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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

[Bibleao.com](http://Bibleao.com)

## Daily Rice 2024 April 13

YouTube Prayer Link

We are to focus on God

2 Kings 15

2 Kings chapter 15 focuses primarily on the reigns of the kings of the northern kingdoms of Israel and the southern kingdoms of Judah. Here's what this chapter tells us:

**Leadership of Judah:** This chapter begins with a detailed account of the reign of Azariah (also known as Uzziah) in Judah. Azariah reigned for a long time (52 years) and initially did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. However, he later became proud and tried to burn incense in the temple, causing him to fall ill with leprosy. Despite his good deeds, Azariah did not remove the exalted status of idolatry.

**Leadership of Israel:** This chapter chronicles a series of brief reigns and assassinations in Israel's northern kingdom. Zechariah, Sharon, Menahem, Pergahiah, and Pekah all ruled for short periods of time, usually doing evil before Yahweh, perpetuating instability and violence in the kingdom.

**Continuation of Idolatry:** During the reigns of these kings, idolatry persisted in both Israel and Judah. Despite occasional reforms by some kings, idolatry and the

failure to remove high positions remained widespread, leading to the spiritual decline of the nation.

The cycle of idolatry is staged as if we will not always learn the lessons of history, and the lessons that mankind has learned in history are not remembering the lessons of history. We don't want to believe in God's love and discipline, and we think that the only thing we can believe in is ourselves. Because the heart bound by sin is completely centered on itself as the center of the world, it is filled with serious fear and anxiety.

Political instability: Frequent changes in leadership, often accompanied by violence and assassinations, highlight the political instability and turmoil within the two kingdoms during this period. This instability weakens countries and makes them vulnerable to external threats such as the Assyrians.

2 Kings chapter 15 depicts a period marked by political upheaval, spiritual decay, and the consequences of the disobedience of the rulers of Israel and Judah. Adam's descendants were utterly corrupted: neither the southern nor the northern, with or without effort, could not maintain an accurate standing before God:

Jotham's father, Uzziah, was generally a godly king, and Jotham was more godly than his father, but the book simply states that "the high places have not yet been abolished." The "golden calf" in the north represents a problem in the worship object of the people, and the "high place" in the south represents a problem in the worship attitude of the people, both of which have caused the people of the northern and southern kingdoms to fall into sin without knowing it, and it has been difficult to extricate themselves for hundreds of years. Despite the godly efforts of many kings of Judah, they were never able to abolish the "high places" and, like the northern kingdom that worshiped the golden calf, could not escape the fate of exile.

People are to be double-minded, to receive God's good, and not to follow God. Deuteronomy 28:13-14 - If thou wilt obey the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee to observe and do this day, the LORD will make thee head and not tail, and above and not below: and thou shalt not depart from the left or right of all the words which I command you this day, and go as ye serve other gods. We must not be half-minded, because we will not gain anything from being double-minded. God doesn't care about you, he hates you, he shows his wrath to you, and the devil comes to torment you.

There are several verses in the Bible that speak of following God wholeheartedly and without half-heartedness. Here are some related verses:

Proverbs 4:25-27

Keep your eyes straight ahead, and keep your eyes on the way ahead. Smooth the paths under your feet, and establish all your paths. Do not turn to the right or left, but turn your feet away from evil.

Matthew 6:24

One cannot serve two masters, either hating one and loving the other, or valuing one and despising the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not think that I have already obtained it, but I have only one thing, forgetting what is behind me, and pressing on what is before me, and running toward the goal, that I may be rewarded by the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

These verses remind us to focus on God and not to be distracted by worldly things or temptations. May these Bible verses help you stay focused and steadfast on the path of faith. I will pray for you that God will soothe your restless and troubled heart and allow you to find peace and strength in your journey of faith.

We pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for your grace and love today. We come to You with the hope of following You wholeheartedly and focusing on Your will and guidance.

Lord, we confess that we are often distracted in our lives and troubled by the temptations and troubles of the world. Help us to clear our hearts of distractions so that we can seek You with all our hearts and obey Your Word.

Give us the faith and the fortitude of our hearts not to let outside distractions lead us astray from your path. Let our hearts always be toward You, and we will devote our hearts to Thy kingdom and righteousness.

Lord, we long to draw closer to You and learn how to live out Your love and grace in every day. Give us wisdom and guidance to help us choose the right path and walk in the plan You have prepared for us.

Lord, we ask You to soothe the restlessness and restlessness in our hearts and give us peace and joy. Let us feel Your companionship and love at all times in our journey of faith.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

## 2 Kings 15

2Kg. 15:1 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah began to reign.

2Kg. 15:2 He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem.

2Kg. 15:3 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done.

2Kg. 15:4 The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.

2Kg. 15:5 The LORD afflicted the king with leprosy [The Hebrew word was used for various diseases affecting the skin — not necessarily leprosy.] until the day he died, and he lived in a separate house. [Or in a house where he was relieved of responsibility] Jotham the king's son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

2Kg. 15:6 As for the other events of Azariah's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

2Kg. 15:7 Azariah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in the City of David. And Jotham his son succeeded him as king.

2Kg. 15:8 In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah son of Jeroboam became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned for six months.

2Kg. 15:9 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his fathers had done. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.

2Kg. 15:10 Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah. He attacked him in front of the people, [Hebrew; some Septuagint manuscripts in Ibleam] assassinated him and succeeded him as king.

2Kg. 15:11 The other events of Zechariah's reign are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel.

2Kg. 15:12 So the word of the LORD spoken to Jehu was fulfilled:

“Your descendants will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.” [2 Kings 10:30]

2Kg. 15:13 Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned in Samaria for one month.

2Kg. 15:14 Then Menahem son of Gadi went from Tirzah up to Samaria. He attacked Shallum son of Jabesh in Samaria, assassinated him and succeeded him as king.

2Kg. 15:15 The other events of Shallum’s reign, and the conspiracy he

led, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel.

2Kg. 15:16 At that time Menahem, starting out from Tirzah, attacked Tiphseh and everyone in the city and its vicinity, because they refused to open their gates. He sacked Tiphseh and ripped open all the pregnant women.

2Kg. 15:17 In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria for ten years.

2Kg. 15:18 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. During his entire reign he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.

2Kg. 15:19 Then Pul [Also called Tiglath-Pileser] king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem gave him a thousand talents [That is, about 34 tons (about 34 metric tons)] of silver to gain his support and strengthen his own hold on the kingdom. 2Kg. 15:20 Menahem exacted this money from Israel. Every wealthy man

had to contribute fifty shekels [That is, about 1 1/4 pounds (about 0.6 kilogram)] of silver to be given to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria withdrew and stayed in the land no longer.

2Kg. 15:21 As for the other events of Menahem’s reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

2Kg. 15:22 Menahem rested with his fathers. And Pekahiah his son succeeded him as king.

2Kg. 15:23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah son of Menahem became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned for two years.

2Kg. 15:24 Pekahiah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.

2Kg. 15:25 One of his chief officers, Pekah son of Remaliah, conspired against him. Taking fifty men of Gilead with him, he assassinated Pekahiah, along with Argob and Arieah, in the citadel of the royal palace at Samaria. So Pekah killed Pekahiah and succeeded him as king.

2Kg. 15:26 The other events of Pekahiah’s reign, and all he did, are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel.

2Kg. 15:27 In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned

for twenty years.

2Kg. 15:28 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit.

2Kg. 15:29 In the time of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of

Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh and Hazor. He took Gilead and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and deported the people to Assyria.

2Kg. 15:30 Then Hoshea son of Elah conspired against Pekah son of

Remaliah. He attacked and assassinated him, and then succeeded him as king in the twentieth year of Jotham son of Uzziah.

2Kg. 15:31 As for the other events of Pekah's reign, and all he did, are

they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

2Kg. 15:32 In the second year of Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel, Jotham son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign.

2Kg. 15:33 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok.

2Kg. 15:34 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done.

2Kg. 15:35 The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. Jotham rebuilt the Upper Gate of the temple of the LORD.

2Kg. 15:36 As for the other events of Jotham's reign, and what he did,

are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

2Kg. 15:37 (In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah against Judah.)

2Kg. 15:38 Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried with them in the City of David, the city of his father. And Ahaz his son succeeded him as king.

Chapter 15 of 2 Kings primarily focuses on the reigns of various kings in both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Here's what the chapter tells us:

**Leadership in Judah:** The chapter begins by detailing the reign of Azariah (also known as Uzziah) in Judah. Azariah reigned for a long period (52 years) and initially did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. However, he later became prideful and attempted to burn incense in the temple, an act reserved for priests, leading to him being struck with leprosy. Despite his good deeds, Azariah didn't remove the high places of idol worship.

**Leadership in Israel:** The chapter records a series of short-lived reigns and assassinations in the northern kingdom of Israel. Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, and Pekah all ruled for brief periods and generally did evil in the sight of the Lord, perpetuating instability and violence in the kingdom.

**Continuation of Idolatry:** Throughout the reigns of these kings, idolatry persisted in both Israel and Judah. Despite occasional reforms by some kings, the worship of idols and the failure to remove high places remained prevalent, contributing to the spiritual decline of the nations.

**Political Instability:** The frequent changes in leadership, often accompanied by violence and assassinations, highlight the political instability and turmoil within both kingdoms during this period. This instability weakened the nations and left them vulnerable to external threats, such as the Assyrians.

Overall, Chapter 15 of 2 Kings portrays a period marked by political upheaval, spiritual decay, and the consequences of disobedience to God among the rulers of Israel and Judah.

Chapter 15 of 2 Kings provides a detailed account of the reigns of several kings of Judah and Israel.

The chapter begins with the reign of Azariah (also known as Uzziah) over Judah, who reigned for 52 years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but he also allowed the people to continue to offer sacrifices at the high places.

The focus then shifts to the northern kingdom of Israel, where a series of kings ruled, each doing evil in the sight of the Lord. Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, and Pekahiah successively ruled for brief periods, each being assassinated by a conspirator.

Pekah then became king of Israel and reigned for twenty years. During his reign, TiglathPileser, king of Assyria, invaded and captured much of Israel's territory. Pekah was eventually assassinated by his own officer, Hoshea, who became the last king of Israel. The chapter ends with a brief account of the reign of Jotham over Judah, who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but did not remove the high places.

Chapter 15 of 2 Kings highlights the consequences of disobeying God and the instability that came with the constant assassination of kings in Israel. It also shows how the Assyrian empire was a major threat to the kingdoms of Judah and Israel.

In 2 Kings chapter 15, there are several important verses that cover the reigns of multiple kings of Israel and Judah:

1. "In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah son of Amaziah king of Judah became king." (2 Kings 15:1) - This verse marks the beginning of the reign of Azariah (also known as Uzziah) in Judah.
2. "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father Amaziah had done." (2 Kings 15:3) - This verse describes Azariah as a righteous king who followed in the footsteps of his father.
3. "In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria ten years." (2 Kings 15:17) - This verse marks the beginning of the reign of Menahem in Israel.
4. "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. During his entire reign he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit." (2 Kings 15:18) - This verse describes Menahem as a wicked king who continued to lead Israel into sin.
5. "In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah son of Menahem became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years." (2 Kings 15:23) - This verse marks the beginning of the reign of Pekahiah in Israel.
6. "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit." (2 Kings 15:24) - This verse describes Pekahiah as a wicked king who continued the sinful practices of his predecessors.
7. "In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years." (2 Kings 15:27) - This verse marks the beginning of the reign of Pekah in Israel.
8. "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit." (2 Kings 15:28) - This verse describes Pekah as yet another wicked king who continued the sinful practices of his predecessors.

These verses highlight the recurring theme of the kings of Israel and Judah either doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord or continuing to lead their people into sin.