

2 KINGS

- 1) 1:2 – **Baal-zebul** means "lord of the filth," or "dung." It may have been also, "lord of the flies," and may have been the legitimate title of the chief god of the Philistine city of Ekron, meaning it had power to bring or prevent insect plagues and diseases brought by them, especially flies. Therefore, Ahaziah, lying dying, chances Elijah's wrath by calling on Baal-zebul. /// **Baal-zebul** means "exalted lord," or "lord of the lofty dwelling." See also Matthew 10:25, 12:24, and Mark 3:22.
- 2) 2:11 – Four centuries later Malachi prophesied that Elijah would return before the Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus said that he **had** returned, in the form of John the Baptist (Matthew 17:13).
- 3) – Chap 3: This story illustrates the belief of the vast majority of ancient peoples in "henotheism," the view that every god has an area in which he is supreme, and every area (usually a tribe) had its own gods. These gods can be propitiated by sacrifice -- see vs 27. The Yahvists were probably henotheists and felt that the sacrifice of Mesha's heir would make the Moabites' god Ashtar-chemoth invincible, so they quit. V. 9 – Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, Mesha.
- 4) 5:1 – According to Jewish legend (not Biblical) Naaman was the one who killed Ahab.
- 5) 9:30 – Posterity has been unwilling to give the old queen credit for any virtue, even courage. To posterity a "painted Jezebel" does not signify bravery in the face of disaster, which was actually the case, but rather sexual wickedness, of which there is no Biblical ground for accusing Jezebel.
- 6) 10:11 – This ended the rule of the House of Omri, the 3rd dynasty: Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram. Now in 843 BC, the dynasty of Jehu begins.
- 7) 15:19 – First mention of Assyria. Assyria was what is now the northern two-thirds of Iraq, between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, with Babylonia to the south. Pul is Tiglath-pileser, means "first born of (the god) Eshara is my confidence." See v. 29 for what he did in 734 BCE. The first five cities were all in Naphtali, the furthest north of the twelve tribal lands. It lies north of Galilee and west of the Jordan river. Gilead was east of the Sea of Galilee. See map on page 560.
- 8) 16:9 – Thus ended the Syrian nation in 732 BC, after 250 years, and it remained under foreign rule until **1941**. /// Kir: part of Elam (Iran). /// (Rome was founded c 750 BC.) See Hosea 5:8-14 for his prophecy.
- 9) 17:2 – **Shalmaneser** was the son of and successor to Tiglath-pileser. He died in 722 BC and a usurper came to the throne. He took the name of **Sargon II** (after the Sargon who had ruled the Akkadians 17 centuries earlier). Sargon moved 27,000 Israelites, the ruling classes and landowners, from all ten tribes of Israel, to the Habor (Khabur) River Valley, 860 miles east of Haran, between Two Rivers. This brought to a permanent end the Kingdom of Israel. /// **What happened to the "Ten Lost Tribes?"** Those transported were assimilated into the upper part of the Fertile Crescent. Those left behind (the majority) merged with the colonists brought in by Sargon II from Babylon and elsewhere. These became the Samaritans, whose religion became a Yahvist heresy and could never be accepted by Judah, the "Jews," the only tribe left of the original 12. /// In a coincidence of history, it was Joshua who led the Israelites **into** Canaan, and a Joshua (Hoshea) who led them **out**.
- 10) 18:1ff – There were probably two sieges of Jerusalem by Sennacherib: The first one: 2

Kings 18:13-16, in **701 BCE**. The second one: 2 Kings 18:17, 19-21, 25; 19:1,5-10; 19:15 , 19-20, 32; 19:35-37 in **688 B.C.**

- 11) 19:35 – Herodotus writes that a plague of mice ate all the leather shields and sandals, etc., so the army could not fight. This was not the total victory like it sounds: the Jews were still very much vassals of Sennacherib and then his son, Esarhaddon. /// An inscription on a statue found in Sennacherib's throne room corroborates the bribery tale, rather than this account of the Lord's angel causing his abrupt departure.
- 12) 22:8 --Part of Deuteronomy, reduced to writing in 650 BC, during Manasseh's long (55 yrs.) anti-Yahwist reign, to prevent it's being lost. It is of interest that Josiah sent Hilkiah and others to Hulda (vss 14ff) rather than Jeremiah, who was in his 5th year of ministry. Probably because Jeremiah was not yet well known, whereas Hulda was the wife of a temple official and of high reputation. She is one of 5 prophetesses named in Scripture: Miriam (Ex 15:20), Deborah (Judg 4:4), Noadiah (Neh 6:14), Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
- 13) 23:3 – The final victory of Yahvism among Judeans. Yahvism begins its transition to Judaism, the religion of the Jewish people.
- 14) 23:10--In Judah, the furnaces for the burning of children in sacrifice to Molech were in the valley of the children of Hinnom -- Ge-hinnom in Hebrew. This valley curved around the southern end of ancient Jerusalem (now is **in** Jerusalem) and joins the Kidron Valley which runs roughly north-south along the eastern border of Jerusalem. Later Jews felt such horror at the sort of religious fire rites that went on at Topheth in Ge-hinnom that both Tophet and Gehenna became synonymous with Hell.
- 15) 23:28 – For historical events occurring in Assyria and Egypt that led to Josiah's death, see Azimov's Guide to the Bible, pp 391-2.
- 16) 24:18 – Zedekiah was the 21st and last king of the Davidic line, ruled over what was left of Judah. (24:18-20 is copied verbatim in Jeremiah, Chapter 52:1-3.)
- 17) 25:1 – When Zedekiah and Jerusalem fell, this ended the kingdom of Judah, 477 years after David's accession to the throne.
- 18) 25:22 – Gedaliah was the grandson of the scribe who received the news of the finding of parts of Deuteronomy -- and now rules over the remnant of Judah.