

True Strength in Turbulent Times: The Right Side of History
Growth Group Discussion
2 Kings 8:1-24

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- What do you think of the phrase “those who fail to learn about history are doomed to repeat it.” Is that true? Why or why not?
- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God’s word.

1. Read 2 Kings 8:1-6 and then discuss the following.

- Read 2 Kings 8:1-6. Now go back and read 2 Kings 4:8-37.
 - What does this show us about God and His character?
 - Where have you seen God active in your life like this?
 - The Shunnamite Woman is a great example of generosity and faith for us. In 2 Kings 4, she blesses Elisha by using her home to house Elisha. In 2 Kings 8v2, she leaves her property and her financial livelihood at the word of Elisha.
 - Take a moment and reflect. How can you grow in generosity in this season of your life? What does that look like? What is stopping you?
 - What does it look like to grow in faith this season?
- The account of the Shunnamite Woman in 2 Kings 8 1-6 teaches us that God is sovereign. God’s sovereignty means that God is the all-encompassing ruler of the world. It means that God orchestrates events, controls time and space. As Christians, this should cause us to rest in God and not have fear or anxiousness about what is next.
 - Is there anything that you are trying to control out of fear that God is not able to care for you?
 - Have someone read aloud Matthew 6:25-34. This is Jesus’s antidote to worry. If you are a Christian, this is God’s promise to you! Rest in that.
- Pastor Erik shared an illustration of God’s sovereignty in his life. He shared how God opened up doors and brought him in contact with others so that his seminary education could be paid for.
 - Share a time where God opened up doors to bless you.
- Charles Spurgeon said: “the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the Christian rests his head.”
 - How can you rest more in the fact that God is sovereign?
 - Make sure to pray for these things near the end.

2. READ 2 Kings 8:7-15 and discuss the following:

***I did not cover this account in my message because of time constraints. However, it is a great picture of God’s sovereignty. ***

- What does this section reveal about God or God’s character?
- What does this section show about mankind?
- What does this section demand of me? Or, is there a principle to take away from this section?

- Every Scripture points to Jesus Christ. How does this passage point forward to something Christ did or remind us of the person of Jesus Christ
- 3. **READ 2 Kings 8:16-24 and discuss the following:**
 - King Jehoshaphat, seeking a political and military advantage, arranges a marriage for his son Jehoram. Yet, because of this marriage, the Kingdom of Judah loses land as the Edomites rebelled.
 - Pastor Erik said “Mankind is too quick to trade their spiritual integrity for a temporary benefit with the world. One of Satan’s oldest tactics is getting the people of God to do this.
 - Have you ever been tempted to do this? How do we see this in the world?
 - Can you think of other biblical characters who end up trading their spiritual standing/blessing for relationship with the world?
 - What does that reveal about mankind as a whole?
 - One of the points we see from 2 Kings 8 16-24 is that God restrains evil. When Jehoram’s army fled, King Jehoram was left alone, surrounded by Edomites. Yet verse 19 tells us that because of God’s promise to David, God spared Jehoram by helping him break through in the night.
 - How should the fact that God restrains evil shape the way we live today?
 - Pastor Erik also issued a warning about getting into relationships with unrighteousness.
 - The whole reason that the land of Judah lost land is ultimately because King Jehoram arranged a marriage for his son by causing him to marry one of Ahab’s daughters whose family line was cursed.
 - Read aloud 2 Corinthians 6:4.
 - Why do you suppose God does this?
 - Do you think this is a warning to still listen to today? Why or why not?
 - All of God’s warnings are ultimately for our good. What is God trying to preserve or protect His people from in issuing this?
 - The Big Idea of the sermon was ***God’s Sovereign Rule Shapes the History of People and Nations***
 - Take some time reflecting and discuss the final 2 questions:
 - How did the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ shape the history of people and the world?
 - How has God sovereignly been shaping your story?

PRAYER:

- Read Colossians 1:16-17. Praise God for the fact that He is holding you together, keeping you going.
- Pray for any needs that were revealed.