

# Apply The Word

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## KINGS & KINGDOMS

### Message Info

**Title:**

Rejoice and Reengage

**Speaker:**

Peter Privitera

**Date:**

July 3, 2022

**Scriptures:**

1 Kings 16:29-

2 Kings 2:12

**Theme:** Rejoice and reengage for God's covenant promise is greater.

**Introduction:** How good is a promise? As good as the person making it. Though keeping one's word may be quite difficult at points, it is a righteous trait, and it mirrors the character of our righteous, promise-keeping God. God graciously formalizes his word in covenants with his people, and all who trust in him have entered into a relationship of promise with him. His faithfulness to his promises should consistently encourage us.

This text reveals the surpassing greatness of God's covenant during the reign of Ahab and the ministry of Elijah, in four ways:

**1. Greater than cultural shifts (16:29-18:46)**

Ahab becomes king and is the most evil king of Israel, even surpassing his father. His wife, Jezebel, is a dedicated idolatress and seeks to rid Israel of worship of the true God.

The Lord raises up Elijah to announce judgment and to have a showdown with the Baal worshippers.

**2. Greater than our own frailty (19:1-21)**

After his victory over Baal, Jezebel threatens Elijah and promises to have him killed. Elijah gives in to self-pity and seems to want to quit.

The Lord orchestrates a dramatic encounter with Elijah; but ultimately meets him in quiet, ordinary ways.

So much of our experience of God's faithfulness comes in small moments over a long time—we should not chase dramatic experiences.

**3. Greater than worldly rulers (20:1-22:53)**

Ben-hadad, King of Syria, threatens Israel. The Lord sends a prophet promising deliverance, and then delivers them.

The Syrians try—and lose—again. But Ahab treats Ben-hadad kindly in an effort to gain political and commercial advantage.

The incident with Naboth's vineyard shows the wickedness and cunning of Ahab and Jezebel, as the scheme against a righteous man for selfish gain.

The Lord prophecies Ahab's doom for his evil ways, and he ends up dying in battle and suffering disgrace.

**4. Greater than the generations (16:29-18:46)**

Ahab's heir, Ahaziah, appeals to the priests of Baal for help; but the Lord intervenes.

Elijah steps in with a pronouncement of death.

Ahaziah seeks to compel and manipulate Elijah, but the Lord protects him and his prophecy comes to pass. Ahaziah dies.

The Lord then raises up Elisha to succeed Elijah, bestowing a double portion of anointing on him as prophet.

**Questions:**

1. Are you discouraged? Do you struggle with self-pity? If so, how?
2. How can you engage the Lord with your difficulties in life?
3. Do you see God at work in your ordinary, day-to-day life?