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A STUDY OF 1ST AND 2ND KINGS
WITH PASTOR JEREMY VAN GENDEREN



**WHOSE KINGDOM
COME**

FEBRUARY & MARCH SERMON SERIES
MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH

DAILY DEVOTIONALS
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22-28

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Whose Kingdom Come | 1 & 2 Kings
"Knowing God is With Us"

[1 Kings 18:30-38](#), [1 Kings 19:1-21](#), [1 Kings 21:17-29](#),
[2 Kings 2:9-14](#), [2 Kings 6:15-17](#)

1. E _____ G _____ o _____ t _____ m _____

2. E _____ G _____ i _____ t _____ v _____

3. S _____ t _____ G _____ i _____ w _____
t _____ r _____

4. W _____ a _____ w _____ p _____ o _____?

5. P _____ f _____ e _____ t _____ s _____ G _____

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

1 Kings 18:1-46 | The Power of God

This week we are going to be focusing on living in this world under the authority of the kingdom of God. What we will see, and I'm sure many have experienced, is that there is a king of this world that does not like it when we are faithful to the king of the universe. It is my prayer this week that we will all be reminded of the God we serve and how He is with us when things are going good and when things are not going good. May we also learn that our attitude and our faith should not change when our situations change.

This was a long passage today with many different aspects, but I want us to focus on the faith of Elijah and the power of God. Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal to a cook off to see who truly is the most powerful God. After a period of failure by Baal, Elijah made an altar following the instruction of the Lord and then called on the Lord to show His power for His glory. Elijah wanted it known that he was simply a servant and God alone held the power. After this altercation Elijah prays and it began to rain. This prayer of faith is mentioned in the book of James and once again shows Elijah's faith and the power of God.

As you begin your day today may you be reminded that God holds all power and authority over all things and this is the God that we serve. We don't demand that God use His power, but we know that God will use His power for His will to be done. Elijah made the altar just as the Lord commanded, may we do the same. May we live our lives as the Lord commands and watch His power erupt in our lives. As a reminder, this can't be about our glory or our idea, but it must be the will of God which He has instructed us to do. Go in His power today!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

[1 Kings 19:1-21](#) | God's Presence in Our Valleys

Have you ever noticed that whenever we are connecting with God then we are likely to face some push back? The king of this world can use the people closest to us to unintentionally put water on the fire that God started in our lives. When we come back from a retreat or a conference where we have spent intentional time with God and then try to come home and share what we experienced with a friend or family member, it may be hard for them to understand what happened. In the miscommunication or misunderstanding of this moment it can easily cause us to get discouraged and the fire starts to go out.

Elijah just saw God move through the fire from heaven and rain from the sky. Immediately he received death threats which caused him to run for his life. Elijah seems to have slipped into a state of depression based off of focusing on the temporary rather than the eternal. God meets him right where he is at and provides some physical nourishment and then provides an affirmation of call and finally provides a companion to continue the journey with him. How great is that God came in and provided exactly what Elijah needed in those moments.

I'm guessing that each one of us have faced some hard days in our lives. Maybe we have even been like Elijah and wished we were dead. When we face these valleys in life it is good to be reminded that we are not alone. God is with us and His word and call on our lives still holds true. I believe that God knows that we are visual people and so He also provides a companion to walk with us in our lives if we are looking for them. If you are in a place right now where you feel down, burdened or alone, please find hope in these truths today. God is with you where you are at, He wants to speak His perspective through His word into your life and He is providing someone to talk with you.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

1 Kings 21:1-29 | The Risk and Reward of Sharing Your Faith

How do you feel when asked to share your faith? In a large group of people I am ready to go! I love to speak the good news of Jesus Christ to an audience with a prayer that someone who does not believe would be transformed by the Holy Spirit. If you challenge me to do that one on one with someone I am familiar or not familiar with, then I begin to struggle. I start to question my ability and wonder what they may say. Thankfully over time God has shown me that the reward is worth the risk.

Our passage starts with a horrible action by Jezebel to get something that her husband wanted. God then instructs Elijah to go and tell Ahab what he did was wrong. Elijah not only shares with Ahab that his actions were evil, but also shares with Ahab what the consequences for these evil actions will be. I'm guessing Elijah was not expecting what happened next. Ahab humbled himself and physically showed this by tearing his clothes, putting on sackcloth and fasting. These actions were an outward sign of a repentant heart.

We may never know what God has planned for the person He invites us to talk to. God called Ananias to talk to Paul, He called Elijah to confront Ahab and both of them were hard yet rewarding conversations. Maybe we find ourselves in a situation like this where we are asked to have a hard conversation, may we find encouragement through this passage today that no matter how hard something may seem, God has a greater plan than we could ever imagine. Let's act in faith today!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

[2 Kings 2:1-24](#) | Our Reward & What We Pass On

This morning I heard someone on the radio talk about what is important to pass on to the next generation. For some it may be important to pass on finances to the next generation. For others it may be important to pass down earthly abilities to the next generation. As for me and my household, what is most important is passing on faith in Jesus Christ to the next generation. In fact, my wife and I have already begun to pray for the salvation of our granddaughter who will be born in 4 weeks!

In our passage today we see that Elijah receives his eternal reward. He is taken up into heaven in a rather dramatic way and Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to be passed on to him. This wasn't a power play by Elisha, but a simple desire for a spiritual blessing rather than a physical blessing to be passed to him

As believers we know that our eternal reward is in heaven, but we also know that our salvation is not magically passed down to our children. There are no grandchildren in the family of God, only children, which means that each person and each generation has to engage with God in faith on their own. Please know that there is no amount of money or physical ability that could ever compare to the eternal reward of salvation in Christ. I encourage each one of us as parents and grandparents to make sure faith is prioritized above any of those other things. Let's make sure we pass on the best things to the next generation.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

2 Kings 4:1-44 | Providing Physical Needs of Others

One thing that Maurice Reformed Church has an eye out for is meeting the physical needs of others. Whenever a need is publicized the church comes around that cause and rises up to meet the need in front of them. I know some of you have recently helped others with a meal, with gas cards or with rides. The challenge is always to have our eyes open to how God wants to use us in those situations.

Elisha is now carrying the torch on his own and he meets a widow in need of finances and God speaks through Elisha to provide more than enough to pay the debt she owed. The next situation Elisha finds himself in is the need for physical healing. A young man had passed away and Elisha sought the Lord and requested healing for this young man and he came back to life. Finally, Elisha finds himself among a group of people who have mistakenly put something poisonous in the stew. Elisha instructs them to put flour in the pot and the stew is made clean to eat. In each of these situations something was needed and God used Elisha to meet the needs.

In our lives we may come in contact with people in need of finances, healing or just the simple everyday necessities. If you have the ability to help them, then you should do so with a cheerful heart. God has blessed you with what you have to be used for His kingdom and His glory. Who knows, God may even be using you to not only give them something physically, but spiritually.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

2 Kings 6:8-23 | Pray for Eyes to See

As we finish up our week thinking about living in the power and authority of God, I want to encourage us to pray for those who do not know Jesus or know the power of God fully. Looking back at each devotion this week it is easy to see how open eyes to what God is doing matters. We need eyes to see God when we feel alone, when we are asked to do something hard, and when we have the opportunity to meet a physical need of someone around us.

Elisha is sent to an unrighteous king to show him the power of God. The unrighteous king of Israel was fearing the Syrian attack, yet it was not God's time for the kingdom of Israel to be exiled and so God showed up with his armies to defeat Syria on behalf of Israel. Through prayer, God opened the eyes of the king of Israel and he saw the power and might of God most high.

As Christians we need to continue to ask for our eyes to be open to what God is doing around us, but not only that, we should pray for our unbelieving friends and family to have their eyes opened to God. In this passage it is God that opened the eyes of the king. The armies of God were already there, but not visible to the king of Israel because he was not looking. God opened his eyes and he was able to see. God can do the same thing for us and our friends, so let's pray for His will to be done and for our eyes to be opened.

