

## 2 Kings 8

Trust in the Unseen Plan of God

### I. Shunammite's Land Restored: Blessed are the Merciful

1 Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose **son he had restored to life**, saying, "**Arise and go**, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the Lord has **called for a famine**, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for **seven years**."

- Lord *called for* 7 Year famine beginning with Syrian Siege of Samaria

**Habakkuk 3:2** [Prophet pleads...] In wrath [judgment] **remember mercy.**

#### Window of Mercy in midst of Judgment

- Chased surrounding Syrians home. Allowed 4 lepers to find Syrian's food
- Told the King and people ate to their fill...failed to give glory to God

God's kindness should lead to repentance...did not

- **Didn't learn from pain/past:** Overarching theme of Ch. 8.
- Judgment continues on Northern Kingdom Israel: **7 more years of Famine**

#### God remembers the kindness of one woman

- **Shunammite woman of 2 Kings 4**
  1. **Prominent lady:** Blessed Elisha with a room, food, bed, table, lamp
  2. **No son:** Elisha prays for son/son dies/Elisha raises son to life
- God shows His grace to one lady who showed kindness to His prophet Elisha

**Genesis 6:7** [Judgment for wickedness] "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." **8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**

- **One man/family:** [8 in all] saved from world-wide judgment
- **One lady/family:** Foreigners...are shown mercy...

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

**Psalms 41:1** Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

- **Warning:** 7 Years of famine
- **Instruction:** Leave while you can. Stay wherever you can

2 So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and **dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years.**

- **Dwelling safely with the enemy?** Everyday life for a believer...

**John 17:15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil **walks about** like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. [roaring but no fangs for those who trust]

- We live safely among enemies

3 It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman **returned from the land of the Philistines**; and she went to make an **appeal to the king for her house and for her land**. 4 Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the **great things Elisha has done**." 5 Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had **restored the dead to life**, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, **appealing to the king for her house** and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, **this is the woman**, and **this is her son** whom Elisha restored to life." 6 And when the king asked the woman, she told him.

- **Gahazi Servant of Elisha:** A Leper talking to King?
  1. Healed of Leprosy?
  2. Happened before Leprosy incident?
  3. King kept distance and allowed because curious of Elisha?

Tell me the great things Elisha has done? Previously wanted to kill him

**2 Kings 6:31** [When king heard of cannibalism and blamed Elisha] Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!"

**Now King wants to hear about exploits as Shunammite walks in**

- **Coincidence?**
  1. Gahazi talking to King about Elisha raising some boy to life
  2. Boy and his mom walk in after 7 years of being gone, year, month, day, hour
  3. No coincidences in the life of a believer. Q. Do we use every opportunity
- **Request to King:** My house was taken while I was away can I have it back?

**6b...** So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "**Restore all that was hers**, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."

- **Appointed an Officer of Restoration**
  1. Not the unbelieving officer trampled at the Gate...a new officer
  2. **Officer of restoration:** Our Title. New office we represent

**We are all Ministers of Reconciliation**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** ... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**

### **Officers/Ministers/Priests of Restoration/Reconciliation between man and God**

- **Privilege:** To be used by God to restore to humanity what was lost at fall

Restoring people back to God and as God intended at Creation. New Creation...

1. Restoring Beauty
2. Restoring Joy
3. Restoring Praise to the glory of God

**Isaiah 61:3** [Lords mission given to us...privilege] To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

**SUMMARY Shunammite's Land Restored:** Blessed are the Merciful

## **II. Death of Ben-Hadad:** The Fixed Gaze of the Word of God

- **Chronology:** Back to Kings
  1. Syrians back in Syria
  2. Famine over in Israel
  3. Elisha is prophet to King of Israel

**7** Then Elisha went to **Damascus**, and Ben-Hadad king of Syria was sick

- **Elisha goes to Damascus**
  1. **Capital of Syria:** Enemy of Israel
  2. **North of Israel:** Paul converted on way to kill Christians
  3. **Presently:** Ben-Hadad King of Syria reigns in Damascus and **he is sick**

### **What is Elisha doing in Damascus? Not a coincidence...**

...and it was told [to Ben-Hadad], saying, "The man of God has come here." **8** And the king said to Hazael, "Take a present in your hand, and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease?' "

- **King to servant Hazael:** Bring a gift to Elisha and ask if I'm going to live

**9** So Hazael went to meet him and took a present with him, of every good thing of Damascus, forty camel-loads; and he came and stood before him, and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, '**Shall I recover from this disease?**' " **10** And Elisha said to him, "Go, say

to him, 'You shall certainly recover.' However the Lord has shown me that he will really die."

- 40 Camel Loads of stuff! The King wants to know if he is going to die
  1. He will not die
  2. But he will die

11 Then [Elisha] set his countenance in a stare until he was ashamed; and the man of God wept. 12 And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?"

- **Set his countenance**; *fixed his gaze* on Hazael servant of King of Syria
- Elisha knows something. Hazael knows Elisha knows something

### **Hazael finally loses staring contest. "What?"**

- Whatever Elisha knows makes him emotional

### **Hazael: "Why are you staring at me and crying?"**

**11b...**[Elisha] answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel: Their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child." 13 So Hazael said, "But what is your servant—a dog, that he should do this gross thing?"

- I'm staring and crying because I see what you will do to my people. Evil

"The prophet gazed long and fixedly into the eyes of Hazael. It would seem that he saw far more in the soul of the man than any other had seen, perhaps more than the man himself was conscious of." [Morgan]

1. Set cities on fire
2. Kill young people including children, unborn and mothers

### **How can you think that of me... that's gross**

**13b...**And Elisha answered, "The Lord has shown me that **you will become king over Syria.**"

- Elisha sees future happening now

14 Then [Hazael] departed from Elisha, and came to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "**He told me you would surely recover.**" 15 But it happened on the next day that [Hazael] took a thick cloth and dipped it in water, and spread it over [the King's] face so that he died; and **Hazael reigned in his place.**

- King would have recovered from disease; did not have opportunity
- Elisha in Damascus: Opportunity for Hazael to repent knowing he would not
- Hazael took Kingdom of Syria by force: Evil, bad dude, gross dog of man Ch.'s 10-13

## **Piercing. Cutting, all-seeing, all-knowing word of God God knows us better than we know ourselves**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- **Word of God warns each of us of sin in our heart:** All sinned. None righteous
  1. Agree with God, Surrender, be Forgiven
  2. Deny it and watch it wreak havoc in our lives and others
- I can't believe I could do that...believe it. It in every one of us

**SUMMARY Death of Ben-Hadad:** Fixed Gaze of the Word of God. NOTE: Hazael will be used by God to judge His people. Sad.

- Did Elisha give Hazael the idea? Did it inspire him to do evil or insight/inflame the evil already in his heart?

... in sinning, man is free, — free in the widest sense of the term, never being compelled to do any evil deed, but being left to follow the turbulent passions of his own corrupt heart, and carry out the prevailing tendencies of his own depraved nature." [Spurgeon]

### **III. Jehoram Reigns in Judah**

- **Picking up from 1 Kings 22:50**
  1. Jehoshaphat son of Asa ends 25-year reign
  2. over Judah
  3. Jehoram [Joram] his son now reigns over Southern Kingdom of Judah

16 Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoshaphat having been king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat began to reign as king of Judah.

- **Jehoshaphat:** Godly King of Judah; but "not so smart"
  1. Jehoram his son now reigns over Judah in his place
  2. Jehoram had six brothers; "had" past tense.

**2 Chronicles 21:3** [Jehoshaphat] gave them great gifts of silver and gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn. 4 Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel.

- Not great start to being King of Judah; son of Jehoshaphat and descendant of David

17 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight

years in Jerusalem. 18 And he walked in the way of the **kings of Israel**, just as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.

- Jehoram son of good king Jehoshaphat walked in ways of Kings of Israel?
  1. Idolatry
  2. Paganism
  3. Child-sacrifice
- **Why? How did this happen?**
  1. Father Jehoshaphat allied with Ahab: Compromise of his father
  2. Jehoram marries Ahab's daughter [Compromise arranged by Jehoshaphat!]

**Maybe we can bring the 2 Kingdoms back together.**

Maybe we could live together just to see. Maybe I can marry this pagan.  
Maybe this unbeliever will become a Christian...

3. Thus, compromise led to outright evil "in the sight" of the Lord
  - Divided Kingdom began with this "little sacrifice" of Solomon marrying pagans
  - That little sacrifice led to sacrificing own children to pagan deities of his wives
  - Do not be yoked with unbelievers; business partnerships and in marriage

**2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

- Not heeding the Word of God leads to pain

**Won't happen to me. I'll bring these 2 Kingdoms together...later**

- What now? I'm married to an unbeliever
- No should have/could have leading to weakness. Deal with "what is"

**1 Corinthians 7:12** ... If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

- Is it right to stay together for sake of children...yes

**...15** But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

- **Now what?**

1. If they want to leave you are free
2. If they want to stay... accept consequences of our disobedience remember...

God has not left you. He has not forsaken you. God still changes hearts.  
More impossible the challenge ... greater the glory when God steps in and shows mercy

- Jehoram's compromise led to "evil in the sight of the Lord" in City of David

19 Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah, for the sake of His servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

**2 Samuel 7:15** But My mercy shall not depart from [you David], as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom [David] shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ... 18 Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: "**Who am I, O Lord God?**"

- **God digs David:** Man after His own heart

**1 Kings 11:36** ...My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in...

**1 Kings 15:4** Nevertheless for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem

**Psalms 132:17** There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed.

- God would have destroyed Judah for what Jehoram was doing
- He did not for David's sake...**but still allowed plenty of trouble**

20 In [Jehoram's] days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a **king** over themselves.

- **Jehoram's disobedience led to the rise of Edom;** i.e. the flesh

#### **When we disobey we make ourselves king in God's place**

21 So Joram [i.e. Jehoram] went to Zair, and all his chariots with him. Then he rose by night and attacked the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots; and the troops fled to their tents. 22 Thus Edom has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. And Libnah revolted at that time.

God gave victory to Jehoram for David: Kingdom would have been destroyed by Edom

- **Caused Edom to be a perpetual Enemy:** Flesh vs. Spirit
- **Libnah;** i.e. city of priests in Judah also in revolt/refused to follow own King

23 Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 24 So Joram rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

- Before Jehoram [Joram] died he was given a letter from **Elijah**

**2 Chronicles 21:12** [Read] And a letter came to him from Elijah [foretelling before being taken up] the prophet, saying, Thus says the Lord God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself, 14 behold, the Lord will strike your people with a serious affliction—your children, your wives, and all your possessions; 15 and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day. 16 Moreover the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabians who were near the Ethiopians. 17 And they came up into Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions that were found in the king's house, and also his sons and his wives, so that there was not a son left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons. 18 After all this the Lord struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease. 19 Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers. 20 He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed. However they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

- **Jehoram:** "Exalted by the LORD" or The LORD is exalted: Did not live who he was
- Died at 40 years old one of the least loved kings of Judah.

#### **SUMMARY Jehoram Reigns in Judah**

### **IV. Ahaziah Reigns in Judah: Not Learning from Pain/Past**

25 In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel [not Jehoram King of Judah], Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, began to reign.

- While another Joram in the Northern Kingdom reigned [Son of Ahab]
- Ahaziah began to reign in Southern Kingdom [Youngest Son of Jehoram of South who died]

26 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was **Athaliah** the granddaughter of **Omri, king of Israel**. 27 And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, like the house of Ahab, for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

- **Ahaziah king of Southern Kingdom: 841 BC**

1. Ahaziah's Mother: Athaliah
2. Athaliah: Granddaughter of Omri father of Ahab
3. Ahaziah walked in the ways of **House of Ahab**/Jezebel of the North

Jehoram and Son Ahaziah made Southern Kingdom of Judah resemble the idolatrous Northern Kingdom of Israel

- **Southern Kingdom:** Did not learn from past/pain
  1. Not considering the past judgment of God on idolatry
  2. Not learning from siege by Syrians leading to starvation and cannibalism



**Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge,

**Isaiah 5: 8 [Blinded by prosperity]** Woe to those who join house to house; They add field to field, Till there is no place Where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land! ...**11** Woe to those who rise early in the morning, That they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, till wine inflames them! **12** The harp and the strings, The tambourine and flute, And wine are in their feasts; But they do not regard the work of the Lord, Nor consider the operation of His hands. Therefore my people have gone into captivity, **Because they have no knowledge...**

- Siege is coming in to the Southern Kingdom for not learning. 250 yrs. later in 597BC

**28** Now he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Syria at **Ramoth Gilead**; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

- **Compromise Continues**

1. Ahaziah of the South fights alongside of Joram King of North against Hazael
2. Ramoth Gilead: Where Jehoshaphat of South went with King of North Ahab
3. King of North Ahab was wounded then
4. King of the North Joram [Ahab's son] wounded here

**Nothing Changes. Nothing Learned from pain/past. God's Instructions not heeded**

**29** Then King Joram [of North] went back to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And **Ahaziah** the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, **went down to see** Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

- **Love fest with a compromiser:** What could it hurt

1. Joram of North goes home to heal
2. Ahaziah of South visits his compromising friend

- **Ahaziah:**

1. Did not learn from pain/past: He had seen by father's compromise and results
2. Consistently disregarded the Word of God
3. **Continued to listen/heed bad advice**

**2 Chronicles 22:3** [Ahaziah of south] also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother **advised him to do wickedly**. **4** Therefore he did evil in the sight of the Lord, **like the house of Ahab**; for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction.

**... going to Joram was God's occasion for Ahaziah's downfall**

2 Chronicles 22:7

**SUMMARY Ahaziah Reigns in Judah:** Not learning from past mistakes