

Kings and Prophets 14-11-07b

We're picking up our study now. We're sort of flipping back and forth We have a little chunk of pages in our Bible between 2nd Kings chapter 12 and 2nd Chronicles chapter 24 moving into 2nd Kings chapter 13 and In this we see that in the 23rd year of Joash the son of Ahaziah king of Judah Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria He was going to reign 17 years he Did what was evil in the sight of the Lord followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat? Which he made Israel to sin. He did not depart from them and it's interesting that this is a It's a tradition in the northern kingdom that goes all the way back to Jeroboam Back to the beginning the the founder It's one thing to say he continued the sins of his father or he continued the sins of his grandfather.

There's something else to say This kingdom has had spiritual issues from the outset Jeroboam the same member Jeroboam Rehoboam. This is when the northern kingdom first split and God handed the northern kingdom to Jeroboam and He failed that Responsibility and all of these kings when it comes back and says that they followed in the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat What are they saying? God let them come to the throne and they failed the opportunity failed the responsibility And that's why it always goes back to Jeroboam. It doesn't just go back to Ahab.

It goes all the way back to the beginning So The anger of the Lord was kindled I'm reading from 2nd Kings 13 now verses 1 through 9 the anger of the Lord is Kindled against Israel and he gave them continually into the hand of whom? Whoever does escapes the sword of Jehu Hazael will slay this is the same old grizzled judgment giver Hazael He is still fulfilling that judgment that God announced to and through Elijah Into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben Hadad the son of Hazael So Jehoi has besought the Lord and the Lord hearkened to him For he the Lord saw the oppression of Israel how the king of Syria oppressed them now This is at God's behest that the king of Syria is oppressing them, but notice the smallest turn the slightest even when Ahab Briefly turned back to God God honored that That instinct honored that that act that attitude however shallow however brief God honored it same thing here This king turns to the Lord and God Harkens on behalf of the people who are being judged and oppressed under Hazael Who is God's agency of judgment now? Second point of application remember the first point of application tonight When bad things happen it is time for self-assessment If we're doing what we're supposed to do self-assessment is easy I Know Whom I have believed I'm persuaded. He's able to keep what I've committed because I am committed I am doing what I'm supposed to do. I am on my knees before the Lord all the time I am not only listening to the teaching of the Word of God But I am thinking about it and seeking to apply it in my life on a daily basis I know now I you know Lord show me my secret faults if there's an area of omission if there's something I'm going to the Lord and asking him This is what David prays in Psalm 51 purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean wash me make me white Show me my hidden faults Exposed for me my secret sins the Word of God the the seed hitting the soil Will make these things evident thy word is a lamp unto my feet thy word is a

light unto my path James says it is a mirror that shows us what we look like if we're looking into the law of Liberty and seeing what we look like we can fix it.

We should fix it and Hopefully we are fixing it and you'll know that that's what you're doing You know your own heart before the Lord and if bad things are happening And you're doing what you're supposed to the self-assessment is going to be quick and relatively painless Lord if there's something I'm not aware of please let me know otherwise I'm operating on the assumption that this is suffering for blessing, and I want to maximize it I want to I want to please you I want to rest in your promises. I want to trust in your provision I want to avail myself of the strength in your word and in your spirit I want the light of your glory to reflect in my life to those around me I want to glorify the Lord Jesus in this time of challenge And we move forward from there if we're not doing what we're supposed to as is the case here because we are willfully Following a bad pattern then guess what it is all downhill it is It's like one of my favorite Merle Haggard songs Have you ever heard the song by Merle Haggard if you haven't? You need to get the original version not a live version go back and get the original recorded version They've got it on YouTube off of one of his albums and It's called. I Wish a buck was still silver And in the course of that song mighty Merle sings are we rolling downhill like a snowball? Headed for hell It's a good song if you haven't heard it or haven't heard it lately pull it up on YouTube and listen to it This is one of the great American songs by the greatest in my opinion male country music artist of all time Merle Haggard It doesn't get any better than than Merle and that is one of his best songs.

I Wish a buck was still silver But that's what he says are we rolling downhill like a snowball headed for hell and if we're not in the will of God actively seeking and prosecuting and pursuing and fulfilling and maximizing and laying hold of our Inheritance and our identity in Jesus Christ. We deserve to be smacked We deserve to be have this brought to our attention and be rebuked and corrected and instructed in righteousness So learn the lesson turn ye at my reproof for why will ye die? Oh house of Israel? Why will ye die? Oh child of God Oh believer in the Lord Jesus Christ who ought to be preparing for the return of the Lord and the inception of the Millennial Kingdom an opportunity to be an overcomer to walk with the Lord in white to partake of the hidden manna to Have the white stone and the new name and to sit with him on his throne To write a white horse to be part of the solution and not part of the problem Why would we do anything else because we're stupid. That's why Stop being stupid.

You look at these people in there in the kingdom and it's only going to get worse from here Look at this as we proceed a Haziah is going to beseech the Lord. He besought the Lord the Lord hearkened to him Seeing the oppression of Israel how the king of Syria oppressed them look at verse 5 of chapter 13 of second Kings Therefore the Lord gave Israel a Savior a deliverer So that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians and the people of Israel dwelt in their homes as formerly Nevertheless, they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam Stupid this is just stupid You appeal to the Lord the Lord graciously responds provides a Savior a deliverer a Yeshua Wow, Lord, thanks a lot for the deliverance and they go right back to the same pattern of sins But walked in them and the Asherah also remained in Samaria, this is the

female goddess of the Canaanites this parallel pagan Worship that had it was a form of syncretism. They threw God's name in every once in a while Pretended like Asherah was God's wife this whole Cult of Lilith and so on is is a harking back to some of this corrupt perverse distorted Stuff that that happened in ancient Israel the Asherah remained in Samaria and look if God rebukes and corrects and instructs us and we do not Purge out the leaven if we don't look at the causes and eliminate them if we don't find those things in our lives that are leading us down hill like a snowball Then it is God is going to be doubly angry as It says here the anger of the Lord is going to be redoubled.

It is going to be kindled it is going to be lit on fire and when God's anger is kindled as in Ignited there is going to be the fire of judgment and It is On the order of the five cycles of divine discipline that were promised on the nation if I rebuke you and you do not turn it's going to get worse and If you do not turn at that repute rebuke and that reproof it is going to get worse We need to be smart. We need to be sensitive to God's gracious Correction and make the necessary corrections if there's something in our lives that needs to be eliminated Eliminate it push away from the table get away from the cause Don't just say sure glad that judgment is over and the dog returns to its vomit. This is what happens There was not left to Jehoahaz an army of more than 50 horsemen and 10 chariots and 10,000 footmen This is 10 ellipse of footmen, which is a pretty small little pathetic raggedy group Because the king of Syria Hazael had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing Useless good for nothing except irritation That's what dust does remember the regidion when the angel of the Lord finds him and he's threshing indoors Trying to try to separate the grain and the chaff Indoors and it's all down his collar and he's it's thick and he's choking and coughing and the angel walks in and says hail mighty man of valor and he's like Looking over his shoulder can't even see through all of the the chaff and the dust.

Well, this is the uselessness of What should have been the strength? in that kingdom now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz all that he did and his might are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel this isn't by the way our canonical book of Chronicles both Kings and Chronicles are derivative from these more fulsome and complete books a lot of which has been lost because It's just too tragic The portions that have been preserved are the portions that are used as the inspired record for us but there is a lot of you know, the book of Jasher and the book of the wars of the Lord and the full book of the Chronicles has been lost So there isn't any more there's no record of the reign of Jehoahaz of Israel in our canonical Chronicles Which lets us know that these are not synonymous Beginning in verse 10 2nd Kings 13 in the 37th year of Joash king of Judah Joash the son of Jehoahaz begins to reign over Israel and Samaria if it wasn't confusing enough You got King Joash in the north and he got Joash in the house in the south also known as Jehoash in the north and Jehoash in the south Now why is this an accident? Is it a mistake? Is that a happenstance? No, if a Joash comes to the throne up in the north What are the people in down in Judah talking about? Wow, did you hear that the that? Ahaziah son has come to the throne. He's got the same name as our king. Look at all the tragic Cursing and downturn that's happening up north Hey, their Kings got the same name as

ours.

What's likely to happen to us if we follow their pattern? It's almost like a comic book. How much more clear can God make it than to bring a king to the throne in the north? That's got the same name as the king of Judah and look at the tragic downturn in the north under this King. 37th year of Joash king of Judah Joash the son of Jehoaz begins to reign over Israel in Samaria and he reigns 16 years he also did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat which he made Israel to sin, but he walked in them. This is a history that goes back to every Generation of kings in the northern kingdom and they haven't learned the lesson. How many times is God going to have to point this out? The rest of the acts of Joash which he did and the might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah. Are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the kings of Israel? Joash slept with his father's. Jeroboam sat upon his throne Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Now we're going to backtrack a little bit when we get to the reign of Amaziah because these two kings are going to fight, but we get a summary of the reign of Jehoash or Joash of Israel here in 1310 through 13 now. Here's the death of Elisha. He has not been a presence. He hasn't been a visible force he's been sort of in stealth mode in the northern kingdom.

We haven't seen him down in Judah. We haven't seen him doing anything up north. What's been going on with Elisha? We don't know. He's not visible.

He's not active. Whatever he's doing. He's doing quietly. Maybe he's just teaching Bible classes among the people so. When Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him.

Now. This is the Joash walking in the sins of Nebat. This is Joash that is going to fight against Amaziah down south. But he wept before him crying my father my father the chariots of Israel and its horsemen. There is still a superstitious respect for Elisha. Elisha says to him Take a bow and arrows.

So he took a bow and arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel draw the bow. So Joash draws the bow. Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands and he said open the window eastward and he opened it. Notice each Command king has no idea what is going on. There's no explanation. There is no justification. There's no promise involved. But Joash has this sort of superstitious respect for Elisha recognizes even in his sinful behavior that there is something about Elisha. There's something about the God of Israel.

And so when Elisha gives each of these instructions he almost mindlessly obeys. Take a bow and arrows and he takes it. Notice the way the account is structured here each individual act is spoken and then each instruction is followed by the king take a bow and arrows. So he takes him draw the bow, so he draws it. Elisha lays his hands on the king's hands. This is spiritual authority spiritual enablement Cooperating with in harmony with Supporting aiding and guiding civil authority, right? It's it's not a difficult picture to parse. Elisha's hands go on the king's hands.

I will guide you. I will why would you put your hands on somebody that's drawn a bow? What would Elisha do has he not drawn it back far enough Elisha is sick unto death He's barely able to do this. So he's not aiding in the drawing of the bow What is Elisha doing with his hands when he puts his hands on the king's hand? What does the man look like that's got a drawn bow? Let's say he's right-handed.

He's got the bow in his left hand He has drawn the string with the arrow between his fingers back against his cheek, right? So if Elisha places his hands on the king's hands, what is he doing? He's aiming the bow He's not pulling the bow He's not securing the arrow. He's guiding where the arrow is going to fly, right? It is guidance Lays his hands upon the king's hands and he says Open the window eastward now With that picture in your mind Here's the king. He's got a drawn bow Right Elisha's got his hands on the king's hands.

Now. Elisha says open the window Seriously I've got a drawn bow here You've got your hands on my hands and you're saying open the window and it says he opened it How did he accomplish this? I'm just asking. How does the king accomplish this? My servant open the window right now You can accomplish a thing by a proxy, right? The king has got servants.

He doesn't have to open his own windows He's got you know, the the knight of the garter here who can open the window so when Elisha says Get the window open the king gets the window open a servant does this but he's standing there with a drawn bow and The window is open Afterward not before if Elisha knows what this whole sequence is going to be. Why doesn't he tell the king open a window? Get your bro Knock an arrow on it. Draw the bow Let's walk over to the window.

He opened the window last It's there is a reason for this Open the window where Eastward Where is Hazael? Well, first of all, where where is the king and Elisha? Where are they located? he's in his capital, which is Starts with my name. Where is where is this taking place Sam area, right? Any area I'm in is the Sam area There in Samaria. I just want you to remember this.

It's important if you open a window eastward What's to the east of Samaria Keep your finger here turn to your maps in the back of the Bible. What is east of Samaria? Try to find a map that shows Israel in the divided kingdom days you should have every you know, you'll have one I've got one here twelve tribes of Canaan Then I've got one the divided kingdom Israel and Judah find that map or something close to it Look up there In between the Big Dead Sea and the Little Sea of Galilee up there you see the Jordan River connecting them right and about halfway between those two bodies of water due west is Samaria right now what is You will notice that if you've got the other nations in your map like Moab and Amman and Aram or Syria and Phoenicia. Do you see any of those? Where is Syria? Put it this way.

Where is where is Gath? Remember that the Syrians came down and took Gath and then they started harassing Judah and and Israel and so on Gath is way down due west of the north edge of the Dead Sea, right? So Hazael and the Syrians have been all over the area there. They've been all over the place But he doesn't say open your windows southwest toward Gath. He

doesn't say open it north towards Syria or Northeast towards Syria.

He says open it eastward what is the What's due east of Samaria, what's the only Recognizable major geographical feature east It's the Jordan, right? Interestingly if you go straight over there, they think that Tish be is over there Who was the Tishbite? Who's who's the Tishbite? Yeah, right Remember the rock from whence you're hewn remember the whole of the pit from which you're digged remember God's guidance God's Word God's call There will be no rain. There's power. There is divine Enablement, what does the Jordan represent to Israel? God parted the Jordan River to give them the land right? Where did they come into the land? They didn't come from the south.

They didn't come in from the north Like Abraham, where did they how did they get into the land? They crossed the Jordan if you open a window eastward and shoot an arrow What direction are you looking you're looking toward the Jordan? This is going back before Jeroboam This is going back before David. This is going back before the judges This is going all the way back to the days of Yeshua. God gave them a deliverer right God is the God of deliverance God is the God that brought them across the Jordan into this land and gave them possession of the land not too far to the south and east our Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim the place of the covenant blessings and curses that God promised for obedience and disobedience It's a spiritual issue.

This arrow is not being launched symbolically at Hazeel this is an arrow that is being shot out of sight in the direction of everything that northern Israel has forgotten and Is refused to think about? Why is it an eastward window? I asked myself Syria's to the north The threat is to the north remember later on we're gonna have pika and resin and that whole thing. We saw that when we Studied some of our prophetic studies a few years ago. That's all up in the north He's shooting east open a window eastward remember God is the God of deliverance.

God is the God of promise. God is the God of covenant You came from there Remember it. So he says open the window eastward and he opened it then Elisha said shoot and he shot and He said the Lord's arrow of victory victory over Syria Victory over Syria isn't going to be achieved by well-aimed arrows flat arrows flying north You shall fight the Syrians in a feck until you have made an end of them Affect he tells them when and where and how now if you still got your map open there, where is a fact? Do you see it? Find Samaria.

You see Samaria a fact is southwest He didn't shoot the arrow toward a feck Affect is southwest if you've got a map that's got Samaria and Joppa draw a line from Samaria Southwest to Joppa and about two-thirds of the way down. That's a fact if it's not on your map. It's southwest He's not shooting the arrow at a fact.

He's not shooting the arrow at Syria He's shooting the arrow at the past he's calling him back to commitment and faith and trust in the God that brought them across the Jordan into the land and Renewed and declared the covenant on ebal and garrison Remember, that's what's east It's a spiritual battle when we're facing circumstances and difficulties and challenges

Remember the battle is the Lord we wrestle not against flesh and blood Principalities powers rulers in the darkness of this age It is a spiritual conflict for you and me. We are the people of God just like the people in this kingdom It is a spiritual issue Whether it is suffering for blessing whether it is suffering for discipline. It is a spiritual issue use spiritual tools This arrow shot by the king guided by the Prophet isn't a military arrow This is the arrow of the Lord's victory Right the arrow of the Lord's victory Now when Elisha gives these instructions notice, he doesn't identify the arrow.

He doesn't say hey King Joash, let's let's shoot the arrow of the Lord's victory open a window get a bow and we're gonna shoot there He doesn't tell him ahead of time. Does he he gives him these cryptic instructions and this is a matter of faith Well, this is the man of God talking I don't understand why he's telling me to grab a bow I don't understand what the deal is with an arrow here. We are in the palace.

This guy's sick unto death I'm telling him goodbye. I'm upset chariots and horsemen of Israel and Elisha says yeah, exactly How are we going to achieve? God's victory follow my instructions, even though you don't understand what they are and Many times we continue to do what we know is right, even though we don't see how this contributes to victory Right. It is faith Follow the word of the Lord.

It doesn't have to make sense. It shouldn't be nonsensical If this is the prophet of God and he's giving instructions you figure this is the prophet of God. This is the Word of God I'm going to follow it even though I don't fully understand what's going on here But if it's the Word of God, I'm gonna do it and Elisha says look that was the arrow of the Lord's victory You followed my instructions.

Good job. The king didn't say I ain't doing anything until you tell me I'm a king I don't pull bows and shoot arrows out windows. I might hit somebody he doesn't rationalize it He doesn't explain it away.

He doesn't delegate it He does what the man of God says and Elisha says good job King Joash That is the arrow of God's victory, but look at what happens next You shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them then he says take the arrows and He took them and he says to the king of Israel strike the ground with them Now the king has just had a demonstration that these are symbolic actions and they are going to picture they hook into divine enablement spiritual power for earthly victory Right Elisha has given him the pattern and given him the explanation when we shot that arrow. That was the arrow of the Lord's victory Get it I'm having you do this symbolic action. And when you do this that flying arrow, that's the arrow of the Lord's victory Get it.

Oh king Okay. Yeah, got it. All right now take the arrows so he takes the arrows now Elisha says strike the ground with them the king Doesn't deduce doesn't draw a lesson from what has just been demonstrated if I'm striking the ground with these arrows this has future connotations this has Victory connotations this has hooking into the power of God spiritual victory leading to

material victory connotations So if the man of God says strike the ground, I'm gonna strike the hell out of the ground with these arrows I'm gonna beat the ground until I bust every one of these arrows if this is what the man of God says to do and If this has to do with success and victory, I'm gonna beat the ground with these arrows like there's no tomorrow This is the problem with the king his faith and his obedience are superficial They aren't from the heart.

They aren't with understanding he doesn't grasp the lesson that has just been demonstrated in the preceding minute and a half and So the king takes the arrows and he goes tap tap tap Tap tap tap King, what did we just do with the bow? What do we do with the arrow? Why did we shoot out an east-facing window for crying out loud? Tap tap tap seriously What's the matter with you? It's a spiritual issue. This is the God of Israel talking to you here This is the dying communication of the man of God. Are you not paying attention? Well, he's not and look at at Elisha's rebuke Strike the ground with them.

He struck three times and stopped the man of God was angry with him and Said you should have struck five or six times then you would have struck down Syria until you have made an end of it But now you will strike down Syria only three times. What is the lesson here? The extent of your faith and the extent of your grasp the extent of your interest and the extent of your enthusiasm as Far as it is up to you. That's how far God is going to grant Victory if you're weak in the faith, you're gonna have a weak grasp of life and a weak Set of solutions to circumstances when your faith is strong.

The answers are strong. The results are strong God's glory is greatly reflected Can you imagine what would have happened if? Hazael and Ben. Hey, dad had been utterly wiped out at this juncture Would change the entire course of history.

There would be no Pika and Resin, there would be no northern coalition that the whole landscape would have been changed This one pivotal moment is Presented and Runs right through the fingers of the king. He just Doesn't get it why he's not truly interested his he's content with the sins of Jeroboam He's content to perpetuate it. It's easier.

It's the path of least resistance. Let's do what we've always done We've been doing this since the days of Jeroboam. It's a family tradition.

It's a northern kingdom tradition Why would I mess with long-standing practice? Everybody's comfortable with it. Everybody likes it. I'm not going to rock the boat and Here is the man of God offering him the chance of deliverance of complete and utter victory over the Syrians tap tap tap And God honors those taps.

He's going to give him three victories, but it isn't going to be enough and They're ultimately going to go out as a nation and this was a pivotal opportunity missed we want to pay attention to this and dedicate ourselves to Exploiting the promises of God the full deliverance of God. Why do it in a half-baked way? Why do it half-hearted? Why do it? Minimally Do you want to really be in the very back? Minimally effective of minimal use of minimal service to the Lord of

Glory when he returns do you want to just be a Flunky and a functionary somewhere back in the rear with the gear or do you want to be out front? With the Lord Jesus making things happen Accomplishing God's purpose now and in the ages to come what else is life good for? Go to the antique store Pull out some of those old tin types and old photographs of people that nobody even knows who they are anymore those people Were born they lived they died. They're blown away in God You can't even find their graves on the prairie a lot of them now.

I've got a Great-great-grandfather nobody even knows where he's buried He died after 1890 nobody knows where he's planted. It's that quick that you can be gone and forgotten This life needs to count if God hands you some arrows and says hits the ground Let's beat the ground senseless with those arrows if he gives us an opportunity for victory. Let's take it and exploit it This is the famous words that Alexander as he was on his deathbed gave to his generals Remember the you know Ptolemy and and those other guys that were his generals and and the the great accomplishments and kingdoms that Alexander Conquered were there for the and and so his general said well you're dying Who's gonna be who's gonna take your place? Whose is the kingdom? And he said the kingdom belongs to whoever can take it Dr. Grizzle has quoted this many times in his sermons.

The kingdom is is for the guy who will take it We have been given every opportunity to seize and lay hold of victory But you've got to want it you we've got to avail ourselves of God's grace or it is going to Slip through our fingers and be given to someone else The kingdom is going to be taken from Israel and given to those who will bear its fruits and that's supposed to be us How tragic if we make the same mistake they did Elisha even on his deathbed is angry with the king You should have struck five or six times Elisha died and they buried him. Well the little Coda the little postscript here to Elisha's death and burial is something we'll look at next time You know this story they toss a corpse in there and a guy comes back to life touching Elisha's bones What is the meaning and purport of that it deserves a class unto itself? It is fraught with significance. And so we'll look at that next time But if there's a single thing to distill out of this study and looking at these two chapters in second Kings and the parallel and chronicles Life is short.

We have been given tremendous opportunity. Don't miss it. Don't miss it God's got plenty of people on this earth missing it.

Let's not be them Be the few the proud the victorious Let's close in prayer father. Thank you for these wonderful illustrations reminders and exhortations to Take advantage of your wonderful grace through the Lord Jesus Christ the presence and power of your spirit the clear light that your word shines on our lives and on our path we pray that as we Think about where we are and what our opportunities and responsibilities are that that you will make these things clear to us through those means so that we can Accomplish the purpose for which you placed us at this place and this time in history in the circumstances Where we have these opportunities and these potentials we pray that as a result the Lord Jesus will be glorified and we will be equipped for service both now and In times to come we pray it in Jesus name. Amen

