

II KINGS 1

INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**
 - Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible - Genesis to Revelation
 - **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - We have finished **I Kings** - and will continue on to the Book of **II Kings**...
 - **II Kings** is the 7th of the 12 books of the History of Israel in the Old Testament
- **OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF II KINGS...**
 - 1st - The 4th of the 6 books of the Kings of Israel – **I Samuel** through **II Chronicles**...
 - **I Samuel** followed the anointing / reign / and fall of King Saul...
 - **II Samuel** is focused on the life of King David – from his coronation to his death...
 - **I Kings** focused on the reign of Solomon in the first 11 chapters...
 - The rest of the book and **II Kings** – follows the divided Kingdom...
 - **I and II Chronicles** – retells the history of only Judah (*the southern Kingdom*)
 - 2nd - Who wrote the book of **II Kings**...
 - Author unknown – but it has been traditionally accredited to Jeremiah or Ezra...
 - It was written while the Temple was still standing – **I Kings 8:8**...
 - 3rd – The Divided Kingdom...
 - After the death of Solomon the Kingdom of Israel was split into two nations...
 - The Northern 10 tribes – called Israel - ruled at first by Jeroboam...
 - Judah and Benjamin – called Judah – ruled at first by Rehoboam...
 - Israel would never again be reunited as one nation until 1948 – **Ezekiel 37:21-22**
 - 40 Kings would rule over the two kingdoms – 20 in Israel / 20 in Judah...
 - It is one of the most important / yet unknown parts of the history of Israel...
 - All of the prophets from Isaiah to Malachi prophesied during the Divided Kingdom!
 - This period of the Kings was dark one in the history of Israel...
 - Israel used to be a theocracy – ruled by God – but they wanted to have a King...
 - **I Samuel 8:5** – “Give us a king like all the other nations have.”
 - The problem is men are sinful – and kings are no exception...
 - And anytime we follow men rather than God – things are going to get ugly!
 - We need to be careful whose example choose to follow after...
 - When we follow the example of the world around us – we might think we are ok...
 - The problem is the world is getting worse and worse every day...
 - Meaning if we are comparing ourselves to them - we are also getting worse!
 - 3rd - There are 25 chapters in the book of **II Kings**...
 - We will cover 1 chapter a week (6 months) - highlighting key sections...
 - The book of **II Kings** picks up immediately after the end of **I Kings**...
 - After the death of Ahab – the 8th King of Israel – the most wicked King of them all...
 - And King Jehoshaphat – the 4th King of Judah – who was a Godly King...

THE GOD OF DUNG... (3 THINGS)

- 1ST – AFTER THE DEATH OF AHAB – MOAB REBELLED AGAINST ISRAEL... vs. 1-8 READ: II KINGS 1:1-8
 - 1ST – Moab had been conquered by King David years earlier – II Samuel 8:2... vs. 1-2
 - But with the untimely death of Ahab – the Moabites saw a chance to rebel...
 - Ahaziah – the son of Ahab – was a new and untested King...
 - But before Ahaziah even had a chance to do something – he had an accident...
 - He was leaning against a railing on his balcony – and it broke causing him to fall!
 - Ahaziah sent messengers to ask Beelzebub – the god of Ekron – if he would recover...
 - Baal - zebub – literally interpreted as ‘the Lord of the flies’...
 - Beelzebub is one of the names Jesus gives to satan...
 - Luke 11:15 - “Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”
 - Worshiping other ‘gods’ - no matter what the religion - is worshiping satan!
 - All other gods - all 6 million Hindu deities / Buddha / Allah – names for satan!
 - There are only two options - you are either worshiping the One True God...
 - Or you are worshiping the god of this world - no matter what name you give him!
 - There are two thoughts behind the meaning of the name Beelzebub ...
 - The first thought is Beelzebub was worshiped as a god of healing...
 - People who had open sores and wounds – would attract flies / disease...
 - Beelzebub could command the flies to leave – ‘taking away the sickness’...
 - Which is why Ahaziah sent messengers to him hoping he would get better!
 - The second interpretation comes from the Jewish Rabbis...
 - God gave the name Beelzebub to the gods of the Philistines as an insult
 - Flies are synonymous with manure / dung – they hang around piles of it...
 - Beelzebub was a pile of a manure – his worshipers the flies that stuck to him..
 - A vivid picture showing how foolish to put your trust in anything but God!
 - Funny how people still tend to put their faith in things that are unreliable...
 - We think once we harvest the sugar cane field – we will be ok...
 - Or if once so-and-so sends us the money – we will have enough...
 - But who is to say the sugar prices will be high – or the crop bountiful...
 - Who is to say the person we are trust to send the money – has enough to send!
 - Our faith is only as effective - as the person we putting our faith in!
 - The Jews had it right – if we put our faith/trust in anything other than God...
 - We mind as well be trusting in dung – because only God has the power to help!
 - 2ND – God told Elijah to go and meet the messengers... vs. 3-4
 - Elijah was to tell them to take this message back to Ahaziah...
 - ‘Why would the king go to Beelzebub to find out if he would recover’...
 - ‘Was it because there was no God in Israel to give him the answer’!
 - Maybe Ahaziah did try to pray to God – but did not get an answer...
 - Because he was a wicked king who followed the example of his father Ahab!
 - Sin keeps us from hearing from the Lord – leaves prayers unanswered...
 - Our prayers hit the ceiling of our sin - and we end up talking to ourselves!
 - Psalm 66:18 – “If I had... sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened.”

- Even when God does answer – it is not always right away...
 - Often we give up praying because we do not get a quick answer...
 - So often we miss God's answer simply because we stop asking!
 - The Lord is listening – we just need to be patient and wait for his answer!
 - God has a book where He records every time we talk about Him – **Malachi 1:16**
 - We are not to simply pray once – we are to be praying – **I Thessalonians 5:17**
 - **I Peter 3:12** – “The Lords... ears are open to the prayers of those who do right.”
- Ahaziah would never recover – he would die from his injuries...
 - I am sure Ahaziah thought – what harm can come from going to Beelzebub...
 - But it was because he went to Beelzebub – that God did not heal him and he died!
 - I have heard a lot of people say it is ok to go to the ‘faith healers’...
 - They argue that other people have been ‘healed’ by them...
 - And they point out that it ‘cannot hurt’ – so why not try...
 - It turns out that is NOT AT ALL the case – it does a LOT of harm!
 - Faith healers do not heal by the power of God - no egg offerings in the Bible...
 - So if they are not healing by the power of God – there is only one other option...
 - People are still running to Beelzebub / satan to get well – rather than the Lord!
 - It devastates lives because people put their faith in something other than Jesus...
 - So not only does God not heal them – they also end up wandering away from God!
- 3rd – Ahaziah was surprised the messengers returned so quickly... vs. 5-8
 - He expected them to have to travel all the way to Ekron for an answer...
 - The messengers told him about the man that met them along the way...
 - They also gave the king the bad news - the message from the Lord...
 - Ahaziah demanded to know what the man who gave the message looked like...
 - The messengers told him he had a goat hair coat - and wore a leather belt...
 - Immediately Ahaziah recognized him – it was Elijah the Tishbite!
 - The prophets of God were easily recognized for their simple attire...
 - Even John the Baptist was famous for his camel skin wardrobe – **Mark 1:6**
 - These men of God did not focus on external beauty – they focused on God!
 - **Hebrews 11:37** – “Some went about in skins of sheep and goats, hungry and oppressed and mistreated... of whom the world was not worthy...”
 - If people had to describe us – what would they say...
 - Would they focus on our outward appearance – fancy clothes / nice hair...
 - Or would they describe our lives – would they talk about our good works!
 - Better to be dressed in rags – with a life overflowing with the Grace of God...
 - Then to have all the wealth of a King – but be empty on the inside!
- 2ND – CALLING DOWN FIRE... vs. 9-14 **READ: II KINGS 1:9-14**
 - 1st – Ahaziah sent 50 men to go and capture Elijah... vs. 9-12
 - They approached Elijah alone on a hill - ‘Man of God, the King says, ‘Come down!’...
 - Elijah - ‘If I am a man of God let fire come down from heaven and consume you!’
 - Immediately fire came down from heaven and burnt up all 50 men!
 - So the king sent a 2nd group of men - they met the same fate - fire from heaven...
 - When read about fire coming down from heaven – we get the idea God is angry...
 - In **Luke 9:54** - Jesus wanted to go through Samaria – but they would not let Him...
 - James and John thinking back on this very story - wanted to call down fire on the people!
 - Jesus corrected them – He had not come to destroy - He had come to save lives!

- God does not want anyone to perish - He wants us all to go to heaven - **II Peter 3:9...**
- God created us with a desire to have a relationship with Him - **John 17:3**
- There is a hole in every man's heart - left there by God - which only He can fill...
- Many spend their whole lives in vain trying to fill that hole with worldly things...
- But only Jesus satisfies the desire of our heart - we will only be content in Him!
- Yet many people never 'find' Jesus in life - simply because they are not looking...
- God opened up the way for anyone to have this relationship with Him...
- But God will not force us to accept Him - we have to choose to seek after God!
- Ahaziah and his men were not seeking God...
 - Instead they were looking to silence the prophet of God for correcting them...
 - The result was instead of salvation – they ended up in the fire!
 - **Proverbs 16:18** - "Pride goes before destruction, and arrogance before a fall."
 - If you saw someone stuck in a pit - unable to get out - but they refused your help...
 - There is not much you can do for them - they 1st have to realize they need help!
 - God will not force us to accept His help - He only offers it to us...
 - If we are too proud to see our great need for God - then we will miss His help...
 - And if we do not repent and turn from our sin – we will end up in the fire!
- 2nd - A 3rd group was sent - but the leader fell on his face before Elijah... vs. 13-15
 - 'Please let my life - and the life of my 50 men - be precious to you'...
 - He knew God had sent down fire and consumed the first two groups...
 - He did not demand Elijah come with him – he asked Elijah to spare him!
 - Having seen the destruction of the proud – he humbled himself...
 - We are all sinners – we all deserve to be judged – we deserve the fire...
 - But when we confess our sin – when we turn in humility and look to God...
 - Out humility unlocks the riches of God's grace for our lives!
 - **James 4:6** - "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
- 3rd - **THE DEATH OF AHAZIAH... vs. 15-18** **READ: II KINGS 1:15-18**
 - 1st – The Lord told Elijah to go with the men... vs. 15
 - Ahaziah was certainly not happy with Elijah because of his prophecy...
 - All the more he would be furious after the death of 100 of his soldiers...
 - Yet when God told Elijah to go – he did not even hesitate...
 - When the Lord calls to do something – do we obey – or do we hesitate...
 - We can always find a reason not to obey – we can find excuses...
 - But it is ONLY when we follow the Lord that great things happen!
 - 2nd - Elijah delivered the message of God again to the King... vs. 16-18
 - Because he had asked for help from Beelzebub – he would die in his bed...
 - So Ahaziah died – and had no son to succeed him on the throne...
 - So his brother Jehoram became the next king of Israel...
 - Ahaziah had an 'accident' – but in truth it was God testing him...
 - Would he call out to the Lord – or would he follow in the example of his father Ahab...
 - Often when we are faced with 'accidents' in life – they are in truth tests...
 - They reveal who we are – who do we trust in our time of crisis...
 - Do we follow the example of our neighbors – do we do what the world does...
 - Do we run to the faith healer – do we put our trust in Beelzebub – the god of dung...
 - Or do we humble ourselves – do we put our faith in the God of Grace!