



## **The book of 2 Kings**

### ***DESCRIPTION SHEET***

#### **Author**

As we have already pointed out in the presentation of the first book of Kings (1 Kings), which is in fact the first part of a single text, the second book of Kings (2 Kings), according to rabbinic tradition, was written by the prophet Jeremiah.

#### **Date**

While it is true that we do not know the exact key date of the writing of this text, we can however place it between 561 and 538 BC.

#### **Main theme and target audience**

The second book of Kings continues with the history of the Kings of both the kingdom of Judah and Israel. This book also tells how God used Prophet Elisha, the successor of Prophet Elijah. This book concludes with the deportation of the people of Israel and Judah to Assyria and Babylon. This situation depicts the fall of a divided kingdom and especially the consequence of a people acting against God's commandments. The prophets had not ceased to warn the people of the two kingdoms against the judgment of God if they did not repent. The audience for this text was indeed the people of God in Israel.

#### **Outline of the book**

1. The end of the ministry of the Prophet Elijah: he went up to heaven. (2 Kings 1 – 2)
2. The ministry of the Prophet Elisha. (2 Kings 3 – 7)
3. Between Hazael and Jehu: correction of God's people, destruction of Ahab's house and of the worship of Baal. (2 Kings 8 – 10)
4. The reign of Joash in Judah and the restoration of the temple of God. (2 Kings 11 – 12)
5. The death of Prophet Elisha and the reign of some Kings over Judah and Israel. (2 Kings 13 – 16)
6. The captivity of 10 tribes. (2 Kings 17)
7. The reign of king Hezekiah and the victory of Judah over the Assyrians. (2 Kings 18 – 20)
8. Manasseh, the worst king of Judah and idolatrous, and king Josiah's covenant with God. (2 Kings 21 – 23)
9. The destruction of Jerusalem by the king of Babylon. (2 Kings 24 – 25)