

Let us now begin with the fifteenth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 2 Kings chapter 7.

/In 7:1, Elisha prophesies about the abundance of flour and barley in Samaria. / Many people in the city were exhausted from starvation due to the prolonged and severe famine. / Then the word of God came to Elisha.

/Elisha prophesied that by this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour and two seahs of barley would be sold for a shekel. / God's power comes when we are powerless.

/God does not help us when we strive to do something with our own efforts and strength. / God works when we cry out to God when we are weak.

/The starving people heard God's word that they would have an abundance of food by that time tomorrow, and they gained hope. / God's word is the word of hope.

/In verse 2, Elisha prophesied that the officer who did not believe in the power of God would die. / The officer on whose arm the king was leaning did not believe God's word, and he slandered and rebuked Elisha. / Those who doubt and oppose God's works will see God's work take place, but they will not participate in it.

/True faith is belief in God's word and power. / We must believe that the things that seem impossible can happen if God says it will happen. / If we do not act with faith, we will not participate in good works.

/In verses 3-5, four lepers go to the camp of the Arameans. / They went there to surrender.

/They went there to surrender, because they would eventually die if they stayed and starved where they were, and they thought that maybe they would live if they went there. / However, when the lepers arrived at the camp of the Arameans, there was no one there.

/In verses 6-7, the Lord made the army run away. / God created a terrible sound that seemed like a marching of great army to the ears of the Aramean army. / Then feared for their lives, and they fled leaving everything behind.

/God makes the heart fear, and God takes away fear in the heart. / When God makes our hearts fear, we will tremble at the smallest things.

/In Psalm 127:1, it says that God is the watcher of the city. / God is also the one brings and defeats the enemies.

/In verses 8-11, the lepers reported that the Arameans had run away. /The four lepers first ate and drank all they wanted in one of the tents. / They took gold and silver and clothes, and they went to another tent and took things and hid them.

/Then they remembered the dying people in their city and decided to report the good news. / They knew that God would punish them if they kept silent and waited until the next morning.

/They reported to the gatekeeper everything they saw. / The gatekeeper reported to the officers in the palace. / It was very good that the lepers reported the news.

/They would have surely received punishment from God if they did not give the news but filled their own greed. / This was because they would commit the sin of keeping the good news to themselves, when it was God who drove their enemies away to save his people.

/If we withhold good news, it will be a sin and there will be woe on us. / When we receive the good news of the gospel and receive salvation only for ourselves and do not share with others, there will be woe on us.

/In verses 12-15, the king orders his officers to scout the Aramean camp. / The king did not believe the report, but thought it was a strategy of the Aramean army. / The king was not hasty in his judgment, and wanted to make careful judgments.

/However, these were human thoughts. / He did not recognize God's will. / No matter how wise one may be, God's will cannot be known with man's thoughts.

/Because God works beyond man's wisdom, it cannot be known with man's thoughts. / When the king did not believe in God's works, one officer came up with a good plan.

/They decided to send some men to take five horses and chariots to check the tent of the enemy. /

The king accepted the officer's suggestion and commanded his men to check the camp of the Arameans. / The men returned and reported that the army left everything behind and ran away just as the lepers reported.

/In verses 16-20, they plunder the tents, and in the midst of it the officer dies. / Hearing the reports, the Israelites all went out of the city and plundered the Aramean camp.

/Then, just as Elisha said, a seah of the finest flour and two seahs of barley cost a shekel that day. / The officer who did not believe but rebuked Elisha saw the abundance of provisions.

/However, he could not eat it because he was trampled to death by the Israelites when he stood in the gateway. / He saw the abundance of food but could not eat it. / This happened according to the prophecy of the man of God.

/Death comes to those who do not believe in the works and words of God told through the servants of God. / We must believe in the power of God and the works of God's word.

/We can participate in grace when we believe that things will happen according to the power of the word of God, even if they seem impossible.

/In 8:1-2, the Shunammite woman is saved from the famine. / God continued to pour down calamity upon the Israelites. / In Elijah's time, rain did not come for three years and six months and the people experienced famine.

/In today's chapter, God decided to send seven years of famine. / This was because the Israelites sinned and did not repent. / However, the Shunammite woman was saved through Elisha because she served the man of God well.

/He told her to take her family somewhere else because the famine would strike the land for seven years. / Hearing his words, the Shunammite woman stayed in the land of the Philistines for seven years.

/Though the famine was severe in Israel, the Philistine land did not experience famine. / God opened an escape route for her from the calamity because she served the man of God well with respect.

/Job 5:17 and its following verses say that God delivers those he loves even in famine. / Even when a spiritual famine strikes those who obey God, God will provide a way out of it and lead them to a place with spiritual food.

/In verses 3-6, the woman returns and is restored of her house and land. / The woman returned after seven years, and someone else took her house and her land. / Because the person was not willing to return the house and land to her, she went to appeal to the king.

/At that time, Gehazi the servant of Elisha was reporting to the king the great works his master had done. / Gehazi previously got leprosy because of his greed. / Gehazi was in quarantine when the king summoned him to hear about all that Elisha had done.

/Gehazi told the king about the woman whose son his master had brought back to life. / Right at that moment the woman came to appeal to the king about her land. / Gehazi then told the king that she was the woman he was talking about.

/This happened because God wanted to pour out grace on the woman. / Good words have no effect if they are not spoken in the right time. / Proverbs 15:23 says that a timely word is good.

/God makes everything happen in its right time. / God will take care of everything when we obey God and walk according to his word. / The king assigned an official to her case, and ordered him to return her house and land, as well as the income from her land from the day she left the country until now.

/In verses 7-10, the king of Aram becomes ill and asks of Elisha. / Elisha went to Damascus, the capital of Aram. / We can assume that Elisha went to Damascus for two reasons.

/First, Elisha went to help the faith of Naaman and encourage him. / However, this was a time when Naaman was no longer commander of the army, and Hazael had replaced him. / It is possible that Naaman stepped down because of his faith.

/Second, Elisha went because God would work in Aram through Elisha. / In 1 Kings 19:15, / it says there to anoint Hazael and make him king of Aram. / Elisha was sent for that purpose.

/This was the time when Ben-Hadad the king of Aram was sufferings from an illness. / He heard the news that Elisha was in Damascus and sent Hazael to ask the prophet if he would recover.

/In 6:13, the king of Aram tried to kill Elisha. / But at sickness he acknowledged Elisha as the man of God and tried to be guided by the prophet.

/There are many people who refuse and oppose the man of God in times of peace, but try to receive the guidance of the man of God in times of sickness and pain. / Just as the king commanded Hazael, he went to Elisha with forty camels loaded with articles to inquire about the king's disease.

/Elisha accepted the gifts this time. / Why did he refuse the gifts of Naaman but accept the gifts this time? / Elisha refused last time because accepting the gifts of Naaman would be harmful to his faith.

/Elisha did not accept it because he was worried that he would cover the glory of God and the king of Aram would attack Israel once again. / However, he accepted the gifts this time because it was okay to accept it.

/The man of God does not accept every gift offered to him. / He should not receive anything that would harm the salvation plan of God. / Elisha told Hazael that the king would recover from the disease, but would die from another cause.

/We do not die just because we become ill. / We also do not live just because we are healed. / We live only as much as God allows us to live, and we die when God decides it is time for us to die.

/In verses 11-15, Hazael becomes the king of Aram just as Elisha prophesies. / Elisha wept as he gazed at Hazael. Elisha knew that Hazael would kill many of the Israelites' descendants in the future.

/Elisha prophesied that Hazael would become the king of Aram and destroy Israel cities, kill young men with the sword, and cruelly dash the children and pregnant women. / Hazael replied that he was not the kind of person to accomplish such a feat.

/However, people change according to their environment. / Anyone who sits at the throne will become arrogant in his heart. / If he fought against Israel, he would unexpectedly commit evil.

/Because we humans are weak, it is easy for us to change according to the environment and positions we are in. / Blessed are those who always hold onto the faith they first even if their environments and positions change.

/God builds up foreign kings and God destroys them. / God already planned to make Hazael the king of Aram in 1 Kings 19:15.

/When Hazael reported the words of Elisha to King Ben-Hadad, he only told the king that he would recover. He did not tell him about the king's death. / It was wrong of him to report only a part of what he was told, when he should have reported everything he heard.

/He had the responsibility to report to the king about everything he heard whether it was good or bad news. / He should have told the king that the king would recover but die from another cause.

/Only then could the king prepare for his death, stand upright through repentance, and make arrangements for after his death. / Hazael soaked a thick cloth with water and covered the king's face so that he would suffocate and die.

/The king trusted Hazael the most and allowed him into his bedroom, among other things. / The closest person of the king killed the king. / Then Hazael may have told others that the king died of illness.

/The officials and the people may have made Hazael king, not knowing that he killed the king. / Humans may not know, but God knows everything. / God had the incident recorded in the Bible and let the descendants know exactly what happened.

/Killing the king who trusted him most was a very evil thing to do. / Though the king of Aram died according to God's plan, Hazael would be cursed for killing the king. / Evil deeds remain forever and God surely judges.

/In verses 16-24, we read about the failure of King Jehoram and the cause behind it. / Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat became king of Judah. / His father Jehoshaphat served God faithfully. / His son Jehoram did evil and ultimately failed.

/The first cause behind his failure was that Jehoshaphat gave the throne to his son when he was still alive. / Second was that he kept a relationship with the corrupted Israel. / Third was that Jehoram married a daughter of Ahab.

/He did not marry in faith but acted on worldly power and status. / Marriage will fail when we marry someone for his or her education, money, job, or appearance, not for his or her faith.

/Through this marriage, the royal household of Jehoshaphat faced great harm, and all of Judah suffered from it. / Jehoram did not follow the ways of his ancestor David, but the ways of the kings of Israel.

/God became angry because of this, and so he punished him but not completely. / This was because of the promise written in 1 Kings 11:36, which says that God will never cut the line of David forever.

/God never fails to keep his promises. / This was the word of promise, which said that Christ would come through the line of David.

/Because Jehoram left the way of God and his word and followed the path of Ahab, God let Edom rebel against him. / Libnah revolted at the same time. / In this way, God takes away everything he gave when one sins.

/Jehoram left God and worshipped many idols, and he did not receive the rebuke of the prophet. / He killed his brothers and did all kinds of evil, and he became ill and died and his intestines spilled out of him. / After his death, his son Ahaziah succeeded him as king of Judah.

/In verses 25-29, we can read about the failure of King Ahaziah and the cause behind it. / Ahaziah became king at the age of twenty-two. / His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of King Omri.

/Omri was the father of Ahab, and Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab. / Ahaziah did evil in the same ways of the house of Ahab. / He did evil with great influence from Athaliah.

/Ahaziah joined forces with Joram son of King Ahab to fight against Aram, but they failed because Joram got wounded.

/Ahaziah still failed to realize what was right and continued to communicate with the king of Israel. / Ahaziah went to Jezreel to see how Joram was doing, and he was killed by Jehu.

/Now in 9:1-10, Elisha sent a man from the company of the prophets to anoint Jehu. / Elijah was the one who received God's word to anoint Jehu and make him king of Israel.

/Elijah then passed down the job to Elisha. Elisha then told a man from the company of the prophets to do the job. / It was a rule to pass down a job that one cannot fulfill to his successor.

/Thus, it was crucial for there to be good successors. / Elisha told his messenger to anoint Jehu in an inner room, so that people will not know what happened. / God at times works in secret.

/The messenger went to Ramoth Gilead and did as Elisha told him to do. / He then told Jehu to wipe out the house of Ahab.

/This was because Ahab was enticed by Jezebel to worship Baal and the Asherah poles, and also because Ahab shed the blood of many servants of God and prophets.

/In verses 11-13, Jehu becomes king. / In verses 14-26, Jehu kills King Joram. / Jehu revolts against King Joram.

/Joram's mother Jezebel was the person responsible for the idolatry, spiritual prostitution, and physical sexual immorality in Israel. / When Joram attempted to run away, Jehu shot an arrow and killed King Joram.

/The body of Joram was thrown into the vineyard owned by Naboth who lived in Jezreel. / This happened just as God said it would through Elijah. / God's judgment will surely happen as he says.

/In verses 27-29, Jehu kills Ahaziah the king of Judah. / Ahaziah is killed after he goes to see how Joram is doing.

/Ahaziah was killed because he conspired along with King Joram in evil ways. / Whoever allows



evil and compromises with evil will surely follow evil.

/Now in verses 30-37, Jehu kills Jezebel. / It is impossible to understand why Jezebel painted her eyes and arranged her hair. / The news of her son's death should have made her weep and mourn.

/Her actions tell us how stubborn, hard-hearted, and sly of a person she was. / The eunuchs threw her out of the window at Jehu's words, and she died miserably.

/When a person commits sin, the enemy is not outside but inside the house. / Just as Elijah the man of God prophesied, she met a miserable end.

/Blessed are those who obey God's word, and woe on those who disobey God's word.

/With this we will conclude the fifteenth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.