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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 MARCH 15-21

SERMON DOODLES & ILLUSTRATIONS

MONDAY, MARCH 16

[1 Kings 11:9-25](#) | The Lord Raises Up

This week we are focused on the God who is in control and has authority over all things. This can be a touchy subject in a society that celebrates control with phrases like “You do you.” We desperately want control over every aspect of our life and even demand others to do what we want them to do. Sadly, the church is not immune from the desire for control. Yet, what we will hopefully learn this week is that any human control is often misinterpreted.

In our passage today we see that God is not happy with the choices that Solomon has made. Solomon had talked to the Lord in person twice and yet he decided to follow some earthly desires, which led to him building places of worship to other gods. As an act of discipline God rose up adversaries against Solomon. These adversaries would come up and attack and cause problems for king Solomon for the rest of his kingship.

It is so easy for us to look at the human side of every interaction, but do we often wonder what God might be doing through those interactions? God can use adversaries in our lives to help us get back on track. Yes, sometimes we may need or even deserve conflict in our lives because of what we have done. No matter what the reason is for the difficult conversations or seasons in our life, the question becomes, who do we go to? It is God’s desire that in these tough seasons that we turn to Him and not others. Let’s take time to give thanks to God for the tough seasons in our lives that drew us closer to Him.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

[1 Kings 22:1-40](#) | **Controlled by Pride**

In a world that has so much information at our fingertips we need to learn how to be discerning. It is not too difficult to find someone who agrees with us on something that we deem to be true. We can find articles, videos & even people explaining Bible passages to fulfill what we want to be true. It is very dangerous to think that we are always right and that anyone who thinks differently than us is always wrong.

Ahab is desiring to go to war and so he asks his prophet friends to give him an encouraging word, which they do. The king of Judah suggests that a man of God be asked and Ahab doesn't want to do that because this prophet always disagrees with him. As Ahab predicted this prophet did speak that Ahab would die and even shared a story of how God was going to bring about the death. Ahab must have slightly believed this message and thought he could outsmart God by disguising himself. Unfortunately, Ahab could not outsmart an arrow shot at "random" that went through the only unguarded part of his armor. Pride comes before the fall.

We are not the keepers of truth, only God is. This is key for leaders of the church as the leaders must be humble enough to not think that everything they think is the way it should be, but to be willing to listen with discernment to those who come into their lives. We can easily get stuck in the cycle of searching for people to agree with us rather than seeing if God agrees with us. God is in control and if we choose not to follow Him, we will end up in a bad space by simply following the desires of the people.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

[2 Kings 17:1-23](#) | God Uses Unbelievers

Over the next few days we are going to look at the interaction between Assyria and Israel and Judah. This situation may remind us of Monday when God raised up foreign leaders to cause problems for Solomon, yet it is my hope that it makes it more clear to us that it wasn't the physical power of Assyria, but the allowance of God that caused Israel to fall.

The kings of Israel had been unfaithful for hundreds of years. This unfaithfulness was not new and so God sent Assyria to capture Samaria and the region of Israel. The king of Israel was hoping that he could just pay off the king of Assyria, but unfortunately the king of Israel was found to not be able to keep up his end of the bargain. In the rest of the passage we see the reasons that Israel was overthrown. Never once does it mention the power of Assyria, but simply the unfaithfulness to God is what led to God using Assyria to overthrow the land.

As we once again pause to ponder why the things going on around us are going on, I want us to keep the topic of humility on our minds. This whole week as we talk about the authority and control of God, it is important to engage in conversation with open hands of discernment and humility. Yes, God is in control whether we want Him to be or not. Yes, God does have ultimate authority whether we think He has it or not. The kings of Israel did not respect the authority of God and found out just how powerful God's control over all things actually is. I pray that you and I do not find ourselves down this road of pride as the Israelites did.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

[2 Kings 18:1-37](#) | Sennacherib's Perceived Control

Have you ever experienced someone so bold, so arrogant, and so confident that it left you silent? I know from experience I can often grow quiet when someone who is bold and loud comes to share what they think should happen. With such confidence and attitude they must be right, right? At the very least they are confident that they are right and arguing against them is often futile.

In our passage today Sennacherib believes that he holds all the power, authority, and control and he is going to demand whatever he wants from the king. The king gives in for a little while and all is going as planned for Assyria. They are confidently bashing Judah and laughing at any thought that Judah could withstand an attack. Assyria was so full of themselves that they could not imagine anything or anyone stopping them.

As I read through this passage today emotions rise up within me because I have faced people that act and speak like the leaders from Assyria. They are so sure they are right and so confident that there is no other way and it does make me recall moments where I quietly removed myself from the situation. At the end of the passage the king told his people not to respond, to not even say a word. That seems like good advice when we are face to face with someone who is so full of themselves. People can say whatever they want, but it doesn't make it true. Even in these situations may we remember that God is in control.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

[2 Kings 19:1-37](#) | God Shows Who's In Control

Do you have someone who can encourage you when times are tough? I know that I have a few people that I can go to when things are difficult. My wife is a great support and I also have a few other pastors in the area who I can bounce ideas off of. I am so appreciative for the perspective and encouragement that they can speak into a situation.

Our chapter starts off with Isaiah encouraging Hezekiah which leads Hezekiah to pray as king Sennacherib flaunts his power. As Hezekiah prays, Isaiah prophesies that king Sennacherib will fall by the power of God most high. No one can overthrow or over power our God. That night God struck down 185,000 Assyrians which led king Sennacherib to go home with his tale between his legs and then be killed by his own sons.

People who have power or think they have power have nothing if it is not given to them by God. As believers in Jesus Christ we need to start speaking and living in the power of the most high God. That doesn't mean we can use the God card to do whatever we want, but all authority in heaven and on earth is present in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That power lives in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. We must make sure our ears, heart and mind are in tune with that Spirit and then we can walk confidently in the Lord.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

[2 Kings 3:13-27](#) | Not in Our Strength, But in the Strength of God

We finish our week looking at another description of how the control and power of God was evident. Before the passage that we wrote we see that the king of Israel asked the king of Judah and Edom to come to war with him against Moab. The king of Judah wanted to seek the Lord first to confirm that this was from God. To do this they went to Elisha, and Elisha prophesied what was to come. First, water would come to give the animals and people something to drink. Second, the Moabites would think the water was actually blood and come up against the Israelites as if the Israelites had already been defeated. Finally, Israel, Edom and Judah would defeat Moab.

Everything happened as Elisha prophesied, not because the three kings were so powerful, but because God had said it would happen and God's word comes true. God is faithful to what He says and we see that over and over again. It is never because of any human ability or talent that these things happen, but only by the will and purpose and power of God.

As we finish this week, I again invite each of us to surrender control of our lives, situations, and desires to God. The truth is that God is in control and God does have all authority, and yes, everything that God invites us to do is good for us. There is so much life and freedom in surrender & following God completely. Let's do that together as we learn more of just who this God is that we worship.

