings 23:16).
- Even though hundreds of years had passed, the people of Bethel still remembered the man of God. They remembered he had said that one day a man named Josiah would come and burn the bones of the priests upon the altar at Bethel (2 Kings 23:17). That hadn't been forgotten.
- When Josiah learned that the sepulcher was of the man of God who spoke against the altar at Bethel, he commanded that no one move his bones (2 Kings 23:18). However, the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria (who tricked the man of God and got him killed) were also left alone, because they were in same the sepulcher. It's possible the reason the prophet deliberately arranged to have the man of God killed was to protect his bones after he died.
- Building pagan temples provokes God to anger (2 Kings 23:19).
- Josiah killed all the priests of the high places upon the pagan altars where they worshiped their idols (2 Kings 23:20). He then burned their bones upon those altars,

which defiled them.

- Josiah commanded the Jews to keep the Passover to the Lord. The way he kept the Passover exceeded what was done in all the days of the judges, the days of the kings of Israel, and the days of the kings of Judah (2 Kings 23:21-22). It seems he may have been the only king who kept the Passover as it was supposed to be kept.
- There was no king before or after Josiah who was like him, who turned to God with all his heart and soul and might (2 Kings 23:25-26). Yet even that was unable to turn the fierceness of God's wrath away from Judah.
- God's wrath was kindled against Judah because of the wickedness of Manasseh (2 Kings 23:26). Manasseh's wickedness was so great that nothing could save Judah from God's wrath.
- When Pharaohnechoh went to the Euphrates river to wage war against the king of Assyria, Josiah decided to attack Pharaohnechoh. Josiah did this even though that war didn't involve him in any way (2 Kings 23:29). That pride and arrogance got Josiah killed. He died in battle in a time of peace, when no one was waging war against him or his nation.
- Josiah died before God poured out His wrath upon Judah and Jerusalem, just as God promised (2 Kings 23:29).
- When God sent enemies against Judah to destroy it, He was fulfilling the word that He had spoken through the prophets (2 Kings 24:2).
- The reason God wanted Judah removed out of His sight was because of all the innocent blood that Manasseh shed (2 Kings 24:4). That blood couldn't be pardoned.

- It's possible for a nation to shed so much innocent blood that it can't be saved, and will surely be destroyed (even if it repents) (2 Kings 24:4).
- When Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar took him captive. Nebuchadnezzar then carried out of Jerusalem all the treasures that were in the temple and the palace (2 Kings 24:12-13). This fulfilled the promise that God made to Hezekiah, that all of his wealth would one day be carried away to Babylon.
- After Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive, Nebuchadnezzar removed the gold plating from the vessels that were in the temple, and carried that gold away (2 Kings 24:13). The reason he did this was because many of the items in the temple were covered in gold.
- When Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive, he also carried away 10,000 captives from Jerusalem to Babylon (2 Kings 24:14-16). This included princes, mighty men of valor, craftsmen, and smiths. The people who he left were the poorest of the land.
- Nebuchadnezzar changed Mattaniah's name to Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:17).
- God used Zedekiah's rebellion against the king of Babylon to cast Judah and Jerusalem out of His presence (2 Kings 24:20).
- After Zedekiah rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem and besieged it. On the 9th day of the 4th month of the 11th year of Zedekiah's reign, all the food in Jerusalem was gone. That night Zedekiah and his men fled from Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:3-4). In Jeremiah 38:17, right before the city fell, God told Zedekiah that if he surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar then he would be saved

and Jerusalem would be spared. Zedekiah chose to defy God instead of obeying Him.

- The army of the Chaldees captured Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho and brought him to Riblah. When Nebuchadnezzar judged him, Zedekiah's sons were slain before his eyes. Zedekiah's eyes were put out, he was bound with fetters, and he was carried to Babylon (2 Kings 25:6-7). All of that horror could have been avoided if Zedekiah had obeyed God and surrendered (Jeremiah 38:17), but he refused.
- On the 7th day of the 5th month of the 19th year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan entered into Jerusalem. He burned the temple, the palace, and the houses of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:8-9). That also could have been avoided if Zedekiah had obeyed God and surrendered (Jeremiah 38:17).
- Nebuzaradan carried away the rest of the people who were left in Jerusalem, as well as those who surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar. He left the poor to serve as vinedressers and husbandmen (2 Kings 25:11-12).
- The Chaldees broke into pieces the pillars of brass that were in the temple, along with the bronze sea and the other large items that were made of brass (2 Kings 25:13).
- The Chaldees carried away to Babylon the vessels of brass that were used to serve in the temple. They also carried away the items that were made of silver and gold (2 Kings 25:14-15).
- The amount of brass that the Chaldees carried away from the temple was so great that it wasn't weighed (2 Kings 25:16).

- After Nebuzaradan brought Seraiah (the high priest) to Riblah, Nebuchadnezzar killed him (2 Kings 25:18-21).