



## Chosen & Struggling PT. II | 2 Kings | Mark Allen | 11.26

### The Kings and Prophets of Israel

#### Opening Prayer

**Opening Prayer:** Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

#### Icebreaker

**Icebreaker Question:** If you could have witnessed any one of the 14 miracles performed by Elijah or Elisha, which would you choose and why?

#### Sermon Overview (5 Minutes)

Pastor Mark explored the history of Israel's kings—from the united kingdom under Saul, David, and Solomon through the divided kingdoms of Israel (north) and Judah (south). Despite being God's chosen people, Israel struggled because they didn't fully let God be in control. The northern kingdom lasted 204 years with 19 kings (mostly evil) before being conquered by Assyria. The southern kingdom lasted 339 years with 20 kings (a mixture of good and evil) before Babylonian captivity. God sent prophets like Elijah and Elisha to warn them, but they refused to listen. The ultimate King—Jesus—was rejected and crucified, yet He rose again and offers us grace today.

#### Key Scripture Passages

2 Kings 17:13-18 (Why God sent prophets)

John 19:14-19 (Jesus as the rejected King)

Zechariah 12:10 (Prophecy of the pierced King)

1 Corinthians 3:12-17 (Building with eternal materials)

James 4 (Believers have the same nature as Elijah)

## Discussion Questions:

### 1. THE PATTERN OF THE KINGS

"Every one of us has a reign, a kingdom reign... The question is what will you do with the reign that God has given you?"

- Looking at the list of kings, what patterns do you notice about doing "right" vs. "evil" in God's eyes?
- Who are the people in your "kingdom" or sphere of influence (family, coworkers, friends, etc.)?
- How are you currently ruling over the areas of influence God has given you? Are you doing right, wrong, or a mixture?

### 2. THE DANGER OF MIXTURE

"Someone says, 'At least the mixture is not as bad as doing evil.' No, it is. God sees that as still being evil in his eyesight."

- Why do you think God views a "mixture" of good and evil as unacceptable?
- What areas of your life might reflect this "mixture"—trying to serve God while also holding onto worldly ways?
- What would it look like to fully surrender those areas to God?

### 3. STIFFENING OUR NECKS

"They did not listen, but they stiffened their neck like their fathers who did not believe in the Lord their God." (2 Kings 17:14)

- When have you "stiffened your neck" against what God was saying to you?
- What are some modern ways we reject God's statutes while claiming to follow Him?
- How can we cultivate hearts that remain soft and responsive to God's Word?

#### **4. THE SAME NATURE AS ELIJAH**

"You have the same nature. You know why? Because as a believer, you have the Holy Spirit of God living in you."

- Does it surprise you that James says we have "the same nature" as Elijah? Why or why not?
- What keeps us from believing we can live with the same power and faithfulness as the prophets?
- Share a time when you've seen God work powerfully through an ordinary believer.

#### **5. MAKING NO PROVISION TO RETURN**

"Elisha made no ability for him to return to what he had in the past... Every Christian needs to make the sacrifice in their life to say, I'm not going back to who I used to be."

- What did Elisha sacrifice when he destroyed his plow and oxen?
- What "plows" or "oxen" might God be asking you to sacrifice to prevent returning to your old life?
- How can we help each other burn bridges to our past sins?

#### **6. JESUS AS THE TRUE KING**

"We have no king but Caesar... Every person has to make that choice."

- In what ways do we sometimes say "we have no king but Caesar" in our daily choices?
  - What does it practically mean to make Jesus your King in 2026?
  - How does recognizing Jesus as the "pierced King" from Zechariah change how we view His authority?
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## Key Takeaways

1. **Everyone has a sphere of influence** - We may not rule nations, but we all have a "kingdom" where our choices matter.
  2. **Mixture is unacceptable to God** - Half-hearted devotion is still rebellion. God desires full surrender.
  3. **God sent prophets as warnings** - Throughout history, God has warned His people before judgment. Are we listening today?
  4. **Believers have the same Holy Spirit as Elijah** - We have access to the same power that performed miracles in the Old Testament.
  5. **Jesus is the ultimate King** - He was prophesied, rejected, crucified, and resurrected. He alone deserves our complete allegiance.
  6. **Our works will be tested** - We're saved by grace, but our works determine our rewards. Build with gold, silver, and precious stones, not wood, hay, and stubble.
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

#### Personal Inventory:

- List the areas of your life where you have influence (family, work, friendships, finances, etc.)
- For each area, honestly assess: Am I doing "right," "wrong," or "mixture" in God's eyes?
- Choose ONE area to fully surrender to God's lordship this week

**Daily Prayer:** "Lord, what are You saying to me today? Where am I stiffening my neck against Your will? Help me to honor You as King in every decision I make."

### Accountability Action:

- Share your "one area" to fully surrender to God's lordship with another group member
  - Text or call them mid-week to report on your progress
  - Pray for each other specifically about this surrender
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**Scripture Memory:** "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

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### GROUP MINISTRY TIME

#### Prayer Focus:

- Pray for anyone struggling with "mixture" in their walk with God
- Pray for boldness to live with the same power as Elijah and Elisha
- Pray for those who need to make Jesus their King for the first time
- Pray for our nation to turn back to God's statutes

**Worship Response:** Consider closing by singing or reading the words to "Crown Him with Many Crowns" or another hymn/song that exalts Jesus as King.

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### LOOKING AHEAD

- **Next week,** we'll continue in the "Chosen and Struggling" series. Come prepared to discuss how God's faithfulness remains even when His people are unfaithful.
  - **Preparation:** Read through 2 Kings 25 and reflect on the consequences of persistent rebellion against God.
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## Leader Notes

- **Be sensitive:** Some group members may be convicted about areas of compromise. Create a safe, non-judgmental space.
- **Emphasize grace:** While calling for holiness, always point back to the grace available through Jesus.
- **Personal testimony:** Consider sharing your own struggle with "mixture" to model vulnerability.
- **Time management:** This guide has more content than most groups can cover in one session. Select the questions most relevant to your group's needs.