

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP PREACHING SCHEDULE: SPRING-SUMMER 2010

1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 10

Introduction

Our sermons this quarter come from the center portion of 1-2 Kings. In terms of the human rulers of the northern and southern kingdoms, the middle of the ninth century BC was the age of Ahab and Jehoshaphat and their descendants. In terms of the divine prophetic word, this was the time of Elijah and Elisha.

As we noted a year ago, God's faithfulness to his word is a primary theme in 1-2 Kings. In fact, a survey of fulfilled prophecy in 1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 10 provides a summary of this section's major events. The opening chapters are controlled by a severe drought, and when rain finally comes, this is in accordance with God's prior announcement (18:1). During the drought, God's miraculous provision for the widow at Zarephath fulfilled a word delivered by the prophet Elijah (17:16,24). When Elijah fled to Mt. Horeb, the Lord's quiet voice spoke to him about various future events (19:15-18), including the naming of Elisha as his successor. These future events all come to pass in 2 Kings chapters 2, 8, 9, and 10. At the end of the account of Naboth's vineyard, judgment is announced upon wicked Ahab, his descendants, and his wife Jezebel (21:19,23-24). These judgments come to pass in 1 Kings 22 and 2 Kings 9-10. The book of Second Kings opens with the death of Ahab's son Ahaziah, this in accordance with a word from the Lord (1:4). Israel's miraculous defeat of the Moabites is the fulfillment of a prophecy from Elisha (3:16-19). Several of Elisha's miracles are specifically said to be the enactment of a prior word (4:44; 5:14). Finally, at the end of our section, sore trials begin to fall upon the northern kingdom, judgment foretold by Elijah, Elisha and even Moses (compare the starvation of 2 Kgs 6:28-29 with Deut. 28:53-57; compare the defeats of 2 Kgs 10:32-33 with 1 Kgs 19:17 and 2 Kgs 8:11-12). All this may be summed up with Jehu's statement, "Not a word the LORD has spoken...will fail." (2 Kings 10:10).

One of the best known events of this section highlights another major theme in Kings. The contest at Mt. Carmel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal demonstrated by fire that there is only one true God and that the worship of idols is foolishness (1 Kings 18). The Syrian general Naaman would learn this lesson too (2 Kings 5).

Elisha's miracles—notably the multiplication of food (2 Kgs 4:42-44)—foreshadowed those of Jesus. However, it is Elijah who is more conspicuous in the New Testament. James finds in him an example of fervent prayer (James 5:17-18). The Evangelists observed that Elijah's bold stand for truth provided the model for John the Baptist. In garb like that of Elijah, John confronted Herod, as Elijah had Ahab. Most important of all, John bore witness to the Messiah, and so did Elijah in a different way: in 1 Kings 19 God met Elijah on a mountain (as he had previously met Moses on a mountain), but on the mount of transfiguration it was seen that Jesus is even greater than these two prophets.

Schedule

Apr.	18:	1 Kings 17:1 - 18:16.....	"There shall be neither dew nor rain these years"	(J. Jackson)
	25:	1 Kings 18:17-46.....	"How long will you go limping between two different opinions?" (Matzal)	
May	2:	1 Kings 19	"The sound of a low whisper"	(J. Jackson)
	9:	1 Kings 20	"You shall know that I am the LORD"	(D. Weeks)
	16:	1 Kings 21	"I will give you the vineyard of Naboth"	(S. Matzal)
	23:	1 Kings 22:1-40.....	"I saw all Israel scattered...as sheep that have no shepherd" ...	(J. Hartung)
	30:	1 Kgs 22:41 - 2 Kgs 1:18	"Is it because there is no God in Israel?"	(J. Jackson)
Jun.	6:	2 Kings 2	"The spirit of Elijah rests upon Elisha"	(S. Matzal)
	13:	2 Kings 3	"Is there no prophet of the LORD here?"	(J. Jackson)
	20:	2 Kings 4	"This is a holy man of God"	(D. Weeks)
	27:	2 Kings 5	"I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel"	(J. Jackson)
Jul.	4:	2 Kings 6:1-23.....	"Please open his eyes that he may see"	(D. Weeks)
	11:	2 Kings 6:24 - 7:20.....	"Could such a thing be?"	(J. Jackson)
	18:	2 Kings 8	"Tell me all the great things that Elisha has done"	(S. Matzal)
	25:	2 Kings 9	"In accordance with the word of the LORD"	(J. Hartung)
Aug.	1:	2 Kings 10	"He struck down all who remained to Ahab"	(S. Matzal)
