



2 Kings: The Power and the Fury

Dale Ralph Davis

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2 Kings provides a fast-paced narrative of insight into the history of Israel under its monarchy. This book is a continuation of the narrative begun in 1 Samuel, and continued through 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. Ralph finishes it off with a captivating and rewarding journey through 2 Kings.

Written between 561 BC and 538 BC, 2nd Kings gives us a warning about the consequences of sin, especially the catastrophic repercussions of Israel's love affair with idolatry. Despite struggling with other problems, we see that the Jewish people learned from their experience. They never made a mistake of this enormity again.

Through prophets such as Elisha and Elijah we see God's compassion for his people and the opportunity for repentance. An opportunity spoilt by Judah, climaxing with the subjugation of the kingdom by the Babylonians.

Illuminating, accessible and laced with his unique sense of humour, Davis' practical devotional expository applies events to the contemporary reader providing parallels to alert us in the 21st century.

2 Kings: The Power and the Fury Details

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Mike says

All Davis' series of commentaries bear repeated readings. I thought I'd read this one at least twice before, but can't see a record of the other reading my files. Anyway, it certainly bore another reading, and, if I should live so long, yet another reading at some future point.

It's detailed and longer than some of his other commentaries, but there's no page that's not worth the inclusion.

And the chapter in which he discusses prayer - chapter 25 - is worth the book's price on its own.

Gabriel says

Several years ago I read The Hobbit to my daughter for family reading time. As we reached the final page she started to cry and told me she just didn't want it to end. That's exactly how I feel as I reached the last page of Davis's commentary on 2nd Kings this morning. Over the past 2 years I've devoured his series on the Old Testament books of "history" -- Joshua, Judges, 1st & 2nd Samuel, and 1st & 2nd Kings -- about 1700 pages of wit & wisdom on this fascinating but often forgotten part of God's word. Along the way I've laughed, I've cried, I've been pierced with conviction, and I've always been drawn closer to God through Davis's reverent yet always practical teaching. This series is the best of the best in devotional reading, and I can't recommend it highly enough.

Kofi Opoku says

Dale Ralph Davis is excellent again. His commentary is lively, relevant, and shows a lot of theological integrity. He doesn't get sidetracked by dwelling too much on the tangential issues that arise from reading the book, but he's not negligent of them either. I thought some of his examples were a bit contrived, but other than that, this was a really helpful book. I would give it 4.7 stars if Goodreads allowed that sort of thing.

Joan Haughton says

WORDS FROM THE BOOK OF SECOND KINGS:

Then Elijah folded his cloak together and struck the water with it. The river divided, and the two of them went across on dry ground!

When Elisha arrived, the child was indeed dead, lying there on the prophet's bed. He went in alone and shut the door behind him and prayed to the Lord. Then he lay down on the child's body, placing his mouth on the child's mouth, his eyes on the child's eyes, and his hands on the child's hands. And as he stretched out on

him, the child's body began to grow warm again! Elisha got up, walked back and forth across the room once, and then stretched himself out again on the child. This time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes! Then Elisha summoned Gehazi. "Call the child's mother!" he said. And when she came in, Elisha said, "Here, take your son!" She fell at his feet and bowed before him, overwhelmed with gratitude. Then she took her son in her arms and carried him downstairs.

Then Elisha died and was buried. Groups of Moabite raiders used to invade the land each spring. Once when some Israelites were burying a man, they spied a band of these raiders. So they hastily threw the corpse into the tomb of Elisha and fled. But as soon as the body touched Elisha's bones, the dead man revived and jumped to his feet!

BLESS THE NAME OF JESUS!

Jim says

When it's good, the content -- I'm referring to the exposition -- is really good. Clear writing style and logical approach to unpacking content. (He's pompous at times, but better than bland.) His knowledge of Hebrew is on display, and I found it helpful.

I could do without the Civil War anecdotes and other departures from the text. I found those distracting. Put them in a sidebar.

Cameron Barham says

Davis is a faithful and careful commentator with an excellent grasp of biblical theology. This a very readable commentary that is an excellent devotional resource on 2 Kings.

K.M. Weiland says

I finish up Davis's fabulous Old Testament commentary series with reluctance, since it easily ranks as one of the best and most consistent treatises on these books of the Bible. Entertaining, thought-provoking, and soul-stirring, this book, like its predecessors, was worth not just reading but re-reading.

Paul says

Simply outstanding. The final chapter, on the closing verses of 2 Kings is the cherry on top of the icing of the cake, and very timely to read this morning December 1st. As i read these words, my overarching thought is on little Bethlehem Ephratha. For "the hopes and fears of all the years, are met in thee tonight." Wonderful wonderful !!
