

Handout: 2 Kings Lesson 4

There are three reasons the lists of the kings of Israel and Judah and the histories of their reigns in the Books of Kings and Chronicles are recorded in Sacred Scripture:

1. It is the history of God's covenant people in the continuing story of God's divine plan for mankind's salvation.
2. The history of the kings of Judah is the proof of God's continued loyalty to the eternal covenant He made with David. It provides the evidence that a Davidic heir would continue to rule David's kingdom and the "promised seed" of "the woman" in Genesis 3:15 would continue through one family line. The fulfillment of the Davidic covenant is revealed in Matthew's genealogy (Mt 1:1-16) in Jesus of Nazareth, son of David.
3. The stories of the bad kings of Israel and the good and bad kings of Judah reveal God's patience in continually calling the kings and their people to repentance and restoration of their covenant obligations through His prophets. But eventually the warnings of divine judgment for apostasy from the covenant delivered by Moses (Lev 26:27-40; Dt 28:63-68) and the prophets (i.e., Jer 5:19) were fulfilled in the conquest by a foreign power and the people's exile from the Promised Land.
4. These recorded events are also a warning for us in the Final Age of Man that God is patient in calling His covenant people to repentance (see 1 Cor 10:6, 11). But if we fail to repent as a people and as individuals and if we continually violate our New Covenant obligations, we should understand that we cannot escape God's divine judgment.

In 2 Kings Chapter 9, the plan God outlined for Elijah at Mt. Sinai in 1 Kings 19:15-18 will now be completed:

1. Anointing Elisha to succeed Elijah
2. Arranging for the succession of Hazael the Aramaean
3. Arranging for the succession of Jehu, a commander in the army of Israel

Elijah was only able to complete one part, the anointing of Elisha (1 Kng 19:19-21). The second part of the plan to elevate Hazael to kingship was fulfilled by Elisha in 2 Kings 8:7-13. Therefore, two parts have been completed and only the last part, to anoint Jehu king of Israel, remained.

The key word in 2 Kings 9:11-31 is the Hebrew word for "peace" = "shalom." It is used nine times in verses 11, 17, 18 twice, 19 twice, 22 twice, and 31. Nine is the symbolic number for finality and for divine judgment in Scripture.

Jehu's friends showed their approval of the oracle for Jehu's kingship:

1. They honored him by throwing down their cloaks before him.
2. They sat him on the top of the stairs in a kind of enthronement ceremony.
3. They sounded the shofar and publically proclaimed him king.

In each of these acts, Jehu's fellow officers showed their acknowledgement of Jehu's elevation to kingship and their submission to his authority. Some of these acts were repeated when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday:

1. The people shouted out an acclamation of His kingship (Jn 12:13; Lk 19:38).
2. They laid their cloaks before Him as He entered Jerusalem (Mt 21:7-9; Mk 11:8; Lk 19:36).

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