

For Christ's Sake: Trusting God in the Calm and Crisis

“How Our Church Can Flourish in 2024”

2 Kings 13–14
The Lord's Day Morning
January 7, 2024

This morning's text is a lesson in “How to Ruin a Great Nation.” As both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (Israel and Judah) continue their descent to disaster, they provide a case study for our church on this first Sunday of 2024. In the Old Testament, God's people are bound to him in a covenant and gathered in a nation. In the New Testament, God's people are bound to him in a covenant and gathered in a church. The only Christian nation mentioned in the New Testament is the church (1 Peter 2:9).

Here's how the kings ruined a great nation:

1. Set an example of moral flabbiness and cowardice (13:2).
2. Treat the Bible like a salad bar (13:2).
3. Fail to transfer the true faith to the next generation (13:11).
4. Cultivate pride in past achievements (14:10).
5. Ignore good advice (14:11).
6. Trust in your own clever devices instead of God (14:27).

Here's how our church can flourish in 2024:

1. Insist on _____ leadership.
2. Guard _____ integrity.
3. Invest in the _____ generation.
4. Maintain present _____ over past victory.
5. Make _____ great again.
6. Do the _____ and trust God with the _____.