

- WELCOME TO -
MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH

... FOLLOWING GOD, LOVING OTHERS ...



410 MAIN STREET | PO BOX 148 | MAURICE, IA 51036
712.567.4665 | WWW.MAURICEREFORMED.ORG

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



FEBRUARY & MARCH SERMON SERIES
MAURICE REFORMED CHURCH

DAILY DEVOTIONALS
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8-14

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Whose Kingdom Come | 1 & 2 Kings

“When the Only King We Want is Ourselves”

[1 Kings 11:26-40](#), [12:25-33](#), [15:25-26](#), [16:8-10](#), [2 Kings 17:14-15](#)

1. c _____ o _____ a _____ u _____

2. c _____ o _____ u _____

3. c _____ o _____ t _____ b _____

SERMON DOODLES & ILLUSTRATIONS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

1 Kings 12 | The Divided Kingdom

We start this week in a much different spot than we did last week. Last week we were listening to Solomon ask for wisdom and discernment and this week we are in the aftermath of Solomon not following the wisdom and discernment he asked for. The rest of the time in the book of Kings we will be following 2 kingdoms, the kingdom of Israel (northern 10 tribes) and the kingdom of Judah (southern 2 tribes). This week specifically we are going to be looking at the decisions and behaviors of the northern 10 tribes of Israel.

In our passage today we meet the first king of Israel, Jeroboam! He starts out his reign by creating two calves of gold and placing them in Bethel and Dan. He did this because he was afraid if the people went to Jerusalem to worship God that they would turn away from him and turn back to Rehoboam, the king of Judah. He declared that these 2 golden calves were the gods that brought Israel out of Egypt and were worthy to be worshipped. Jeroboam also decided to allow non-Levites to be priests over the high places he put up around the region.

King Solomon disobeyed God and created places of worship for all the gods of his wives and did not follow the wisdom that God gave him. Now we will see which kingdom the two earthly kings desire to follow. So far Israel is not off to a good start. As we go through this week we are going to liken the kingdom of Israel to unbelievers today. We will see time after time that they worshipped their own gods and did their own thing. They were not left alone to continue in sin, in fact we will see that Elijah, Elisha, Amos and Hosea were sent to draw the people back to being faithful to God. I encourage us to start this week by making a list of people in our lives that do not know Jesus. Say a prayer for their salvation today.

SONG:

["Build My Life"](#) - Pat Barret ft. Chris Tomlin

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you know someone that doesn't know Jesus?

What can you do about that?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

Who do you know that doesn't know Jesus as Lord and Savior?

PRAYER:

Lord, we lift up our unbelieving friends and family to you right now. Please guide them to You today.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

1 Kings 14:1-20 | Jeroboam's Disobedience

Have you ever missed out on something really good because of a decision you made? Some of us may look back on our lives and wish we would have made a decision for Jesus Christ earlier than we did. It's possible too that we have missed out on opportunities to pass on this faith to our children and that has impacted their lives as well.

Jeroboam had the opportunity to have a long line of kings from his household if he would just follow God faithfully. Unfortunately, we see that Jeroboam fell off the rails immediately when he took the reins of the kingdom and now we see that his son is sick and they are trying to deceive a prophet. Jeroboam was condemned for not following God with his whole heart and for worshipping idols of gold and metal and casting God aside. Instead of a long line of kings in Israel, Jeroboam would have all the males of his house cut off. Jeroboam missed out on something really good simply because he did not obey God.

We know that God promises a full life now and an eternal life in the next life for all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The offer is to everyone just like it was to Jeroboam, yet so many people are like Jeroboam and decide to go their own way and throw God to the side. They want to be the king of their own life and not have anyone else tell them what to do. In the end, if people do not change their stance on who Jesus Christ is, they will miss out on something really good. We don't want our friends and family to miss out on something really good. Keep praying for them today and look for ways to talk to them about Jesus.

SONG:

“Softly & Tenderly” – Kristyn Getty, Vince Gill, Ellie Holcomb,
Sierra Hull

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you sometimes want to be the king of your own world?
What do you miss out on if you don't follow Jesus as your
King?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

What do people miss out on when they don't follow Jesus?

PRAYER:

Lord, we pray that you will give us the opportunity to speak Your truth to our friends and family this week.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

1 Kings 15:25-16:34 | Sin on Repeat

Did you know that your kids watch what you do? Have you ever experienced a child repeating words or actions that a parent or someone around them has said or done? I have heard parents say that they need to watch their language around their kids because their young child repeated a bad word. Side note, I would be more concerned about saying those words in the presence of a Holy God who sees and hears everything we do. Maybe that is God's way of convicting us to not pass on those vulgar words to the next generation.

In this passage we get a rapid fire view of six kings of Israel. It seems that each of them just follow the lead of the person in front of them, even when it is clear to them that they are not headed down the right path. Over and over again in these passages we hear the statement, and he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did more evil than all who were before him. Not only that, they led the people of Israel to sin these sins and provoke the Lord to anger. Not only did they choose to do the bad things, but passed these bad things on to the rest of the people.

This is a good reminder for parents and grandparents and really any Christian in general. We do not want to live in such a way that passes on ungodly behavior, thoughts, actions or words to the people around us. God has placed us in our position for a reason. As parents we are tasked to train up our children in the Lord and not pass on a lineage of sin after sin after sin. Some of us need to stand up against generational curses and confess them and stop them from transitioning to the next generation. No more sin on repeat. This is also a good reminder that many of our unbelieving friends live this way because that is all they know. How can you show them a different way of living today?

SONG:

“Clean Heart” - Bryan & Katie Torwalt

KIDS QUESTION:

What have you learned by watching adults? Are all the things good and bring glory to God? Is the way you act bringing unbelievers closer to God?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

How can you live intentionally around your unbelieving friends? What truth do they need to see?

PRAYER:

Lord, we know that generational sin and curses are easily passed down. Please help us in Your power to break those sins and stop passing them on.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

1 Kings 18:1-19 | The Prophets Are in Danger

In youth ministry I would often take groups of teens on canned food drives with the expectation that we would pray for and talk to people about Jesus. Some of the time the people were receptive and thankful for the time of prayer. Other times the door quickly slammed in our face. Dare 2 Share ministries would say when that happens you become a graduate of PU, Persecution University.

In our passage today we see two Godly men who are going to be in contact with the ungodly king Ahab. Obadiah was afraid for his life and Elijah was called a trouble maker. Elijah knew that he was called by God to this conversation and the outcome was going to show who the real God was in all the world.

It is not always easy to talk to our friends and family about God. Sometimes we are afraid of what they might say or how they might respond and sometimes we get called names. In the end getting called names or even having someone dislike us does not compare to the eternal consequence that they will face one day. Is it worth it to you to face some negative and mean comments in the effort to help someone escape the fire of hell? It truly is worth some temporary emotional or even physical pain to help someone see the truth of the gospel.

SONG:

"I Believe" - Charity Gayle

KIDS QUESTION:

Why do we sometimes choose to share the gospel and sometimes choose not to? Have you ever been treated badly because you dared to speak up and share the gospel?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

What causes you to not share the gospel with someone?
What “pain” have you experienced in sharing your faith?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us not see or think about the possible negative things in sharing the gospel, but keep our eyes focused on You and what You can do through us in sharing the gospel.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

2 Kings 15:8-31 | The Evil They Did

What is sin? This is a very important initial question to ask when we think about doing evil. We could ask 100 people if something is a sin or not and I'm guessing we would get a few different responses. Some would say yes it is a sin and others would say no it isn't a sin. I know when I want to argue that something is not a sin I can find someone in this world that agrees with me. Does that make my thoughts correct? I know this is an easy question, but who determines if something is a sin? Yes, God and God alone is the only one who determines what sin is and He has given us a pretty clear picture in scripture.

In our passage today we see over and over again that the kings did evil like their forefathers and led the people of Israel to do the same. Then they were overthrown and the next king took over and did the exact same thing. We do get a little variety as we came to the end of the reading today. One of the kings taxed the rich to pay for a bribe to the king of Assyria to keep Assyria out of Israel and then a couple of kings later we see that another Assyrian king starts to take a few pieces of land in Israel as he sees fit. No longer is the bribe going to cover it and Assyria is starting to take land.

This is what happens in the lives of those who do not believe as well. For a while it is fun to be the king of your own life, but then little by little you realize that sin is actually becoming your king. It drives everything you do and it makes you a slave to it. Soon if you don't follow through on the certain behaviors there comes guilt or shame. Yes, sin is evil and sin is against a holy God, but sin can trap people into a lifestyle that causes pain, heartache and suffering. God is inviting you and I to be a part of the rescue mission. It's going to be hard, but God can make a way. Let's gear up for that rescue mission today.

SONGS:

["Jesus Paid It All"](#) - Gateway Worship ft. Brooke Ligertwood

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you know of any changes you need to make in your life? How can we help you?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

What are some lifestyles and choices that people need rescued from?

PRAYER:

Lord, use us as You see fit. Help us to be a part of the rescue team sharing the good news with those who are trapped in sin.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

2 Kings 17:1-23 | The Exile of Israel

We finish this week with the final judgment of Israel, which reminds us that one day we too will face a final judgment. Israel, as a nation, had 208 years to come back to God. At most we will have 100 years to come back to God, but in the end we will face an exile like Israel if we do not believe. The same goes for our friends. Hell is a real place and separation from God is an unimaginable space to be in, yet it is a just place for those who choose not to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

In our passage today we get another overview of what caused the Israelites to continue down this road of sin. In verse 14 we see that the Israelites would not listen. They had multiple prophets speaking the truth and yet they did not listen. They were stubborn and because of their stubbornness they despised the rules put out by God. They threw out his covenant and made a covenant with the false gods and idols of the nations around them. They chose to be led by other things rather than the Holy God.

We live in a world that is filled with people who do not have a relationship with Jesus. This does not make them bad people or evil people, but it makes them deceived people who are under the judgement of the Holy God. In the end it doesn't matter if you are a good person in the eyes of the world, it matters that you have a relationship with Jesus. As we finish out this week I want to keep encouraging you to reach out to those you know who are far from Christ. Yes, they may argue with you and yes they may call you names, but in the end I don't want anyone to be without an opportunity to turn from their stubborn and selfish ways and turn to a life of freedom in Christ.

SONG:

["In Christ Alone"](#) - Boyce Worship Collective

KIDS QUESTION:

Can you be stubborn? How can you change? Why should you choose to change?

YOUTH/ADULT QUESTION:

What are some places that you find yourself stubborn?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to surrender to Your truth and keep You as the only God in our lives. Grant us opportunities to share who You are with others that do not know You.