

Kings and Prophets 14-01-31b

We resume our study now in 2nd Kings chapter 4, but once again I'm gonna begin by making an allusion back to chapter 3 because there's another interesting thing I wasn't sure I was gonna bring it up, but I'll just throw it out here right quick You might write in the margin of your Bible if I don't know which Bible you have or there might already be some sort of Cross-reference to it, but there's another real interesting passage that I ran across in the course of studying this entire Campaign on the part of the Temporarily reunited Kingdoms of Israel with the Edomites going around and attacking Moab Going back to the days when David had defeated them the tribute that was due and all the rest of it But you might put down Deuteronomy 23 verse 3 Deuteronomy so many of our Kings Episodes are Harking back to the founding days of the Nation and Deuteronomy 23 3 says no Ammonite or Moabite Shall enter the assembly of the Lord Ammonites and Moabites descendants of Lot through the incestuous Cohabitation with his daughters after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah No, Ammonite no Moabite shall enter the assembly of the Lord none of their descendants even to the tenth generation Now How how far can you get? Thinking back on your ancestors, you know who your grandparents were most of us can name Some of our great-grandparents How about your two greats are your three greats unless you're sort of a genealogy buff? That's starting to get rough How many people can trace their ancestry back ten? generations ten generations You've got to be a dyed-in-the-wool Hardcore internet loving genealogy buff to trace your ancestry successfully back ten generations Well, guess what? They didn't have Wi-Fi back in Israel so Oh Speaking of Wi-Fi, this is completely off the subject but just a just a note. I heard two Nobel Prize winning physicists the guy that won in 2007 the guy that won in 2011 on the radio this afternoon and something I did not know and I would like to research is apparently one of the few really breakthrough significant Technological achievements to come out of Australia Was the invention of Wi-Fi and it came about by accident as a byproduct of a guy trying to detect What Stephen Hawking had predicted which would be? evaporating black holes this guy was trying to find a way to test for and verify the existence of evaporating black holes and he accidentally invented Wi-Fi and So there you go They didn't have any such thing if they knew if they had any black holes in Israel, they didn't know it They didn't have any way to to I mean, you know The genealogies that you have in Genesis you say well gee didn't they know those I? Have told you many times the lines of evidence that persuade me that those genealogies Recorded by Moses in the book of Genesis were transcribed from clay tablets That he found in the archives of Egypt put there by Joseph the family Library lists and some of that the pre-flood information came across on the Ark with Noah and Those or copies of them had been handed down through Shem Abraham Isaac You know did Abraham pick these up when he was sharing bread and wine with Melchizedek? One way or another these things came down and when when Jake when Jacob and his sons and families and whole tribes came down there to Egypt and Lived in the land of Goshen and and Joseph is the vizier of Egypt and he's got full access to the library he's literate and he says what safer place for these things than in the royal libraries of Egypt and decade upon decade upon decade upon decade upon decade upon generation

upon generation later when Moses Oddly enough grows up in the palace of Pharaoh What library is he? Constantly visiting and had access to the very same one that Joseph had access to and he comes across this stuff and says wow The history of my people and this may have been one of the things that the Lord used to galvanize his interest in his enslaved brothers and Hence you have the book of Genesis say all that to say this no ammonite or moabite enters the assembly of the Lord none of Their descendants to the 10th generation Basically look if it's the 11th generation You've got 50% of your parents DNA. You got 25% of your four grandparents You got twelve and a half percent of your great-grandparents You've got six Point something percent of your great-greats.

You got three percent of your three greats You've got one and a half percent of your four greats. You've got point seven five percent of your five greats You've got point three seven five percent of your six greats You've got Point. Oh you get my point by the tenth generation Who knows who's in the woodpile? There could be anybody back there.

You could be descended from a Tamed ape for all we know At a distance of ten generations and what difference does it make it's no longer a significant And but what this basically says is if there's any living memory of you having an identification with these people you're out now how politically incorrect is God I Want nothing to do with a god that would hold my great-great-great-great grandpa against me Right No, ammonite no Moabite shall ever enter the assembly of the Lord even if it's within the last ten generations Because why they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt These are relatives lot was Abraham's nephew But the descendants through this heinous unspeakable Behavior is right out not going to enter the assembly of the Lord. It is a taint that Cannot be eradicated until that DNA is so diluted that nobody can find it Did not meet you with food and water when you came out of Egypt and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Baal From Pthor of Mesopotamia to curse you Balaam is a Prophet of God, where is he from? Same place Abraham is from is he a relative probably Descendant of Shem probably knows God because he is a Shemite in dubitably But he's out and You know, he winds up getting killed later on you, you know the history of Balaam Nevertheless, the Lord your God was not willing to listen to Balaam The Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you Why the Lord your God has a policy of love and benefit toward you? You shall never seek their peace or their prosperity all your days There are categories of people that we do not seek their peace and we do not seek their prosperity What kind of calamitous evil was this? sexual perversity No time within ten generations of their coming into existence and no time in your life. Will you have any? Peaceable relations with these people these people are off limits out Beyond the pale Look at verse 7 all by way of contrast you shall not detest an Edomite Descendants of Esau the twin brother of your progenitor and Eponymous ancestor Israel Jacob You will not detest an Edomite.

So what have they done, right? In this whole scenario in chapter 3 they've hooked up with the Edomites that you're not to detest and they're attacking the Moabites that you are to detest So that much is right. And that's one of the reasons Elisha is along If they had hooked up with the Moabites to attack the Edomites guess who would not been in the camp Elisha Elisha knows his

Bible knows his scriptures and The Edomites are your brothers. You shall not detest guess who else an Egyptian Why you were an alien in his land and The sons of the third generation born to them may enter the assembly of the Lord well within living memory If does the Edomite had a grandson he could enter the assembly of the Lord now Here's my question for you How the heck does King David enter the assembly of the Lord? Because who's his grandma Ruth the what Edomite Ruth the Edomite No, sorry, Ruth the Moabites Now how did this happen To the tenth generation is David within ten generations of Ruth absolute them all she absolutely Absolutely is within four generations Ruth and Boaz have Salmon Salmon begets Obed Obed begets Jesse and Jesse begets David.

They know ten generation space there So, how does how does this work? here is my suggestion to you This is the male side If Boaz had been a Moabite and Ruth had been in Israel itis would have been a whole different scenario and this has Significance when you get to Nehemiah Edomites are not out of the realm and who is the mother of the Edomites Who did Esau marry he married women of the land right he married Canaanite women Who did Joseph marry the whole tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh? Where do they they start out only be in half? Israelite because their mother is what? Egyptian And our Ephraim and Manasseh not qualified because they're not three generations down from an Egyptian No, Ephraim and Manasseh are scions in Israel They're they are tribes both of them and their mother one generation is Egyptian. So what does this tell me? Mothers don't count Anybody who looks at Joseph anybody who looks at David, I'm saying mothers don't count I don't mean they don't count gracious sakes. Don't don't quote me on that Mothers don't count against you in terms of entering the assembly if they are outsiders such as Moabites Ammonites or Egyptians now Observing knowing your Bible observing Joseph and observing David What does this tell you when you get down to the days of Nehemiah? and suddenly they're looking at the mixed multitude and people that have intermarried and they say you've got to abjure yourself and Send hints your wives and your children oops wrong Interpretation you've you've over zealously misinterpreted and You are needlessly and wrongly splitting up these families because it's not The wives that caused the problem it is Moabite men.

It is Egyptian men It is that that you've got to start looking at ancestry and generations And if they're a Moabite or Ammonite, they ain't never coming in if they're Egyptian Let's see how this family does are they going to be like Joseph's family? Well, you know, where do you get Ephraim from? You know, that's your half Egyptian thing, but it's okay They're in so anyway little little interesting side note here relative to the Moabites the Ammonites the Egyptians and this will bear because sometime Relatively soon in our study of kings and prophets. We're gonna get all the way down to Nehemiah and We'll be coming back here to see how important rightly dividing the word of truth is what is God's attitude? And why does he establish it? Was it the women and children who said don't feed the Israelites as they come through Moab? No, it was the men. It was the king.

It was the princess It was the elders of Moab who said we're not doing this and it is the men who are under judgment Ruth is a wonderful godly woman and She's right in she's She's a

great blessing and in addition She's a blessing to her mother-in-law to Boaz and to everybody who comes after her so interesting side note there But back to our passage. We're in 2nd Kings chapter 4 We've got a destitute woman This woman is as low on the poverty scale when she hooks up a balance sheet in the red thousands of shekels in the black one jug of oil What does she do goes to the man of God man of God asks two questions. What do you want? What have you got? How does she answer those questions She Says your maidservant has nothing in the house, but a jar of oil The answer to the other question is implied.

I want a solution to my destitution That's refrigerator magnet right there so he said go borrow vessels from everywhere from all your neighbors empty vessels do not gather just a few and when you have come into Your house shut the door behind you and your sons Then pour the jug of oil that you have into all those vessels and set aside the full ones This lady does exactly as she is instructed She deviates in no point whatsoever She went from him Shut the door behind her and her sons who brought the vessels to her and she poured it out She did everything the Prophet told her. We just get it condensed Now it came to pass when the vessels were full and this breaks every law of physics No demand however Think about this now We start with something we have and we are told what we have in answer to a question right and In the using in the distribution of this thing it Without any attention being drawn to the miracle I mean you have to really read closely say now wait a minute She had a cruise and all of the jugs were full It doesn't say and behold there was you know angels sing a chorus in heaven And there were grace notes on harps and behold there was a bubbling fountain and sparkles in the air and Hollywood special effects and and up From the ground came a bubbling oil or whatever and you know Phil none of that You know it's it's it is implied the miracle is implied It just says the jugs are full you say well wait a minute back rewind the tape here. What did I miss? How did all the jugs get full and it doesn't even tell us? What does this obviously remind you of? two occasions the Lord Jesus Remember Elisha is the double portion prophet, right? and We've got the first of two women in this chapter for the next one's going to be the shun of my woman But Jesus not once but twice Says here's a lack these people fear the Lord or they wouldn't be out here all day listening to me preach Lord We're short on chow these people have nothing to eat.

What does he say in both cases? What have you got? What have you got? Set everybody down now, so let's just let's go ahead and jump to our conclusion here This is a foreshadowing of the Lord Jesus, and I think the Lord Jesus under the filling and inspiring inspiring inspirational power of the Holy Spirit Figured out a lot of what he did in his ministry by looking at the Word of God. He figured it this out it's amazing to me that I think he looked at this and figured it out and Applied it this isn't a repetition Jesus didn't mechanically reproduce the miracle of Elisha. He looked at the principle He looked at the essence So let's take the Lord Jesus We've studied in multiple Gospels multiple times the feeding of the 5,000 and the feeding of the 4,000 So where are the correspondences Jesus begins by asking a question? They respond he says what have you got five loaves and a couple of small fish All right Now if Jesus is looking back at this, where are the empty vessels that are going to be gathered? Where or maybe I should say who are the empty vessels? Because in the age of fulfillment we're not in inanimate object pots we're in

animate object pots and you say well It's not oil though, it's it's bread and fish Of course, because what is what is the idea here? This is the solution to the problem is are the women And her two sons are they going to? Live on this oil Like like the woman whose flower never ran out no this oil is going to do something different But the principle is what you have on hand God will Inexplicably and invisibly and unaccountably When by all human accounts it is insufficient and inadequate in the presence and power of God it will be sufficient and it will be adequate and So Jesus takes that essence that principle when he feeds those crowds and he says well, you know Under the inspiration of God in the Old Testament, Elisha said you need all of the vessels that you can get Who are the vessels in the feeding? It's it's the people Jesus has been Filling them with the bread of heaven all day John 7 and When they have a physical need that's Minor compared to the spiritual need that he has been filling all day Taking that word and multiplying it in the hearts of these people and so it's almost an afterthought that they have a physical need and It's in a way trivial for him to fulfill it.

Well, what do we have on hand? We got a little bread We got a little fish fine. It's gonna do just like everything else does When there is a need for people who fear the Lord who are in the right place Talking to the right guy listening to the right guy Answering the questions and following instructions God's power will take what seems inadequate and insufficient and make it fully Meet the need and so that's what happened here and that's what's going to happen twice with the Lord and in in all three cases You don't see the miracle the the special-effects guys are out of a job here. No sparkles No choirs, no thunder.

No earthquake. No drama In fact, what is a specific part of these instructions shut the door? Take these but don't tell the people what you're doing. Can I borrow your jug? Well You destitute widow.

What are you gonna do with an empty jug? but sure fine take it and All of these jugs are taken inside and it the one thing that it emphasizes in both cases is Elisha says Shut the door behind you and in this very condensed Notation that she did what she was told one of the things that is mentioned is that in fact the first thing that's mentioned she Went from him and shut the door It's moved up to first place obviously, I Mean the sons had to come in and bring all these jugs and had to make multiple trips but shut the doors first why because this isn't a Telethon Elisha didn't say go and print up a pamphlet and distribute it to all your neighbors and then sit and wait for them to Come and make donations Go and communicate your need to all and I will put it in the hearts of these people to give and give generously and give You know for the price of a cup of coffee the widow in your town can you know eat? And her sons don't have to go into slavery and you know, shouldn't you give you know? Let me let me draw some pictures of how sad they all look and and motivate you to give this is private Who knows about this people in the community? You may know that Wow else people really seem to be hard up But this specific plan of attack is known to Elisha. It is known to the woman and to the two sons Nobody else knows and this is done behind closed doors principle of application There is a time For Sharing and bearing of burdens and there is a time for shutting the door Now which is which? God knows and in the situation you and I will know I can't give you a Set of litmus tests to say this is

a time to share and bear This is a time to hide and confide that there is no formula Go to God And the answer will be given ask and it will be given seek and you will find But be aware that there are different times for this And in this case in this time this widow God fearing instruction following Talking to the man of God widow. This was a shut the door occasion and that's exactly what she did now It's really interesting because they bring all these vessels in how many times have we seen? episodes where Okay, I give you instructions strike the floor with these arrows, you know You only struck a few times.

Why didn't you you know? Well, if all it's gonna take is strike the floor I'll beat the flop beat a hole in the floor with these arrows Because that's the level of my faith and confidence that if this is what God says to do I'm gonna do it I'm gonna do it with gusto. I'm gonna do it with enthusiasm I'm gonna do it the full extent that I can What can she do here? He doesn't say go work to earn the money. He doesn't say go You know bathe in the Jordan seven times.

What does he say gather vessels? Well, if we're gonna gather vessels, let's gather all the vessels that will fit in this house We're there is going to be no floor space in this house except enough to shut this door And we're all going to be holding an empty vessel when we do that And we're gonna set them down in the space behind the door. There should not be a square inch of this floor That's not covered with empty vessels because that's what all I have to do is what the man of God said and my only simple Instruction is gather empty vessels. Well, man, if that's it, let's do that till we can do it no more, right? Because how much oil is there going to be now? She doesn't necessarily know this yet But this is where faith comes in.

I don't know how this is gonna turn out It makes no sense to me to gather empty vessels But if that's what the man of God says, I'm gonna do it I'm gonna do it like nobody's ever done it before since I'm gonna do it till I cannot possibly do it anymore Now what's gonna happen if she does that to the extent that she obeys to the extent? That she believes to that extent the need is going to be met Right the more empty vessels are this Oil is not going to fail until there's not an empty vessel left Now in hindsight somebody that brought like four vessels like well I got one and my two sons each got one and you know, I found one out back somewhere. So I've got four well The extent of your obedience is the extent of your deliverance I Say again the extent of your obedience is The extent of your deliverance you want to be delivered out of this present evil age. You want to be delivered out of the Depressing Situation that we look around in the world and see the extent of your obedience is the extent of your deliverance They may seem unconnected How is the creditor coming to haul my sons off into slavery got anything? What are they getting practice on being servants by hauling these empty vessels around that we're just gonna make sure they're really good slaves Because they know how to carry stuff It doesn't you know, look, you know, why don't you vaporize the creditor? Why don't you you know, make shekels rain out of heaven and you know, turn my umbrella upside down or something? What what empty vessels it seems completely unconnected doesn't matter.

This is the clear command from the man of God I will do it and I will do it until I can do it no more To the extent of the obedience is the extent of deliverance the more empty vessels She's

got the more all she's gonna have and what happens that came to pass When the vessels were full that she said to her son bring me another vessel and he said to her there is not Another vessel and that is the point at which the oil ceases Four vessels four vessels full oil is gonna cease 40 vessels 40 vessels filled then the oil ceases Then she came and told see she doesn't even know what to do next now. She's got a house full of oil She says well, it hasn't stopped the creditor. I got a house full of oil, but now what so she goes back to the man I've got good thinking Okay, I've done as much as I was told and as much as I know I still don't see how this Is going to pan out.

I'm being as obedient as I can be. I still don't see that the problem is solved What do you do? So behold she did stick her two sons heads in the oil and grounded them and you know No, what do you do when you've done everything you can do and it doesn't look like the problem is solved Where does she where does she go back to the man of God principle of application if you obey everything you know to obey you do it to the maximum extent that you can and You still don't see a deliverance go back to God and say Lord now what? What more can I do? And he immediately says go sell the oil and pay your debt you and your sons get to keep the rest The extent of their obedience is now the extent not only of their deliverance, but of their prosperity If they've got Big giant jugs of oil that were really difficult to carry and wrestle in there. They've got big giant now Go sell the oil.

Who are you gonna sell the oil to do they own these jugs? No, they're borrowed. They must be returned. So who are you gonna sell the oil to? Hey Fred You know that jug I borrowed from you I'm here to bring it back.

How'd you like to buy it the oil that's in it? Well, sure, there's it look there's a built-in. There's a built-in Customer base here There's a there's a built-in market because all of these vessels have to be returned. They're borrowed, right? But you bring it back full of oil How about Paying me for this oil.

Hey great I've been meaning to go down to the market and you've brought it back to me full of oil. This is great and With this money when the creditor comes don't have to take the sons debt is paid debt is discharged don't have to wait for the year of Jubilee and Now the sons are available to go out and seek gainful employment to take care of their mother and her Widowhood and they've got a big bundle of cash. How big a bundle of cash? How faithful were they how obedient were they in carrying out the instructions of the Prophet But they follow his instructions and now instead of being paupers in the red.

They are prosperous in the black Proportionally to their obedience Proportionally to their obedience and what's interesting to me is they get to keep what is left over what happened when Jesus fed the crowds What happened to what was left over? People didn't pack it and take it with them. Did they? It was left to be gathered by others and there's a lesson there because it's it's kind of a reverse God advances and and Multiplies and turns things to the side so that you can see more facets It would be useless to repeat the miracle of the cruise of oil on The

slopes of the hillside after Jesus is teaching and have it make the same points. It's the same principle Obedience sit on the ground in groups of 50 disciples Take these things and and distribute them But when he's all done, there is an excess just like there's an excess here beyond the need there is something for the future What are these people going to do for the future? Many of them have got a journey back to their homes Did they keep some extra bread some of them may have but most of them did not because God's provision is perfect and Jesus made enough food Not only for the present but for the future just like this cruise of oil provides not only enough for the present but for the future Are you looking to the future? Are you content to get out of a jam in the present and you're not? obedient enough and thoughtful enough and Attentive enough to the to the Word of God to be ready for the future It's one thing to be delivered out of a problem.

But do you have? Something you've gained from that so that in the future this problem doesn't recur What would happen if the creditor goes away and a week later? Oh, man, you know we're having to borrow because we're out of chow and You know the credit card begins to accrue and interest begins to accrue again Because nothing was learned this woman is delivered and there is provision for the future And you know what? I am sure of There was never another creditor on the way to this household and these sons did not follow in the footsteps of their father because they saw and they took advantage of they saw the problem their father created and they took advantage of the Deliverance and the teaching point that God made for them in this deliverance. We should do the same if the key is relationship with God paying attention to the Word of God and Our deliverance is proportional to our obedience a little obedience I'm gonna get a very minimal deliverance and it's did the problem is gonna crop up again if we are thinking if we're Pushing trying to stay on that narrow road trying to go through that straight gate. We're asking we're seeking we're knocking We're living our lives not for ourselves, but for something larger plan a purpose of God It is going to have these contingent and associated Benefits and blessings and she goes from being oppressed to being prosperous now in the next part of the chapter Which we're gonna look at next time.

We're gonna have a woman from the absolute opposite of the economic spectrum. This woman is rich It happened one day Elisha went to Shunem where there was a Notable woman and all we need to look at for now in anticipation of next time is notable notable means Prosperous well-to-do Influential these people have enough money. They're going to be able to build on to their house just for the occasional visits of the prophet They're not hurting for money at all This is going to be a need of a different kind.

This is going to be a situation of a different sort But there are some constants We're going to do a wonderful comparison contrast next time with a Shunemite woman Compared to the woman and her sons that we have just seen now but keep in mind all of this is Tied very beautifully to the Lord Jesus and Not only does it foreshadow But it illuminates and tells us things about the Lord Jesus to whom we are intimately related and with whom we should be walking and Learning as disciples and so this is a wonderful window into the way he was thinking and the points that he was making when he did his miracles when He was trying to teach the people of

his day just as he's trying to teach us now About what a walk with the Lord really entails the circumstances of this life are really Trivial and minor however enormous they may seem to us my gosh I'm a widow. My husband is dead and the creditors on the way to haul my sons into slavery couldn't be much worse I got nothing in my house. I am at an absolute crisis point in a matter of hours This problem is not only solved but eliminated for the future and in less than a day this lady goes from critical Crisis to comfortable prosperity.

It's trivial for God. Why does he allow it to happen? Why is it recorded here? It's for our instruction our circumstances however momentous they may seem are for our Instruction and when we that the thing is not to try to figure out how to solve the circumstance God will give us instructions on how to proceed It is to learn the lessons that these circumstances are designed to teach us when you grasp the learning point That circumstance can pass and will enter into something new The purpose of the circumstance is not to be solved for its own sake the purpose of the circumstances for us to learn these greater higher more More pertinent and useful eternal truths So that's what we want to try to find as we go through these stories. God's not just a magician pulling oil out of jugs He is a teacher and a father Nurturing us Educating us trying to mature us and make us come to the standard of a mature man We're going to see that in Ephesians chapter 4 till we all come to the standard of a mature man Perfect complete fitted lacking nothing for our purpose in our service and all this other is just story problems We want to learn the principles So this is is something worth chewing on think of it not only in its Old Testament context But also as it reflects on the ministry of Christ and we're going to see the other half of this beautiful comparison contrast next time Father thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you for your patience and your love for us expressed in in your ongoing efforts to Raise us up and lift us up beyond the mundane and the earthly and the temporal and the temporary and To teach us how to live in the light of eternal truth so that when we enter eternity and the presence of truth We will be comfortable and fully equipped not only to serve but to enjoy and to Fulfill potential in that day and in that time we pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress these things on our hearts We ask it in Jesus name. Amen