

THE PLAGUE OF PLAGUES

2 Kings 8:16-29

FROM PASTOR MARK

“The wages of sin is death.” Puritan Ralph Venning called sin, *The Plague of Plagues*. Pastor John Piper reminds us that “human history is a conveyor belt of corpses” (*Coronavirus and Christ*). God means for the horror of disease, death, and brokenness in our world to call us to face sin’s consequences and our need of Jesus. This was certainly evident during the Kingdom period of the Old Testament.

I. SIN IS CONTAGIOUS (8:16-18)

- A. It matters who you marry.
 - 1. What were you thinking, Jehoshaphat? (1 Kings 22:41-44)
 - 2. Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel, continued as a missionary for Baal worship (1 Kings 16:29-33, 18:4 and 19).
 - 3. Marrying in the Lord (1 Cor. 7:39) allows a Christ-displaying covenant (Eph. 5::32) and avoids a partnership with darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- B. Sin spreads to others.
 - 1. Jehoram murdered his six brothers (2 Chronicles 21:2-6, 1 Kings 21:7).
 - 2. On his watch, Baal worship and its immorality spread in Judah (2 Chron. 21:11, 2 Kings 11:18).

II. SIN WEAKENS NATIONS (8:20-24).

- A. God had warned Israel under the Old Covenant (Deut. 28:25-26).
- B. Edom and even Libnah revolted against Judah (8:20-22).
- C. Jehoram’s reign was unremarkable for good (8:23-24).
- D. Israel was God’s covenant nation; but other nations suffer from sin as well (Proverbs 14:34).

III. SIN BRINGS GOD’S JUDGMENT (8:25-29)

- A. Sin can pass from generation to generation (8:25-27, 11:1; Exodus 20:5-6).
- B. Sin will be judged in God’s time (8:28-29; 2 Peter 3:8).

IV. SIN DOES NOT DESTROY THE PLAN OF GOD (8:19).

- A. The Davidic Covenant was still in place (2 Samuel 7:13, 16)
- B. The Son of David would come to save sinners (Matthew 1:1).
 - 1. Salvation from the penalty of sin (Matthew 1:21).
 - 2. Salvation from the power of sin (1 Peter 1:18-19).

REMEMBER BOTH SIDES OF ROMANS 6:23...

- The wages of sin is DEATH!

- But, the gift of God is eternal LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord! (*Life is short, death is sure; sin the cause, Christ the cure!*)

FOR NEXT TIME—Read 2 Kings 9, *Fast and Furious*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER 29, 2023

1. Read 2 Kings 8:16-18. How does this passage demonstrate that “it matters who you marry”?
2. Read 1 Cor. 7:39 and 2 Cor. 6:14. A Christian should only marry a Christian (and hopefully, a strong Christian). Why is this important? How can Christian parents teach this to their children from a young age?
3. Read 2 Kings 8:16-18 again. How does this demonstrate that “Sin is Contagious”?
4. Which of these lessons from 2 Kings 8:16-29 is most telling for you currently and why?
 - a. Sin is Contagious (8:16-18)
 - b. Sin Weakens Nations (8:20-24)
 - c. Sin Brings God’s Judgment (8:25-29)
 - d. Sin Does Not Destroy the Plan of God (8:19)
5. Why is sin “the plague of plagues”?
6. Read Romans 6:23. Why is it important to remember both parts of this important verse?