

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**IF THOU RETURN AT ALL IN PEACE,
THE LORD HATH NOT SPOKEN BY ME**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 23, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 KINGS 22: 24-28, 34-37**

1 Kings 22:28, And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. As we approach the **Books of Kings**, we find several double books. **First and Second Samuel** being the first set and **First and Second Kings** the second set, and **First and Second Chronicles** being the third set.
- b. Bible scholars' debate about the authorship of **Kings**. I take the position that Jeremiah is the traditional writer.
- c. The theme of these two books is expressed nine times and it says, "**As David, his father.**" We can plainly see we are following the line of David.
- d. Each king that succeeded David was measured by David's standards because he set the highest of human standards.
- e. Many kings could not attain David's standards, but there are a few who did measure up to David. These kings happen to be the kings of the Southern Kingdom. Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah were all considered good kings. **Of the nineteen kings that ruled in the Northern kingdom there was not one single king that was good.**
- f. The good and bad kings were distinguished by the good and bad they did. If a king did evil in the sight of the Lord, he was considered a bad king. If he did good in the sight of the Lord, he was considered a good king.
- g. This book reveals the history, decline and fall of the Kingdom of Israel.
- h. The kingdom was divided and each of the divided kingdoms went into captivity. The Northern kingdom went into captivity to Assyria and the Southern kingdom went into captivity to Babylon.
- i. The first key verse describes the decline and fall of the Northern Kingdom where there was not one good king and it reads, **2 Kings 17:22-23, For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them. 23: Until the Lord removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.**
- j. The second key verse describes the fall of the Southern Kingdom, the other part of the divided kingdom. **2 Kings 25:21, And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away out of their land.**
- k. **First Kings** gives us a record of the division of the kingdom and **Second Kings** gives us a record of the collapse of the kingdom.
- l. If we consider the two books together as a unit, we find they open with King David and close with the king of Babylon.
- m. These books depict man's rule over God's Kingdom and the results are not encouraging. Rulers fail to realize that the Most High ruleth in the affairs of men. **Daniel 4:17, This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.**
- n. The Throne on Earth must always be in tune with the Throne in Heaven if blessings are to come and

benefits are to be realized. **Man's plan cannot overthrow God's purpose. Proverbs 29:2, When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**

- o. **First and Second Kings** are a continuation of **First and Second Samuel**.
- p. With these four books, we can trace the history of the nation of Israel from the time of its greatest expansion, influence and prosperity under King David and King Solomon to the division, captivity, and exile of both kingdoms.
- q. These books show man's inability to rule the world.
- r. Only the Lord Jesus Christ will sit on the Throne of David and rule and reign a thousand years. **Revelation 20:6, Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.** This verse describes the Millennial reign of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Just prior to the Great White Throne Judgment. **Luke 1:33, And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.** This latter verse reveals God's plan for mankind throughout eternity.
- s. **First Kings** probably spans a time period of about one hundred thirty years, written sometime between 640 and 550 BC.
- t. Some of the major themes of the **Book of 1 Kings**:
 - 1. God uses history to set before us examples of successful and defeated lives.
 - 2. We must follow Godly leadership and respond to Godly leaders when in authority. **Proverbs 29:2, When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**
 - 3. **God is more concerned that we have wisdom and a heart for Him than He is about our personal accomplishments. Ecclesiastes 12:13, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**
 - 4. The consistent company we keep with family and friends can affect us positively or negatively.
- u. Let us see what we can glean from **First Kings** as God speaks to our heart.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the May 23, 2021 Morning Message for the Introduction.

3. TWO POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- b. **If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me.**
 - 1. **1 Kings 22:24-29, But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? 25: And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. 26: And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; 27: And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace. 28: And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.**
 - 2. A man called by God does not fear, hate, hold resentment, demonstrate animosity, and does not try to avoid persecutions and afflictions. **Jeremiah 1:8, Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 2 Timothy 1:7, For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Ephesians 4:15, But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**
 - 3. In the last part of **1 Kings 22:8** the king of Israel says, **"but I hate him."** These words will pass down through many years. We have heard them expressed many times before and we will hear them expressed many more times before the end comes.
 - 4. **In many cases, people don't want to know the truth or the facts** so they tend to avoid those who will stand and tell the truth. **2 Timothy 4:4, And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**
 - 5. If you are a God-called preacher in this day, you cannot escape the hatred of an unbelieving world and avoid the persecution of many so-called believers.
 - 6. Lies will flow to inflame our words. Words designed to take people off focus are all too prevalent as we attempt to share the Gospel truth.
 - 7. Being hated by worldly people is a marvelous thing. Most of the time it is the religious crowd that is exercising extreme hate and bitterness. We will find many cases the same as Micaiah

- who was placed in prison, John the Baptist who was beheaded, and the Apostle Paul who was murdered. In all cases we must stand for the truth. **John 8:32, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 15:18, If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. John 15:25, But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.**
8. The Lord Jesus Christ was hated by the world. He was arrested, flogged, nailed to the cross before he died, was bodily resurrected the third day, and left us a statement in **1 Peter 2:21-24, For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps; 22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye are healed.**
 9. We find the end results were not good for this Godly man. We see in **1 Kings 22:24, But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the Lord from me to speak unto thee? 1 Kings 22:27, And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.**
 10. We find the Lord Jesus also had to suffer. **Matthew 26:67-68, Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him: and others smote him with the palms of their hands. 68: Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?**
 11. When we are called to the ministry, we must understand it is God's will that we must be about, and we cannot worry or react to what the world has to say. **John 15:18-19, If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 1 Corinthians 1:26, For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:**
 12. These are the words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as He called men to minister His Word regardless of what the circumstances may be.
 13. Regardless of what others may be doing, **we must stand for the Preserved Word, justification by faith, and the Deity of Christ.**
 14. This does not mean that everyone will hate us. We have a lot of people who love their pastor and preacher, but we must be careful not to allow ourselves to be distracted over those who do not like our message.
 15. Jehoshaphat was a Godly king. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord and was sensitive to God's will. **2 Kings 22:2, And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.**
 16. Listen to **1 Kings 22:8, And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.**
 17. The king of Israel hated the prophet because he did not say good and pleasant things. Jehoshaphat, a man of God had no business aligning himself with this wicked king of Israel; thus he lost the vision God had for him. **1 Kings 22:4, And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses. Proverbs 29:18, Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**
 18. Jehoshaphat was wise enough to want to hear the truth for himself, and he was glad that truth did come forth.
 19. Jehoshaphat disagreed with the king of Israel about the report from his four hundred men, but he had gotten himself so entangled and involved that he could not back out. **1 Kings 22:44, And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.**
 20. We must be careful about our associations and relationships, and not compromise God's Word as Jehoshaphat did due to family ties.
 21. The words from these four hundred were like-minded. **1 Kings 22:12, And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramoth-gilead, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the king's hand.**

22. We have a lot of "prosperity preaching" this day and hour. Some preachers believe they can take the promises God made to Israel and apply them to the church. This is wrong and is not the correct division of the Preserved Word of God. **Romans 11:2, God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,**
23. A true pastor must lay down the Preserved Word and it must be done in love. When we do that, the blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will cleanse us from all sin. **1 John 1:7 says, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

c. **So the king died, and was brought to Samaria.**

1. **1 Kings 22:34-37, And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. 35: And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. 36: And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. 37: So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.**
2. A spirit-filled believer can discern between truth and error. **Malachi 3:18, Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. John 8:32, And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 1 John 4:1, Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**
3. Jehoshaphat was able to distinguish between truth and error. He asked if there were any other prophets there who would speak. He knew he had not heard the truth.
4. Upon hearing the truth from the true prophet of God, Jehoshaphat disagreed with the king and he said, **"Let not the king say so."**
5. **We must tell the truth whether people agree with it or not. We are not able to discern the truth unless we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit. John 16:13, Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.**
6. Today the truth is not being told about Heaven and Hell. There is a heaven to gain by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. There is no question that there is also a hell to shun. **Luke 16:23 tells us, And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.**
7. Today we find ministers, pastors, preachers, and evangelists who want to water-down the Word of God. They want to change the Preserved Word of God.
8. We find that this concept was revived in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The 1611 King James Version of the Bible that was considered The Final Authority for 350 years is now no longer sufficient for mankind. We have an explosion of different versions of the Bible today that class themselves as Holy Bibles, but when you go into the meat of the Preserved Word of God you find they have taken the word "Holy" out of the scriptures. **These Bibles do not tell you the whole truth of the Word of God.**
9. We must be very careful today to make sure we have the truth. **We must be convicted of our sins. We must be converted. We must accept the Lord Jesus Christ's pardon and atonement for our sins. We must not blindly follow the ways of the king of Israel who did not want to hear the truth. John 16:7-11, Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8: And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9: Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10: Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11: Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.**

4. **CONCLUSION**

- a. **The Lord Jesus is ready to save you today.**
- b. He will save to the uttermost those who come to God, seeing that He ever liveth to make intercessions for us. **Hebrews 7:25, Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come**

- unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
- c. **Romans 10:14-15, How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15: And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!**
 - d. **Will you come to Jesus today for salvation? Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
 - e. Will you come and unite with a Bible-believing church where the Preserved Word of God is the central focus and our only purpose is to rescue the perishing, care for the dying?
 - f. Will you come today?

RESCUE THE PERISHING

Rescue the perishing; care for the dying.
 Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.
 Weep o'er the erring one; lift up the fallen.
 Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

Rescue the perishing; care for the dying.
 Jesus is merciful; Jesus will save!

Rescue the perishing; duty demands it.
 Strength for you labor the Lord will provide.
 Back to the narrow way patiently win them,
 Tell the poor wand'rer a Saviour has died.

- g. Would you please stand?

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