

II Kings 13-14 – 20 October 2022

“Limiting God’s Mighty Power”

Introduction

*Just came thru the worst period of Israel’s history w/ Ahab & Jezebel’s family corruption being wiped out

*This is a great opportunity for national repentance and return to a God-honoring lifestyle

*There should be a sense of gratitude for ridding the land of Baal worship

*Instead, we’ve mostly seen a return to worshipping God, but worshipping Him in way THEY prescribe

*Golden Calves are still set up a Dan & Bethel

*Many Israelites at this time say they’re lovers of God, but they’re limiting His power & work that He wants to do in and thru them

*Read Mark 6:5-6 – Not much work; for unbelief

***So, here’s 4 ways in which we can limit the power of God working thru us (as seen thru these kings)**

1st way of limiting God's power thru us is b/c we besought but forgot (Chap 13:1-9)

Read Chap 13:1-2 – *Jehoahaz in Israel*

1. Not a single king of Israel did right in the eyes of the Lord

Read Vs 3-5

1. Syrian Kingdom was based out of Damascus
2. We'll begin to hear rumbling of the rise of the Assyrian Empire based in Nineveh (Mosul, Iraq)
 - a. The 'savior' was the Assyrians
3. Read Psm 78:34-37 – He had glimpses of turning to God but never made it his life's pattern

Read Vs 6-9

1. Very common statement about a king (sad)
2. God delivered him from Syria, yet no repentance
3. Great example of someone who KNOWS that power of God, but wants to live their own way

2nd way of limiting God's power thru us is when we have feelings but no finality (Chap 13:10-25)

Read Chap 13:10-13 – *Jehoash in Israel*

1. Very common statement (sad)
2. He didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam so much so that he named his son Jeroboam

Read Vs 14

1. Like Joash, you can have respect for people of God, yet your own life is in total rebellion to God
2. Having respect for a godly man, isn't what's needed, but love for God thru keeping His Laws

Read Vs 15-17

1. Pictorial of the fact that their deliverance would come from the east

Read Vs 18-19

1. When to Lord directs, continue doing it until new instruction come
 - a. Read Luk 11:9 – Ask, Seek, Knock

Read Vs 20-21

1. Elisha being sick and dying wasn't b/c he lacked faith or spiritual power (10 out of 10 die)
2. This would have confirmed to King Joash, that although Elisha is gone, the great power of God, as told thru him, is still present & real!

Read Vs 22-25

1. So the Lord didn't reward them as their sins deserve, but was gracious to them

3rd way of limiting God's power thru us is when we are faithful but flippant (Chap 14:1-22)

Read Chap 14:1-4 – *Amaziah in Judah*

1. How much 'right' do you have to do for the Lord to see you that way?
 - a. The Lord looks on the heart
 - b. Perfection isn't the standard, a lifestyle of trusting God is the standard of right

Read Vs 5-6

1. It was God's will, from His revealed Law to have these murderers put to death

Read Vs 7

1. Amazing story of trusting God (Read II Chr 25:5-9)

Read Vs 8-12

1. II Chr 25:14-15a says that Amaziah took the idols of Edom and added them to his worship

- a. This was the cause why God allowed Amaziah to be prideful against Israel...and loss
- b. God sent a prophet to warn Amaziah before going against Edom, but here, God is silent & allows him to be stupid
2. Christians often meddle w/ things in pride that will only bring them hurt
3. Be careful we're not flippant with sinful things that God takes very seriously

Read 13-14

1. Results of meddling
 - a. Defenses broken down – leaving us more vulnerable to attack again
 - b. Treasures stolen – Treasures of purity, holiness & a clear mind

Read Vs 15-22

1. When in a position of influence, there will always be those coming against you.
2. Be sure to be trusting God in moments like that

4th way of limiting God's power thru us is when we serve without surrender (Chap 14:23-29)

Read Chap 14:23-27 – *Jeroboam II in Israel*

1. God can use even a wicked ruler to do good for His people
 - a. God used the wicked Caesar Augustus to arrange for the census returning Jesus to home
2. There are many reasons someone might serve God or the greater good – not necessarily b/c they've surrendered to God (Read Matt 7:22-23)

Read Vs 28-29

1. At this time God begins to send many prophets to Israel warning them to turn from their sin
 - a. Hoshea, Jonah, Amos
 - b. What grace from God!

Conclusion

At the end of Jeroboam's reign, there's only 30 years left before the Assyrians invade & take Israel captive, & there are no signs of repentance & turning to God.

Let us learn these lessons to not hinder God in working in and thru our lives

1. **Don't be one that besought & then forgot**
 - a. Is He more than Savior, is He your Lord
2. **Don't be one that has feelings but no finality**
 - a. He's not just worthy of respect, He's worthy of total devotion
3. **Don't be faithful but flippant**
 - a. Are there blind spots of sin that we allow?
4. **Don't be a servant without surrender**
 - a. God doesn't need our works, He wants our heart and affections
 - b. Jesus to Simon Peter, "Do you love Me?"