

# Apply The Word

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## KINGS & KINGDOMS

### Message Info

**Title:**

Trust Alone

**Speaker:**

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**Date:**

July 24, 2022

**Scriptures:**

2 Kings 13:1-15:12

**Theme:** Trust is the only way forward because success and failure are in the sovereign.

**Introduction:** We've all seen people take different approaches to life, and we may wonder at their various motivations. Some are driven to accomplishments, and others seem to live for pleasure. Most of us approach life with a mixture of the two. But the ultimate approach to life is found in who or what we trust.

This text reveals two approaches toward trusting God, through 3 steps:

#### 1. Success in spite of evil

We think of evil as the worst things possible; but how does God define it? The author of Kings uses it in a summary formula for each king—he either did good or evil “in the sight of the LORD.” In brief, to worship anything alongside the Lord is *evil*.

Of the 6 kings in this text, 4 (from Israel) do evil and 2 (from Judah) do good. The evil doing was to worship idols, and to lead Israel in the same.

Yet despite their idolatry, the Lord prospered Israel during this time. We must remember that just because someone is prospering it does not mean the Lord is pleased.

#### 2. Failure in spite of rightness

Amaziah and Azariah of Judah both do right before the Lord, and they both suffer failure.

Though their personal sins are involved, the larger purpose at play is God's, not man's.

Amaziah suffers the overrunning and looting of Jerusalem. Azariah suffers from leprosy.

We may be tempted to human reasoning, thinking that if the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer, why bother? But we must remember that the outcome is not in our hands, and the Lord's purposes should be ultimate. His plan is ultimate.

The way forward is to trust him and then to obey his word. We cannot have faith without obedience. If we believe God, we will obey him.

#### 3. Trustworthy God

In reflecting on the prosperity of Israel under wicked kings, we may wonder: why would the Lord do this?

Second Kings 14:26-27 gives us 2 reasons: a) the Lord is compassionate and merciful; and, b) the Lord is slow to anger and steadfast in love. He is trustworthy.

We also see the Lord's trustworthiness through Elisha: after 50 years of faithful ministry, he's dying. The Lord uses him to announce a measure of deliverance against Syria to Joash (Jehoash), who is not devoted to the Lord.

Also, the Lord uses Elisha's bones to resurrect a dead man when his body touches Elisha's. We serve the God who raises the dead.

#### Questions:

1. What are you tempted to elevate alongside or above God in your life? What do you have to have?

2. Do you ever chafe against the Lord's providence in your life? Are you now?

3. How can you grow in resting in God's good sovereignty? How does the gospel connect to your trust?