

II Kings 15-16 – 27 October 2022

“Well, If I Were King...”

Introduction

- *We’re now beyond despicable Ahab’s corruption
- *This is a great opportunity for national repentance
- *Instead, we see ridding of some evil, but no return to God’s prescribed ways
- *W/ each king, there are varying degrees of correction
- *You can just imagine the average citizen saying, *“Well, if I were King, I’d change this or that...”*
- *I Peter 2:9 says that those of us that believe are a chosen generation, a “royal” priesthood
- *Rev 1:6 says that Jesus has made us “kings & priests” unto God
 - *So the lessons from these kings are for us
- *So, today, here’s 5 things every king (& queen) should live by**

1st lesson: Kill the pride that comes with success (Chap 15:1-7)

Read Chap 15:1-4 – *Uzziah in Judah*

1. II Chr 26:5 says that “as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper”
2. II Chr 26:15 says he was “marvelously helped till he was strong”
3. II Chr 26:16 says that “when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction”
 - a. Wanted to burn incense & serve as a priest
 - b. He refused the priest’s admonition
4. Power corrupts; remember we’re under God

Read Vs 5-7

1. Not many people can handle power
 - a. Read Prov 30:8-9
 - b. Read I Cor 10:12 – Moment we are joyful for accomplishment, check ourselves for pride
2. God doesn’t need us...He resists the proud
 - a. But He delights to use the humble!

2nd lesson: Live everyday as if it's your last (Chap 15:8-15)

Read Chap 15:8-12 – *Zachariah in Israel*

1. Fulfillment of the prophecy spoken to Zachariah's great grandfather 88 years earlier

Read Vs 13-15 - *Shallum in Israel*

1. Zachariah lasts 6 months, now Shallum lasts 1 month...live every day like it's your last
2. Rising to the top just puts a target on your back
 - a. How much more do we then need God's protection & favor

Close

1. So don't worry about "building bigger barns" (Luke 12)
2. Just worry about "bestowing your goods upon the poor in love" (I Cor 13:3)

3rd lesson: Do it God's way & prosper (Chap 15:16-31)

Read Chap 15:16-18 – *Menahem in Israel*

1. Menahem became known as a brutal king

Read Vs 19-22

1. Pul is the birth name of Assyria's greatest king ever Tiglath-Pileser III
2. He's currently forming Assyria into the first world-ruling empire since ancient Egypt
 - a. Menahem's tribute was documented on one of Tiglath-Pileser's inscriptions
 - b. All b/c God is stirring him up (I Chr 5:26)

Read Vs 23-26 – *Pekaniah in Israel*

1. Reigned for 2 years, conspiracy & done
2. Maybe they didn't like his brutal father

Read Vs 27-31 – *Pekah in Israel*

1. Israel had 5 kings within 31 years, each thinking they had the answers that Israel needed
2. God’s screaming down “do it My way & live”
 - a. Screaming by sending prophet after prophet
 - b. As w/ Cain in Gen 4:7 “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door”
3. Just few years earlier under Menahem they saw threat of Assyria but didn’t repent, now it’s back!
 - a. Now Assyria completed what’s known as the Galilee Captivity (734BC)
 - b. Full deportation is coming very soon 722BC

4th lesson: Plan ahead to serve the Lord (Chap 15:32-38)

Read Chap 15:32-34 – *Jotham in Judah*

1. II Chr 27:6 says that he “became mighty b/c he prepared his ways before the Lord his God”
2. Do we plan to serve the Lord in premeditation?
3. This was the fundamental problem with Rehoboam, Judah’s 1st king
 - a. Read II Chr 12:14
 - b. Our actions will follow the meditations of our heart

Read Vs 35-38

1. We’ll continue to see Syria (Damascus) push to gain some influence b/c the Assyrian Empire (Nineveh – modern Mosul) is rising fast

5th lesson: Don't rely on the powers of this world (Chap 16:1-20)

Read Chap 16:1-4 – *Ahaz in Judah*

1. Sacrificing children was done by the Moabites
2. Chronicles: “he made molten images for Baalim”
3. He's just all over, willing to serve anything that offers “help”
4. II Chr 28:5 says that it's b/c of this idolatry & unfaithfulness that God allows now Syria to come against Judah and take victories

Read Vs 5-6

1. II Chr 28:6: God allowed Pekah to punish Judah b/c “they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers”
2. Isa 7 records Isaiah sent to Ahaz to prompt him to trust God saying w/i 65 years Israel will be destroyed, don't worry about them, trust Me.”
 - a. The sign Isaiah gave to authenticate this prophecy is famous; virgin conceiving a child!
3. Notice they “drove the Jews” out– 1st mention of Jews - Jews just means of Judah

Read Vs 7-9

1. Ahaz turned to Assyria for help instead of God
 - a. There are many seals & inscriptions found speaking of this tribute and Assyrian conquests
2. Notice he has to bribe Assyria to come & ultimately Assyria will use this to their own advantage and turn against Judah
 - a. So turning to man's help...
 - i. May work in the short run
 - ii. But makes you slaves to men instead God
 - b. Who would you rather be servant to?

Read Vs 10-16

1. Now Ahaz puts his confidence & trust in gods of Damascus that have been oppressing him so
 - a. Didn't he notice these gods just lost to Assyria?
 - b. Ahaz is so willing to try anything, except faith in God

Read Vs 17-20

1. Ahaz was willing to take all things from worship of God at Temple & give them to Assyria
 - a. II Chr 28:20 says that in all of Assyria's coming to Judah, it didn't strengthen Judah but distressed them
 - b. Do we really think that the heart of man is to help us and not just help themselves?

Conclusion (Prov 14:34)

So learn the lessons of kings now Learn to...

1. **Kill the pride that comes w/ success**
2. **Live everyday as if it's your last**
3. **Do it God's way & then you'll prosper**
4. **Plan ahead in serving the Lord**
5. **Don't rely on the power of this world**

Putting these all together is the same as saying,
“Learn to live humbly under the authority of God & His plan & trust Him to lead & guide you thru it all”