

Apply The Word

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KINGS & KINGDOMS

Message Info

Title:

Devotion to the True King

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

2 Kings 9-12

Theme: Pursue wholehearted devotion to the Lord for his promises are always sure.

Introduction: As persons born again by God's Spirit, Christians show reverence for his word and we gladly submit to its authority in our lives. This is especially so in areas where the world around us disagrees with Scripture's teachings. These chapters in 2 Kings deal especially with the uncomfortable topics of sin and judgment, and we are confronted again with the question of whether we will submit to God's word or stand in judgment over it.

We see both God's judgment and his mercy in these chapters through 3 stages:

1. The mad terror of promised judgment (9-10)

Elisha commissions a servant to go and anoint Jehu as the next king of Israel. He will be the Lord's instrument in the destruction of Ahab & Jezebel. The servant obeys and Jehu is anointed and proclaimed king. He goes on to kill Joram, king of Israel, and Ahaziah, king of Judah.

At every point, he is conscious of executing judgment according to the word of the Lord, and he tells others as much.

He also kills Jezebel and her body is devoured by dogs, fulfilling the prophecy made through Elijah.

Jehu then writes the leaders of Samaria, who kill Ahab's 70 sons and send their heads to Jezreel. He also kills other relatives of Ahab in both Jezreel and Samaria.

Finally, he assembles all the Baal worshippers in Israel, killing them all, destroying the house of Baal, and turning it into a latrine.

The Lord rewards Jehu for executing judgment with a 4-generation dynasty, even as Jehu failed to fully obey and persisted in the sins of Jeroboam—golden calf worship.

2. The enduring certainty of promised salvation (11)

After the death of Ahaziah, Athaliah his mother destroys the entire royal family so that she can rule as queen.

Thankfully, Jehosheba has the courage and foresight to secret away one baby boy, Joash, and to care for him and his nurse in her apartment for six years. She thus preserved the line of David, which led to Jesus himself generations later.

After 6 years, Jehoida the priest, her husband, arranges for Joash to be crowned king, replacing Athaliah, which leads to her death.

3. The disappointing results of compromised politics (12)

Joash begins his reign by working to see the temple repaired.

However, when he is threatened by Hazael, he does not call out to the Lord. Instead, he uses the wealth he has built to purchase a temporary peace. He is later killed in a conspiracy by his servants.

Questions:

1. What functional authority does God's word have in your life?

2. How has Scripture changed your values and perspective? What difficult truths have you come to embrace?

3. How do your everyday responsibilities glorify God?