

Kings and Prophets 14-09-12b

We pick up our study now, we are looking at the time of Jehu, this 28 year reign that he initiates in 841 B.C., and the structural clues that are metadata, they are data above the data in what we have in this book. And God does not underestimate his own creation, he made us in his own image, he made us with a good mind, and he challenges us to press and to push for understanding. Think about your memory verse in Proverbs chapter 2. It isn't enough to simply receive the word and hide the commands with us, otherwise that proverb would only have one criterion for understanding the fear of the Lord.

My son, if thou will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. That would make it a lot easier to memorize, wouldn't it? My son, if thou will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, so that thou may find the knowledge of God, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and thou find the knowledge of God. My son, if thou will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, then shalt thou find the knowledge of God.

My son, if thou will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, then shalt thou find the knowledge of God. thou find the knowledge of God. My son, if thou will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, then shalt thou find the knowledge of God.

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My son, if thou will receive my words and hide my commandments with thee, then shalt thou find the knowledge of God. thou find the knowledge of God. I don't know.

Why did the ball of energy suddenly have an area of inflation? I don't know. Did it happen? Yes, absolutely. What's your proof? Oh, I've got some math here.

Math is descriptive. Math is not prescriptive. They take a calculation and say, here are the odds that of all the billions and billions and billions of planets and galaxies, one of them is bound to have water, be the right distance and have a magnetic field and have all the same stuff that Earth has and life could form there.

It's mathematically inevitable that there's life on another planet. No, it's not. It's not.

Math is descriptive. If I make an equation and it says the odds of flipping this quarter and having it come up heads are 50-50, right? The odds of a quarter flipped coming up heads are 50-50. If I flip that quarter once and it comes up tails, all of the power of description of my probability equation just went in the dumper because it came up tails.

Well, but if you flip two quarters, it's inevitable because 50-50, one's going to come up heads

and one's going to come up tails. So you're telling me if I flip a quarter twice, it'll always come up heads once and tails once? No, it won't. That is a prediction.

It is a description of if you flipped a million quarters a million times, average, that might happen. And so they say, well, the odds, but the equation itself has no power to make the quarter do something. And by the way, for there to be a description, there has to be a quarter.

Think about that. The equation cannot create the quarter. There has to be a quarter and there has to be a thumb to flip it.

And if you say, well, if you flip it a million times, you know, 500,000 times it's going to come up tails. Whose thumb is going to flip that quarter a million times and the quarter is not going to wear out? It's not going to get dented. It's not going to suddenly warp to where it comes up heads more often.

It's descriptive. It is not prescriptive and it has no creative power. Mathematics is simply a tool that we use to help us do stuff.

It doesn't make stuff happen. But the sleight of hand that is done in science is I'm going to give you an equation and that means it's reality. If you went to Alpha Centauri and look, there's going to be a planet someplace over there with life on it.

Oh, there's not. Just because you've got numbers scribbled on paper means nothing. Well, where there is reality, where there is substance is in the word of God because God is in it.

And the allegedly illiterate goat herds that allegedly wrote this scripture, there's no way they could have come up with the symmetry embedded in symmetry, surrounded by symmetry, encased in symmetry, inside symmetry, matching exactly the symmetry over here written by a different guy a thousand years apart in a completely different country and context and time and language, and they match perfectly. That's not chance and that's not mathematics. That's God.

And that is God putting the knowledge of himself and the evidence of himself in creation, which also shows us that things don't happen by chance, and in our hearts. In the mouth of two or three witnesses, a thing is established. You have the witness of creation, you have the witness of conscience, and you have the witness of scripture.

People that reject the first two often don't get the third. That's why you can have ancient Chinese and Aborigines all around the world, well they never got the Bible, how could they believe? They already rejected the first two witnesses, what's the point of sending them a third? There is no point. Twenty-eight letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

We know this and we can demonstrate it and see when the loss occurred. For example, some of these letters were still in it when Moses wrote. How do I know this? You remember in Genesis, chapter two and three, you have the story of man, Adam and Eve, in the garden, everything is

rosy, and yet there is in chapter three the subtle serpent.

He is more subtle than any other creature that God made. Begins in the middle of chapter two. The Lord God said, you may eat of every tree in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, and the day you eat thereof, you will surely die.

He makes Eve, bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. Chapter three, verse one, the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field. Arum, ayin, raish, maim.

Arum. Later on, after they've partaken of the fruit, Adam and Eve look at each other and they know that they were what? Naked. Arum.

Ayin. Raish. Maim.

Now, the serpent was not more naked than any creature of the field, he was more crafty. The old King James says subtil. He was more full of schemes.

But it looks like the same word. But this is one of those letters that disappeared. Instead of ayin, it was gayan.

So the word for crafty was gayan, raish, maim. Garum, if you will. Garum.

Same thing with the word for wicked. There's a word for wicked that is awul. Ayin, wau, lamed.

Ayin, wau, lamed is the word for infant. A suckling infant. Awul.

But it's also the word for wicked. They say, aha, see, people knew babies back then. He's infant and he's wicked.

It's the same thing. No, wicked is gayan, wau, lamed. And so by looking at these words, yaal, y-a-l, yod, ayin, lamed, that's the word in Hebrew for profit.

What does it profit a man? Not profit like navi. This is monetary profit. But with a gayan, yargul, it means goat.

And there's no connection between those two things. So by looking at these and several other words, we know that we've lost a letter and it's been assimilated. In the same way, we have this symmetry that was lost in creation, in the perfection of the 360-day year, and this asymmetry, this odd step requires a correction.

How many months are there in a year in Israel? Depends on which year. It's 12 months in a year, except every so often there has to be a 13th month to correct the lunar calendar because we're in a world of imperfection. And 12 and 13, why are there 13 tribes in Israel? Well, it has to do with sin, with imperfection.

If you didn't have sin, you wouldn't need a priest, wouldn't need a priestly tribe, wouldn't have to cram the blocks in and pop one up so that you've got some priests who don't have a land

inheritance. If Reuben had not sinned and gone up to his father's bed, the double portion would never have ratcheted all the way down to the 11th tribe out of 12. It's because of sin.

These imperfections come in because of sin. Why was the world wrecked and destroyed by the flood? Because of sin. And it is post-flood that lifespans greatly drop, that everything changes.

You begin to lose letters out of the alphabet. But the clues are there to reconstruct it back. That's the point.

When the text is corrupt, people say, you don't know what the original Bible said. Our text is imperfect, but we can figure it out. God has made sure that the clues are there for the thinking person.

Point of application. Because we live in a fallen world, because we have a fallen nature, we often don't know the answer. What should I do? It's not just, well, go to some book and chapter and verse and the answer is going to be there.

It is not a prescription for here's what you do. Especially in this age, we don't live under the law of Moses. You can't just look it up and it says, well, if your ox gores another man's thing, recompense him.

An eye for an eye, tooth for tooth. That's not the way it works. In our lives, it's the same way.

Imperfection has made things pear-shaped, whopper-jawed, out of line, out of plum, out of square. But the clues to reconstruct what ought to be, the clues for solutions to our problems are there. But it requires thought.

It requires time. It requires dedication, predicated on, and here's the key, faith. I believe the answer is here.

I know the answer is here. That's my faith, and I will keep looking, I will keep asking, I will keep seeking, and I will keep knocking until God opens the door, until God provides. It is that process that God is interested in.

God is not interested in us having the answer. Think about being in class. Think about being in any schoolroom class.

There's problems at the end of the chapter, right? If the teacher just wanted you to have the answers, they'd just hand you the answer sheet, right? God is not interested in us having the answers. God is interested in us deriving the answer, getting the answer, figuring out the answer. Does it make sense? It is the process of obtaining the answer that God is interested in.

That's why Scripture is what it is. Look, we've got a translation, for crying out loud, it's English from Hebrew and from Greek. Why did God confound the languages? If He wanted us all to instantaneously know everything, why didn't we have one common language? The Bible is in that language, and what you see is what you get.

It's unchanged, never evolves, never changes. Vocabulary is vocabulary. God could have made the human brain to where nobody came up with any new words.

You're just born with the vocabulary, you learn it from the people around you, you use it, you die, nothing changes. God confounded the languages. Why? Why are you and I working out of an English Bible here? Because for some of the deeper insights, you've got to spend a little time researching and digging back, how did I get this good but flawed copy in another language? What does it really mean? Well, if I'm willing to invest the time, I can get the answer.

But it's a filter. Who's going to do that? Who believes that the answer is there enough to work for it? Do you? Do you believe that God's Word has the answers? I don't see chapter and verse about abortion. Jesus never said don't abort your babies, so why isn't it okay? Jesus never condemned a homosexual, so why are they condemned? Why don't we just go with the words of Jesus? Well, if you're a shallow thinker, if that kind of logic satisfies you, that puts you in a certain bracket.

You're a believer, you're saved, you're going to glory, you're going to be in the eternal future, but you're just not that interested. You've got something that works for you, and you've got a set of objectives, and that little smattering of biblical contact is good enough. Well, you have just sorted yourself.

The centrifuge is spinning, and if you're light, you're going to be near the top of the liquid that is spinning. The dense stuff is going to go to the outside, right? The harder you spin the centrifuge, the stuff that has mass and has density is going to go to the outside, and stuff that is light is not. If you just let something settle, that which is light and insubstantial is going to float to the top, that which has got mass and density is going to sink.

It will sort itself out over time. That's what this life is. God is sorting you.

God is sorting the people in Israel, northern kingdom and southern kingdom, in the days of Jehu. He's sorting them. Who is paying attention to the prophet Elijah? Who is looking at the clues and getting the answers and realizing that there is a God in Israel, and he's got a copy of the covenant right there on his desk.

And he is looking for people who are keeping covenant, who have enough faith in the midst of adversity, in the midst of seeming chaos, to believe in God, to seek God, to trust in God when the chips are down. This is the widow woman that God sends the prophet to and says go to Philistia and dwell there. There's a famine coming.

And she believes him and she leaves before there's any sign of a famine. She is gone and living with the Philistines of all places beforehand. This is the God, who when he wants to, can break his own rules.

Here's a question for you. What is the status of a Moabite or an Ammonite in Israel? We reviewed this a couple weeks ago. Do you remember? Let me give you three peoples.

Moab, Ammon, and Edom. Who's acceptable? Who can you take in, have fellowship, and it's no problem out of those three? Edom. Esau is Jacob's brother.

Edom is your brother. Edomites can come in. Who cannot, to the tenth generation, come in and have anything to do with anything in Israel? Moab and Ammon.

Who is King David's grandmother? Ruth the what? Moabites. Do you wonder why the first kinsman threw his shoe across the field and said no way? She's a Moabites. There's a natural, there's a law of God about the Moabites.

Now is David within ten generations of Ruth? Yeah, she's grandmother, great-grandmother is Ruth and Boaz and you got Salmon and Obed and Jesse, right? So there's, I think that'd make her what, great-grandmother? I think that's right. But it's well within ten generations. Moabites.

Now how does Boaz know that there's an exception to the rule here? What breaks the curse? What breaks the curse? What has Ruth got that obviates and breaks the curse? Faith. What broke the curse in Jericho? Faith. What brought the curse back on those 42 youths? Lack of faith.

What brings forgiveness of our sins? Faith. What undoes the forgiveness of our sins when we don't forgive one another? It's lack of faith. Faith makes all the difference.

In this 40 generation, this 40-year generation that embraces Joram and Jehu in the northern kingdom. Who is the prophet? Elisha. Elisha who does positive things.

I don't see the sword of Elisha anywhere in this. I see the sword of Hazael. I see the sword of Jehu all over the place.

I don't see the sword of Elisha. God said whoever escapes the sword of Hazael and Jehu, Elisha will slay. Who's the one person you can think of that escaped the sword of Hazael and Jehu? Long-haired person.

Athaliah, right? Does Elisha go down and slay her because she escaped the first two swords? What happens to Athaliah where it's coming up? But here's the point. God is absolutely, intimately involved in all of these things. Why is there an Athaliah? Why would God let that happen? Athaliah is necessary.

Who is invisible but present all through the seven years of Athaliah's reign? Joash. Joash. Joash.

Athaliah is necessary so that there can be a Joash. And he is distinguished because he's not just an heir behind some king. She absolutely has no business being anywhere near the throne of Judah.

What relationship does Athaliah bear to David? How many men have sat on the throne in Judah that were not related to David? Zero. There's only one time when somebody not related to David sits on that throne, and it's this time. In the 28 years of Jehu, the first seven out of the

four sevens is the seven of Athaliah.

Do you think this is an accident? No, it's not an accident. You've got 28 years of Jehu. First seven years, it's Athaliah in the south, right? Right? And who's waiting? Josiah.

And in his eighth year, it's going to be the first year of his reign. When is a baby circumcised in Israel? What did Paul say? I'm a Hebrew. The Hebrew is circumcised on the eighth day.

When could the cleansed leper come back and rejoin the fellowship in Israel after doing his other ritual ablutions? Eighth day. This is the renewal time. This is when you start over.

You get another seven. The seven is complete. God's plan is finished for that, and you start fresh.

This stuff is not accidental. It's not random. It's not happenstance.

It is here for a reason. God is telling us graphically, as he told the people in Israel graphically, I am God, and there is no other. Look to me, all ye ends of the earth, and be saved.

The Lord Jesus Christ is present throughout the Old Testament. What is Jesus' name in Hebrew slash Aramaic? Yeshua. That is from the verb that means to save, right? Hebrew alphabet, what does it say? I am the alpha and the omega, the first and the last.

If it was, that's Greek, alpha and omega, what would that be in Hebrew? I am the aleph and I am the tau. Tav, they say in modern Hebrew, but it's tau. Even in English, the letter T is a cross, a lower case T, turn it a little bit, that is the letter tau in the ancient Hebrew alphabet, the 28th letter.

The Lord Jesus is the alpha, which is the first letter in L, Elohim, God, and he is tau, which is in the shape of a cross. Remember in Ezekiel when we talked about the angel that had the ink horn and God said, before you destroy the city, I'm going to send the marking angel through and he's going to put a mark on the forehead. You know what the word mark is in Hebrew? Tau.

You know what got put on the foreheads of those people before the destroying angel went through? A cross, a tau, a mark. The word mark, this is another piece of evidence for my belief that Cain was a believer, the word mark in Hebrew is tau. You will not kill this guy.

He's got the mark. The mark, the word mark is tau. Mark is a cross in Hebrew.

And over and over again, you had that in the Old Testament. In Psalm 91 verses 14 through 16, God says, because he has set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him. I will set him on high, raise him up, because he has known my name.

He shall call upon me and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life, it's like eternal life, will I satisfy him and show him my salvation. I will show him my Yeshua. With long life, I will satisfy him and I will show him my Yeshua.

People in the Old Testament day could look forward. It's the same thing in Genesis 49, when Jacob is on his deathbed, he says, I have waited for your salvation, O Lord. I have waited for your Yeshua, O Lord.

The Lord Jesus is named for what he is, deliverance, salvation. In Isaiah chapter 62 verse 11, Behold, the Lord has proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your Yeshua cometh. Behold, his reward is with him, and his work is before him.

Same word, but it's personalized. His reward is with him, his work is before him. Your Yeshua cometh.

The Lord Jesus is revealed to those who look for him. Many times, and this is our point of application now, many times we tend to think, well, God was really great and active and did a lot of stuff for a lot of people in the Bible, but that was then, this is now, I'm just living my life going along here, and I don't see these signs of divine intervention, I don't see the signs of divine interest, I don't see Yeshua, I don't see the Lord Jesus actively in my life making a difference. That's some of us.

There's others of us that see that all the time. Now, why do some of us see it and some of us don't? Who's looking? Where are you looking? If you don't see it, you're not looking. God has a condition for revealing himself.

Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened.

If you incline your ear, if you apply your heart, if you lift up your voice, if you cry out, if you seek it as silver, if you search for it as for hid treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord. Then you will find the knowledge of God. It isn't my son, if you receive my words and hide my commandments, you've got it all.

It's not enough to sit here and listen. It is not enough to sit in Bible class or sit in front of a radio or play an mp3 someplace and listen. I warn you now, I am telling you now, you will suffer loss at the judgment seat of Christ if you think merely showing up or merely listening is enough.

It is not. The Lord Jesus is in the Scriptures. The truth of God is in the Scriptures and it is there if you look, if you apply, if you pursue, but it is a perfect filter because God doesn't want disinterested people in the active parts of his plan and purpose.

You're just going to be baggage. You're just going to be hangers on. You're going to be last row of the choir somewhere.

You're going to be in the rear with the gear, having nothing, doing nothing, waiting for somebody to come out of the city and bring something to you in the future because you didn't

care about it now. This life is very short. Don't be distracted.

Don't think that it's just politics and economics and happenstance and, oh look, Putin this and Ukraine that and shooting this and government that and the President this and Congress that and election this and economy that and, wow, look, the price of this has gone up. That's not reality. That's the near realm of science.

That's coping with mundane tasks of the day. We're not animals. We have higher sensibilities and we are put here to use those sensibilities.

If you limit yourself to science, you might as well make yourself blind and deaf and only give yourself the sense of hearing. Somebody says, you know, there's a sunset up there. I don't hear anything.

Well, can't you feel the warmth? Well, I get warmth when I get near all kinds of stuff. I can flip some kind of a little thing and I can feel warmth coming out of a light bulb. So you tell me there's a sunset and you tell me there's some kind of gorgeous panorama? I don't have it with my sense.

Science is like one sense and people that only rely on one sense are going to miss huge things. Somebody who is blind has to take a sunset and the beauty of a sunset on faith. They have to take the beauty of colors on faith because people blind from birth have never seen it.

All of us, sooner or later, have to take things on faith. God's truth is in the Word. The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ is in the Word and it is essential.

This is what we are built for. The Lord Jesus didn't die for the animals. As cute and cuddly and wonderful as some of them are, that's not why He came.

He came to redeem us and the return that we can offer Him is to make ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable. We set aside mundane, momentary, temporary, ethereal pursuits and we spend some time, we invest some time in grasping these things. In Habakkuk, chapter 3, verse 13, this will be our closing passage.

Turn there. It's good to crack your Bible open in Habakkuk. We don't get the chance to look at it very often.

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk. Right before Zephaniah and Haggai. Habakkuk, chapter 3, verse 13.

You went forth for the salvation of your people, for salvation with your anointed. You went forth with the Yeshua, which is just a different form of Yeshua, of thy people, with Yeshua thy Messiah, with Jesus your Christ. If you translated this into Greek, Jesus your Christos.

Think of those people in first century Judea and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. If they had spent time meditating on their scriptures, do you think they could have figured out from

Habakkuk 3, verse 13 that Jesus Christos, Yeshua, Messiah, might in fact be the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures? You went forth with the Yeshua, Yeshua of your people, with Yeshua your Messiah, with Jesus your anointed, you wounded the head of the house of the wicked one. See the rest of the verse? You struck the head of the house of the wicked.

What was the promise in the garden? He shall bruise thy head, thou shalt bruise his heel. Yeshua the Messiah is striking the head of the wicked here. How visible is this? Maybe not on the surface, but for those who look for him, will he appear? I can imagine on the road to Emmaus, Jesus just went to Yeshua passage after Yeshua passage after Yeshua passage, to Mark passage after Mark passage of Mark passage.

I have placed my mark, I have placed my towel, I have placed my cross on those who look for deliverance. It is something that Simeon might have thought of when he took the baby Yeshua in his arms and said Lord now let your servant depart in peace according to thy word, my eyes have seen your Yeshua. Do you think Simeon was speaking Greek or Aramaic when he held the baby Jesus? Lord I can depart in peace, my eyes have seen your Yeshua.

It's the baby's name. He's got the Lord Jesus in his arms. My eyes have seen your Yeshua.

Well our eyes can see Yeshua throughout the Old Testament, in the working of God with his people. But it takes an investment, anything worth having. You want to learn a language? You've got to invest the time.

You want to learn a skill? You want to get a degree? You want to move up and get promoted in a job? You put investment into it. You put yourself into it. You make sacrifices and dedicate yourself.

Do you think it's any different in the spiritual realm? There is a level of commitment that God is looking for. It's not a condition of salvation, but it is a condition of revelation. It is a condition of fellowship.

It is a condition of growth. As I said the other day, the Lord Jesus right now is standing at the door and knocking. If any man will get up, walk across the room and open the door the Lord Jesus will come in and fellowship.

There is a day coming when the situation is going to be reversed. The Lord Jesus will be on the inside. We will be outside.

Is he going to open the door and invite us in because we have that level of commitment, that level of interest, that level of communion with him through the Word of God or not? You can't change it then. You change it now. You commit to it now.

You live it now. There were people in the northern and southern kingdoms who saw God's graphic portrayal of His Word in the ministry of the prophet, in the succession of the kings, and they drew conclusions and they said, there is a God in Israel. I trust Him.

God looked out for them and God delivered them. God gave them His Word. There were others who didn't.

It is the same today. You and I are those people. You find many people who get to the end of their life and they say, I don't know why I killed myself in my profession or I killed myself chasing fame or wealth or success or accomplishment or social life or whatever it is.

So many people come to the end of their life with regrets. I have yet to hear of much less know anyone who dedicated their life to the things of God and when they got to the end and got near their time of departure on their death bed say, you know, I don't know why I wasted all that time studying the Word of God. I don't know why I spent all that time praying.

I don't know why I spent all of that time learning all the things. I've never seen or heard of anybody who invested their life in the things of God that didn't find comfort, peace, and even joy at the time of their departure and looked back over their life and said, you know, that was a life well lived. That was time well invested.

My favorite story, Dr. Griswold tells this probably apocryphal story of a guy getting to the end of his life and saying, bring me the book. And his son-in-law says, which book? And he says, there's just one book. Bring me the book, cried the dying sage.

Tell me the old, old story and the winged words that can never fade wafted his soul to glory. There's just one book. But along with telling that story, Dr. Griswold made this point.

Have you ever heard anybody say, bring me Carl Sagan's Cosmos. Here I'm about to die, bring me Cosmos. Let me read one more time about the scattered galaxies and the cone of invisibility and, you know, the black holes.

Bring me my physics book. You know, here I am. Bring me my Algebra 2 textbook.

Bring me the dictionary. What is it that people look at for genuine comfort, genuine encouragement? What are people glad they spent their life in when they get to the end? I've never known a faithful believer to be sorry that that's the way they spent their life. If I were to die tomorrow, I can tell you I would not be sorry.

The only sorrow I would have is that I didn't start sooner and learn more and do better. It is our calling. Be diligent to make your calling and your selection sure.

God puts you here for a reason. Exploit it. Avail yourself of it.

The time is short. The Lord Jesus is near. What is the evaluation going to be? Push.

Ask. Seek. Knock.

Lift up your voice for understanding. God will answer. That's his promise.

If you don't get an answer to your question, rephrase the question. Rethink the question. Ask.

It shall be given. Seek. You will find.

Knock. The door will be open. And no one ever regrets giving away what they cannot keep to gain what they can never lose.

It's never a regret. It's a life well lived. Let's close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for the wonderful truths that reveal your character and your grace and your profound interest in each one of us reflected even in these ancient records from hundreds of years ago. You have preserved it. You have brought it to us at this time and in this way to confront us with the challenge of our calling, of our privileges in Jesus Christ.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will provoke us to thought. It will stimulate our meditation and our integration of these truths into our goals and our values and our priorities, our thinking, our decisions, so that the time that remains to us in this life will be invested, will be redeemed, and will be something that will reflect your glory now and in all of the ages to come. We pray these things in Jesus' name.

Amen.