

II Kings 1-3 –15 September 2022

“What We Really Need”

Introduction

*1st & 2nd Kings was written (around 550BC) as one book & split when translated to Greek

*It records the events from Solomon’s reign in 970BC until the Babylonian Captivity in 586BC

*II Kings starts about 850BC – Israel ends in 722BC

*These books demonstrate that a king’s allegiance to God’s Law was the key to success & protection

*Everything in life seems to come and go

*Goals come & go, hobbies come & go

*Jobs come & go, homes come & go

*Men & kingdoms rise to power & fall

Thru it all, what is constant? What do we really need?

*What do we need to have awareness of?

*What do we need to have authority over?

*What do we need to take action on?

***Let’s see 3 universals that we all need**

1st universal is God's Presence: Not a failing, false god, but a willing worthy One (Chap 1)

Read Chap 1:1-8

1. Moab takes opportunity of Ahab's death in battle w/ the Syrians & Ahaziah's sickness to revolt
 - a. This story is picked up in chap 3
2. Even looking into the face of death, this idolater turns to false gods over Jehovah
 - a. That proves whom he really trusted
3. When you reject God, you'll serve anything
 - a. Read II Thes 2:10-11 & Rom 1:20-26a

Read Vs 9-14

1. Learn some reverence for God & His servants
 - a. Read Col 2:3 – *all* the treasures
 - b. God has all, why turn to fake gods?
2. The question really is, "Is Elijah a man of God or is the priest of Baal-zebub a man of God?"
 - a. It can't be both
 - b. God has proven Himself worthy

Read Vs 15-18

1. Jehoram is Ahab's other son
2. Has God abandoned you? Is that why you turn to other sources of potential help? No
 - a. Read Isa 59:1-2 – God's available, but your sins have separated you from Him
 - b. Read Jer 33:3 – Call to Me & I'll show great things

Application

1. Why turn to the false hope of things in this world?
 - a. Is it b/c God isn't available? No!
 - b. Whose opinion do we want FIRST?
 - c. Whose opinion do we want MOST?
2. Whom or what you turn to is what you're trusting
3. Your priority is your god

2nd universal is God's Power: Not the presence of man, but the power of God (Chap 2)

Read Chap 2:1-8

1. Stay close to God's man & you'll learn and experience great things about God like verse 8
2. Elisha knew where Elijah was, that's where God was moving and performing His good work
 - a. Read I Cor 11:1
 - b. It's not "follow me b/c I'm special", it's "follow me b/c God is working thru me"

Read Vs 9-11

1. Elisha wasn't asking to be twice as amazing as Elijah; he was asking to be the heir of his ministry
 - a. Double portion for oldest son, this was God's blessing to give not Elijah's
 - b. I Kin 19:19 says he already appointed heir, now he's asking for God's power to fulfill it!

Read Vs 12-15

1. Only Enoch and Elijah are recorded as never having died; Elijah didn't take his clothes
2. Miracle of smiting the river confirmed Elisha's new prophetic ministry; similar to Moses (Rev 11)

3. Notice; power of miracle was God, not the coat
 - a. Elijah is gone, but the God of Elijah isn't

Read Vs 16-18

1. They should have had faith to believe, even though they didn't see it happen
 - a. Seems they became dependance on the man, Elijah, instead of on the God of the man
2. Sometimes most people are wasting their time

Read Vs 19-22

1. Salt isn't good in drinking water, proving this was a miracle of the Lord
2. Miracle didn't happen from pride, but for mercy & validation of his prophetic ministry from God

Read Vs 23-25

1. "Little Children" is better *young men*
 - a. Solomon said this of him; age 20 (I Kin 3:7)
 - b. Didn't kill them but tore them up
2. "Go up" (like you claim Elijah did)
 - a. They're mocking Elisha's claim to office

3rd universal is God's Purpose: Not fear of trouble, but faith to triumph (Chap 3)

Read Chap 3:1-3

1. 2nd son of Ahab on throne won't serve Baal, but still makes false images/worship of true God

Read Vs 4-8

1. Moab stops paying tribute so Israel, Judah & Edom agree to attack

Read Vs 9-12

1. When presented w/ trouble, Jehoshaphat turns to the Lord & God's men, but Jehoram blames God for the trouble (vs 10)
2. Do we see adversity as God abandoning you or as part of His plan for your victory?

Read Vs 13-14

1. Having God's servant Jehoshaphat there brings preservation (Read I Cor 7:14)

Read Vs 15

1. Elisha worshipped the Lord in song to bring himself back into a Godly frame of mind
2. Set you mind on 'right', enabling right action

Read Vs 16-20

1. Be faithful to make the ditches or God will still do the work, but we won't have the benefit
 - a. Peter still had to throw the nets out

Read Vs 21-25

1. The trouble that was in their path (no water) was *the very thing* God used to win the victory
 - a. Like Joseph was taught in Potiphar's house the skills he needed to rule Egypt later
 - b. Joseph being forgotten in prison, was used later to release him straight to Pharoah

Read Vs 26-27

1. So the Word of the Lord came true but Israel didn't stay to occupy the land of Moab
2. This is when Mesha made the Moabite Stone & dedicated it to Chemosh (Read Halley's Quote)

Conclusion

For *every* person, thru *every* stage of life, in *every* city of the world, in *every* circumstance of life; what is it that we really need?

1. **God's Presence: Not a failing god, but a willing worthy One**
 - a. We need awareness of God's love for us and ability to affect everything in our life
2. **God's Power: Not the presence of man, but the power of God**
 - a. We need authority thru His Holy Spirit to eternally change us & our friends for His glory
3. **God's Purpose: Not fear of trouble, but faith to triumph**
 - a. We need action; to act in faith shows dependence on God & unlocks to door to blessing & victory